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# Event Agenda

Florida Poverty Health Law Conference

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## Monday, November 17, 2025

### Registration

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Join us as we kick off the Poverty Health Law Conference. Stop by to pick up your badge and conference materials, and say hello to our team.

### Keynote & Plenary

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM

#### Keynote

Keynote speaker Gordon Bonnyman will share why, after 50 years, he still loves working as a poverty health lawyer and why the practice is so important. Gordon will also discuss why the “disconnect” exists between the fact that legal services surveys routinely rank “health” as a top civil legal problem and the fact that, in many places, few legal aid resources are available to clients who need assistance.

#### Plenary Panel: Innovative Strategies for Poverty Health Law

The landscape of poverty health law is fraught with challenges—from clients’ not coming to legal aid programs to legal aid programs lacking attorneys experienced in handling Medicaid or Medicare cases. Yet, the need for effective legal advocacy has never been greater. This plenary panel brings together experienced poverty lawyers, an expert from the healthcare provider world and a pro bono director. Together they will discuss strategies for helping more low income Floridians identify and secure their health care rights.

#### Keynote Speaker



**Gordon Bonnyman**

Staff Attorney, Co-Founder | Tennessee Justice Center

#### Moderator



**Miriam Harmatz**

Of Counsel, Founder | Florida Health Justice Project

#### Speakers



**Jeffrey M. Hearne**

Director of Litigation | Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc.



**Ronnie Graham**

Pro Bono Director | Florida Health Justice Project



**Jerson Dulis**

Executive Director | Florida Health Justice Project



**Ali Bers**

Litigation Director | Center for Medicare Advocacy



**Sarah Somers**

Legal Director | National Health Law Program

#### \*Helping Clients with Disabilities Obtain Medicaid

1:00 PM – 2:15 PM

This panel will cover the basics of how to prove your client is disabled, including those applying for

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) with the Social Security Administration (SSA), applicants for Medicaid based on disability applying through the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF), as well as individuals who have applied for SSI and been denied but who may still be entitled to review by the state agency while their SSA appeal is pending. Given delays at SSA, applying through the state, including a request for a fair hearing if the Medicaid application has not been timely processed, can be an important strategy in helping clients access health care and cash benefits based on disability.

#### Moderator



**Ronnie Graham**

Pro Bono Director | Florida Health Justice Project

#### Speakers



**Kate Lang**

Director, Federal Income Security | Justice in Aging



**Daniel Rowinsky**

Senior Staff Attorney Health and Income Maintenance | Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc.

### Florida Medicaid Eligibility 101

1:00 PM – 2:15 PM

This session will provide an overview of eligibility for Florida's Medicaid program. It will provide practical tools for determining eligibility, including reference to resources that can assist in determining whether a client's eligibility was inappropriately denied or terminated. The panelists will offer tips and tricks for identifying and resolving DCF errors regarding eligibility, how to handle (or assist clients in handling) eligibility appeals, the process for obtaining coverage during appeal, and reinstating coverage that was erroneously terminated.

#### Speakers



**Lynn Hearn**

Legal Director | Florida Health Justice Project



**Katy DeBriere**

Senior Attorney | National Health Law Program

### Florida's Long-Term Care (LTC) Waiver: Navigating Appeals, Denials, Reductions, and Terminations

1:00 PM – 2:15 PM

This session will provide advocates with practical tools for representing clients in Medicaid Long-Term Care and Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) appeals, including denials, terminations, and reductions of services. Panelists will walk through how to identify and develop strong cases, prepare clients and evidence for hearings, and navigate the administrative appeals process. Attendees will also receive strategies for client education and outreach to help ensure eligible individuals understand and assert their rights.

#### Moderator



**Nicole La Roque**

Borchard Fellow | Florida Health Justice Project

#### Speakers



**Jocelyn Armand**

Director of Strategic Partnerships and Advocacy | Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc.



**Nancy Wright**

Law Office of Nancy E. Wright



**Jodi Siegel**

Executive Director | Southern Legal Counsel

#### Break

2:15 PM – 2:30 PM

### Medicaid Services & Appeals

2:30 PM – 3:45 PM

This panel will discuss the Medicaid managed care regulations and contracts governing access to services and practical tools for helping Medicaid clients whose services are denied, terminated, reduced or delayed, including managed care grievances, AHCA complaints, administrative hearings and DCA appeals.

#### Speakers



**Katy DeBriere**

Senior Attorney | National Health Law Program



**Sarah Somers**

Legal Director | National Health Law Program



**Maria Santi**

Founder and Managing Partner | Health and Medicine Law Firm

### **\*Medicaid Estate Planning**

2:30 PM – 3:45 PM

Join a panel of seasoned professionals as they break down Florida Medicaid estate planning through real-world hypotheticals and in-depth legal analysis. Learn how key state and federal laws intersect, explore practical strategies for protecting assets while maintaining eligibility, and gain insights from experts with extensive experience in pro bono, legal aid, and policy advocacy. This informative and professional session will equip practitioners with actionable tools to better serve clients navigating complex Medicaid planning issues.

#### **Moderator**



**Ronnie Graham**

Pro Bono Director | Florida Health Justice Project

#### **Speakers**



**Jason Neufeld**

Attorney and Managing Partner | Elder Needs Law, PLLC



**Tequisha Myles**

Supervising Attorney | Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Inc.



