



building on strength.

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

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from our executive director

THOMAS D. YATES



It is such an honor for me to address you for the first time as Executive Director of AIDS Legal Council of Chicago. This has been such a momentous year at ALCC and I can't wait to share with you all the exciting and ground-breaking accomplishments of the past several months.

First, however, I want to acknowledge the wonderful work of my predecessor, Ann Hilton Fisher, who retired in April and who, during 17 years at the helm of ALCC, helped to transform the organization into what it has become today – one of the leading legal services organizations in Illinois and one of the premier advocacy groups in the state for people with HIV. Under Ann's leadership, AIDS Legal Council of Chicago has grown into a solid and reputable organization, capable of keeping pace with the epidemic and reaching thousands of people with services of the highest caliber. As a friend and professional colleague, I've applauded Ann's vision and her accomplishments at ALCC over the years and am honored to have an opportunity to move that vision forward into the next chapter of ALCC's growth.

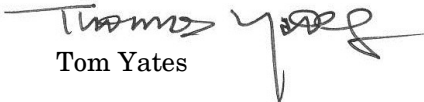
There is no question that growth has been the defining theme of the ALCC story in FY'14. In December, our Board of Directors voted to undertake a bold and historic expansion of ALCC's services, incorporating new legal assistance programming that address the needs of people who, like our clients with HIV, struggle against stigma, poverty, homelessness and life-changing disabilities or health-related challenges. Our reach today extends beyond the world of HIV and touches the lives of men and women who are homeless and living with mental illness. Our staff is helping children with disabilities and complex health problems and providing needed assistance to their families. And we are doing all of this without compromising our

commitment to the needs of people with HIV, initiating new legal clinics with HIV providers, and forging ahead with new programs to help our uninsured or recently insured clients with HIV.

Last year, AIDS Legal Council of Chicago had its busiest year, assisting more than 900 clients with 1,626 legal cases. As we break new ground, add to our family of projects, undertake new collaborations and attract new funders, our impact will multiply. We could not be more excited by the tremendous opportunities that lie ahead.

For more than 26 years, AIDS Legal Council of Chicago has been using the power of the law to secure health, dignity and security for people with HIV across our state. Today, thanks to you, we are bringing that promise to thousands more. I hope you'll take a moment to learn more about our expanding work in this year's annual report and join us again on this incredible journey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Yates". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal line extending to the left and a vertical line extending downwards from the end of the name.

Tom Yates

Executive Director
AIDS Legal Council of Chicago



our work.

ashton

After learning that he was HIV-positive while hospitalized, Ashton told his mother and fiancé, but explicitly asked that hospital staff not discuss his HIV status when other family was present. Despite his clear requests, his status was openly discussed on three separate occasions when other members were around. One doctor apologized immediately, but another – who disclosed his status twice – simply joked about “the lawsuit” that Ashton and his family were going to file. The fines for these disclosures could be up to \$20,000 for the doctor who did it twice – seemingly with intent – plus \$5,000 for the negligent disclosure.

Ashton immediately filed a grievance with the patient advocate at the hospital, then turned to ALCC which drafted and sent a demand letter. How did the hospital respond? The doctors who clearly broke the law would face a board of physicians and staff, but no disciplinary measures were taken. They were simply told to “change their behavior.”

ALCC decided to push even harder, meeting with hospital officials and explaining that the response was simply not good enough. Finally the hospital offered a settlement which closed the case. Still, as cut and dry as this case may have seemed, it took over nine months to resolve.

Fiscal year 2014 was our busiest on record.

In addition to helping more than 900 clients with HIV, staff participated in a historic city-wide effort to enroll uninsured men, women and children the Health Insurance Marketplace and expanded Medicaid programs. Through funding from the State of Illinois and in partnership with the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, we reached out to more than 3,600 individuals with information about the ACA, enrolling 613 into Medicaid or into health plans made available through the Marketplace. We also provided assistance to enrollees in hundreds of matters so clients could better understand how to use their plans and navigate insurance-related issues.

