

Cancer Legal Assistance & Well-being Project

PROMOTING THE HEALTH OF CANCER PATIENTS THROUGH LEGAL ADVOCACY AND INTERPROFESSIONAL COLLABORATION AT THE MEDSTAR WASHINGTON CANCER INSTITUTE

JANUARY-MARCH 2021 LEGAL SERVICES METRICS

Following a legal check-up...

- 19 new patients referred by the patient support team
- 15 legal intake appointments with new patients
- 15 new legal issues identified

Most Common Patient Legal Issues

1. Public Benefits
2. Social Security Benefits
3. Housing
4. Future/Estate Planning
5. Consumer Debt

64 Legal issues worked on

21 Legal issues resolved

39 Clients served

\$27,600

Amount in public benefits won for a recently-widowed metastatic breast cancer patient



Empowered a patient to install grab bars in her apartment by advising her on her rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)



Helped a patient, who is disabled due to cancer, get immediate financial relief by applying for early retirement Social Security and Social Security Disability



"I feel that if C-LAW wasn't there, nobody would be paying attention to this patient's legal issue. I think that getting legal services for somebody with her barriers would be nearly impossible otherwise."

-WCI Patient Support Team Member

WHO DID WE SERVE?



100% of patients live below 200% of the federal poverty level



68% of patients live below 100% of the federal poverty level



"You made all of that so easy to understand and you're so kind to talk to. I truly appreciate your time and willingness to listen, it felt like no one else cared."

-Ms. B., WCI Patient



Patients from DC Wards 1,5,6,7, and 8, and Prince George's, Howard, Montgomery, and Saint Mary's Counties



Patients with breast, gastrointestinal, gynecological, and thoracic cancers

CAPACITY-BUILDING METRICS

C-LAW attorneys...

★ conducted a legal issue training for healthcare providers on how to use the electronic medical record as an advocacy tool

★ attended 8 legal trainings on topics including cancer patient rights, diversity and inclusion in legal services, and more

★ collaborated with two national cancer support organizations to foster programming for WCI patients



"I've had nothing but positive experiences with C-LAW. I think the services they provide are much needed for our patients. It lifts a weight off for them and for us too, to be honest, because it's one less thing that we have to run back and search for, as a resource for the patients. We can just refer them to C-LAW."

-WCI Patient Support Team Member