Partnerships were another big feature of our work in FY'14. In July we initiated a bi-monthly legal clinic at TPAN, the premier organization for peer-led HIV programming in Chicago. We've had so much success there that we've since started two additional partnerships – one at the Austin CBC Clinic in Chicago's West Side and the other at the Michael Reese Care Clinic at Mercy Hospital on the South Side. Not only are we seeing more people in need, but we are helping individuals with HIV who have never received help from us before – a real breakthrough in our outreach.



This year was also notable because we saw the departure of Ann Hilton Fisher, our longtime Executive Director of 17 years. During her tenure, the agency not only tripled in size, but dramatically increased the number of clients served while taking on significant policy fights protecting the confidentiality rights of people with HIV and guaranteeing their access to life-saving care and services. Ann also initiated the expansion of ALCC's services which resulted in the addition of two legal projects broadening our services to more people challenged by complex, stigmatized, and life-changing health conditions.

case & client profile*

AFRICAN-AMERICAN.....48%
 WHITE32%
 LATINO.....18%
 OTHER2%

MALE80%
 FEMALE19%
 TRANSGENDER1%

UNINSURED.....36%
 NO INCOME32%
 WITH MENTAL ILLNESS ...35%

MSM57%
 HETEROSEXUAL32%
 UNKNOWN/OTHER11%

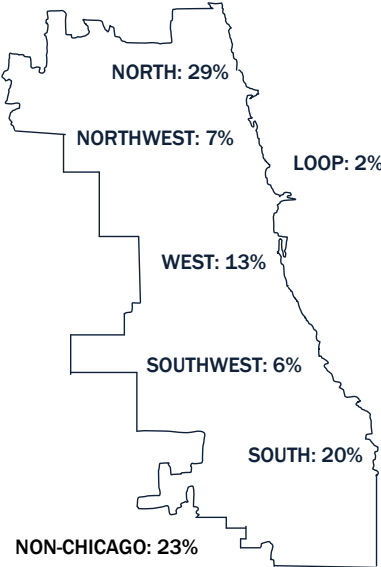
PUBLIC BENEFITS48%
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 IMMIGRATION.....3%
 OTHER9%

AGE 1-191%
 AGE 20-299%
 AGE 30-3917%
 AGE 40-4928%
 AGE 50-5932%
 AGE 60+13%

STABLE HOUSING71%
 NO STABLE HOUSING29%

TOTAL CASES: 1,626
 TOTAL CLIENTS: 906

WHERE OUR CLIENTS COME FROM



* AIDS LEGAL

fighting discrimination

With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, we found clear evidence that some insurance companies were discriminating against people with HIV/AIDS. They disregarded guidance from the government, and opted to target commonly prescribed HIV medications for unreasonably poor coverage. This practice endangers the lives of people with HIV by making these medications extremely expensive and unaffordable. Our advocacy – in conjunction with Jenner & Block and AIDS Foundation of Chicago – convinced the Illinois Department of Insurance and the Governor's office to make Illinois the first state in the nation to issue an explicit prohibition on discrimination against people with HIV in health insurance plans. While this was a big victory for people with HIV and their families, we must remain vigilant as insurers may find new ways to discriminate against patients with HIV and other stigmatized health conditions.

anna

Anna works full-time in food service at a local university to support her 3-year-old son, who is hearing-impaired and requires specialized treatment. In January 2014, she became seriously ill from an opportunistic HIV-related infection and was hospitalized for three weeks with multiple organ failure.

When Anna was released a few weeks later, still recovering and trying to adapt to her new HIV medication, she told her ALCC case handler that she was worried she would not be able to work and feared losing her job. ALCC counseled her about applying for FMLA so she could take time off, but since FMLA leave is unpaid, she would need some source of income to be able to stay home and fully recover. We assisted her in applying for Social Security benefits, a cumbersome process that normally takes months. However, we were able to get Anna approved for benefits almost immediately. Now Anna is getting better each day, caring for her child, and on her way to returning to work.

INTRODUCING

the SSI homeless outreach project

Individuals living with serious mental illness are not only at high risk for homelessness, but are at an increased disadvantage when it comes to accessing the wide range of services they need to get on their feet, stay healthy, access housing and survive. Fortunately programs like the SSI Homeless Outreach Project give our homeless clients some of the assistance they urgently need to get ahead.

Started in 2007, and now a part of the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago, the Project works directly with some of the most vulnerable populations in Chicago – men and women who are living with serious mental illness and experiencing homelessness. Some of these clients are on the streets, staying in shelters, or are referred to us by hospital staff, behavioral health providers or social services agencies.

Disconnected from the social and economic supports they need to lead healthier and more stable lives, they find their way to us for help applying for income assistance programs such as SSI and SSDI. This can be an arduous and time-consuming process, particularly since our clients may have extremely fractured lives, may be difficult to track down, may not have the documentation needed to successfully file an application or may not have the ability to follow through on instructions. Project Director Lisa Parsons, working with attorney Ellyce Anapolsky and paralegal Kate Miller interviews clients to determine their eligibility for these benefits, assess their access to other services, and begin the process of applying for federal disability benefits.



Since its inception, the project has not only assisted hundreds of homeless men and women who are living with mental illness, but has produced economic benefit for the communities in which they live, infusing the local economy with more than \$5 million annually. AIDS Legal Council of Chicago is delighted to welcome the SSI Homeless Outreach project into its family of programs, and will continue to explore ways to grow and broaden its impact in the years to come.

jamie

Jamie is in her twenties and has faced homelessness since the age of 12. She suffers from severe psychotic disorder and drug addiction, and has just a 7th-grade education. Over the past few years, Jamie has been in and out of prison. When not in prison, she has found shelter from Chicago's brutal weather extremes in abandoned buildings throughout the city.

Our SSI Homeless Outreach staff learned of Jamie's situation and she agreed to meet with us while at a local hospital. Following that first meeting, we were able to secure Jamie's medical and treatment records, which is the first big step toward a stable life for her. We then assisted her in filing for public benefits, which will help Jamie eventually get back on her feet. Also, she is now in a women's treatment center. We have been making regular visits to the treatment center and are working collaboratively with the staff there toward the goal of securing medical insurance, long-term supportive housing, and some income for Jamie. While her claims are still pending, she is making significant progress. Jamie is now sober and receiving mental health care. We will continue to work with Jamie and fight on her behalf to ensure she has the opportunity to build a better life.

INTRODUCING

the chicago medical-legal partnership for children

We could not be more excited to welcome the Chicago Medical-Legal Partnership for Children (“CMLPC”) into our family of projects at ALCC.

In February 2014, CMLPC moved its operations from its previous home at Health & Disability Advocates to its new home at the Council – a move that significantly expands our range of services and allows us to reach a larger number of people living with chronic and life-changing health issues and disabilities.

The Chicago Medical-Legal Partnership for Children

A project of AIDS Legal Council of Chicago

By partnering with various hospital across Chicago, CMLPC staff receive legal referrals from the families of children and youth with medical, behavioral, emotional and developmental needs – children whose long-term health and quality of life may be compromised by the vast challenges they face. Living in poverty, our families often lack affordable and healthy housing, health insurance, stable income and access to special education or developmental therapies that their child or children need to thrive.

This is where we can step in and make a difference. As legal professionals, we are in a capacity to help where doctors, nurses, social workers and others cannot. We use our expertise in the law to resolve our clients’ legal issues or provide referrals when needed. We train hospital staff to identify non-medical issues that children unwell. We work with decision-makers to craft policy that guarantees that all children will have access to the programs and services they need to grow, become healthy, and learn.

We are thrilled to introduce Project Director Amy Zimmerman, and the attorneys who work directly with the children and families referred to us by our hospital partners – Sarah O’Connor, Ellyce Anapolsky and Shannon Ackenhausen. Together they provide legal assistance to the families of more than 500 children with disabilities or chronic health conditions every year, and change the landscape in Illinois so that these kids can thrive and achieve their full potential.

rita

Rita is a single mother, struggling to care for her three children. Her eldest, Jessica, has cystic fibrosis – a chronic and life threatening disorder for which she must take five medications, including one that costs \$30,000 a month. Then one day, Rita tries to get Jessica’s prescriptions refilled and learns that her Medicaid has been cut. Desperately she reapplies for coverage. In the meantime, the hospital where Jessica gets her care offers to cover the cost of her medicine until her Medicaid is reinstated.

But after five months with no response, Rita doesn’t know what to do. And when the hospital tries to get to the bottom of the delay, they come up empty-handed. It’s like Jessica’s new Medicaid application doesn’t even exist.

With time running out, the hospital puts Rita in touch with the Chicago Medical-Legal Partnership for Children and asks us for help. Immediately, we get to work, making calls and discovering that the insurance application has been denied because a clerical error recorded Jessica’s age as 19 instead of 18, making her too old to be eligible.

Then realizing that Jessica’s birthday is, in fact, just a week away, we come up with another plan. We counsel Rita not to count her daughter as a dependent and let Jessica file her own application for Medicaid, as an adult.

It works. Jessica submits her application, we demand that it be expedited, and 24 hours later, it’s approved. Jessica can now obtain her life-saving medications again.



funding and administration

EXPENSES BY CATEGORY

PROGRAM SERVICES	86%	\$1,372,566
FUNDRAISING	9%	\$141,539
ADMINISTRATION	9%	\$74,210
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$1,589,171

REVENUES BY CATEGORY

RYAN WHITE PART A	26%	\$462,200
VOUCHERED SERVICE GRANTS	15%	\$267,345
FOUNDATIONS	23%	\$392,051
INDIVIDUALS / EVENTS	10%	\$180,185
CY PRES AWARDS	0%	\$0
LAW FIRMS / CORPORATIONS	4%	\$59,725
FEES / MISCELLANEOUS	8%	\$129,138
IN-KIND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	14%	\$239,055
TOTAL REVENUES		\$1,729,499

financial statement

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS, YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014

REVENUES & OTHER SUPPORT

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Grants from Government Agencies	729,345		729,345
Grants and Contributions	475,102	189,000	664,102
In-Kind Professional Services	239,055		239,055
Net Assets Released from Restriction	66,000	(66,000)	
Cy Pres Distributions			
Special Events			
Gross Proceeds	133,465		133,465
Direct Expenses	(42,606)		(42,606)
TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT	1,600,361	123,000	1,723,361
OTHER REVENUE			
Program Services Fees	126,580		126,580
Investment Income	2,558		2,558
TOTAL REVENUE	1,729,499	123,000	1,852,499
EXPENSES			
Program Services	1,372,566		1,372,566
Management and General	74,421		74,421
Fundraising	142,184		142,184
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,589,171		1,589,171
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	140,328	123,000	263,328
NET ASSETS BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,043,029	66,000	1,109,029
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	1,183,357	189,000	1,372,357

community support

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program,
Part A & B
Illinois Department of Public Health
City of Chicago, Department of
Family and Support Services

FOUNDATION SUPPORT

\$100,000 - \$149,999

Chicago Bar Foundation
Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Polk Bros. Foundation

\$40,000 - \$49,999

Prince Charitable Trusts

\$30,000 - \$39,999

AIDS Foundation of Chicago
The Chicago Community Trust
FCAN

\$20,000 - \$29,999

Irving Harris Foundation

\$10,000 - \$19,999

Louis & Nellie Sieg Foundation
Public Interest Law Initiative

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Boston Medical Center
DIFFA / Chicago
Pierce Family Foundation
Season of Concern

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Hamill Family Foundation
Lawyers for Diversity

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\$20,000 +

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\$10,000 - \$19,999

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Multilingual Connections
Museum of Science & Industry
Music Box Theatre
Music of the Baroque
Nookies Restaurants
O'Brien's
Oh, Olive Lincoln Park

Old Town Oil
Orbitz
Oriental Institute
Orso's
Oscar Isberian Rugs
Panera Bread
Paris Club
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Pastoral
Ping Pong
Poag Mahone's
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