**Natalie Kean**

Director, Federal Health Advocacy | Justice in Aging

### **Two Hot Medicare Topics: Helping Low-Income Florida Medicare Recipients with Coverage Denial Appeals and Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs) Eligibility Issues**

2:30 PM – 3:45 PM

This session will review the basic eligibility requirements and benefits of Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs), share strategies for enrolling eligible clients, and provide updates on how H.R.1 impacts MSP eligibility and renewals in Florida. The session will also cover how to appeal Medicare coverage denials, with a focus on low-income individuals and those with chronic or long-term conditions. Attendees will examine Medicare's administrative appeal system, including appeals involving home health services, prescription drugs, and the "improvement standard." For this session, it is recommended that attendees have a basic understanding of Medicare. Consider watching CMA's Medicare 101 [webinar](#) or FHJP's Legal Basics: Medicare Parts A, B, and C [webinar](#).

#### **Moderator**



**Nicole La Roque**

Borchard Fellow | Florida Health Justice Project

#### **Speakers**



**Lynn Hearn**

Legal Director | Florida Health Justice Project



**Ali Bers**

Litigation Director | Center for Medicare Advocacy

### **Children's Medicaid Services: Practical Tools for Helping Children**

3:50 PM – 5:00 PM

While children on Medicaid have more generous benefits than adults, certain services they need are often hard to access, including PDN, orthodontia, ABA. This panel will discuss how to help children whose prescribed services are denied, reduced, terminated or delayed.

#### **Moderator**



**Katy DeBriere**

Senior Attorney | National Health Law Program

#### Speakers



**Jeron Wheeler**

Staff Attorney | Florida Health Justice Project



**Sarah Somers**

Legal Director | National Health Law Program



**Leigh Markowitz**

Managing Attorney | Disability Rights Florida



**Stephen Pitel**

Director of Medical-Legal Partnership | Jacksonville Area Legal Aid

### ACA Marketplace: Overview, Updates, and Tax Issues

3:50 PM – 5:00 PM

This session will provide an overview of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace, with a focus on recent updates impacting enrollment, coverage options, and special enrollment periods. Panelists will also address common tax-related issues that arise for Marketplace consumers, including reconciliation of premium tax credits and avoiding repayment pitfalls. Attendees will learn practical strategies for assisting clients with eligibility, plan selection, and resolving coverage or tax problems, equipping them to better support low-income Floridians in accessing and maintaining affordable health insurance.

#### Speakers



**Margaret Kosyk**

Supervising Attorney | Florida Health Justice Project



**Mary Ann David**

Senior Attorney Health and Income Maintenance | Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc.

### Veterans' Health Care Access Issues and Advocacy Tools

3:50 PM – 5:00 PM

This panel will explore the unique health care challenges faced by veterans, including navigating VA benefits, accessing community-based care, and overcoming barriers related to housing instability, mental health, and social determinants of health. Panelists will share practical advocacy tools, resources, and strategies to help veterans secure the services they need, drawing on their experience in legal services, health care navigation, and community engagement. Attendees will leave with a deeper understanding of the systems serving veterans and concrete approaches for improving access to care.

#### Speakers



**Marissa O'Connor**

Senior Managing Attorney, Public Benefits and Veterans Advocacy | Community Legal Services



**Christie Bhageloe**

Director, Florida Veterans' Justice Project | Florida Legal Services



**Kate Williams**

Health Care Navigator | Supportive Services for Veteran Families



**Elizabeth Jackson**

Community Engagement & Partnership Coordinator | ARMOR Program, Orlando VA Health Care System

### Happy Hour

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

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## Tuesday, November 18, 2025

### Local Indigent Care

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

This session will review the legal framework governing Florida's local charity care programs and hospital financial assistance policies. Panelists will share strategies for helping clients access free or reduced cost primary and prenatal care, as well as hospital charity care. Attendees will discuss how to effectively advocate with providers and some strategies and resources for addressing medical debt.

## Speakers



**Miriam Harmatz**

Of Counsel, Founder | Florida Health Justice Project



**Aidil Oscariz**

Community Engagement & Policy Consultant | Catalyst Miami

## \*Legal Aid and Pro Bono Perspectives on Elder Law and Client Care

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

This session will explore the evolving role of elder law attorneys in legal aid and pro bono practice, highlighting how elder law intersects with health law, housing, consumer law, and estate planning. Panelists will share legal standards, practical considerations, and strategies for integrating supportive services to better serve older clients. The discussion will also address guardianship issues and recruiting pro bono attorneys to partner with legal aid and assist with more complex cases.

## Moderator



**Roger Jackson**

Grant Management Coordinator | Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County

## Speakers



**Tequisha Myles**

Supervising Attorney | Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Inc.



**Heather B. Samuels**

Founding Attorney | Samuels Wood PLLC

## Issues Impacting Long-Term Care Residents: Practical Tools Enhanced by the Collaboration between Legal Aid Advocates and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Legal aid attorneys, joined by the Transitions Coordinator and Legal Advocate for the Florida Long-Term Ombudsman Program, will discuss a multi-disciplinary approach to several issues facing long-term care residents, including limitations imposed by guardians or agents with a DPOA; facility administrators' interpretation (and misinterpretation) of residents' rights, and strategies for helping residents obtain medically necessary therapies. Hypotheticals based on actual client fact patterns will be discussed and template notices and responses will be provided.

## Moderator



**Nicole La Roque**

Borchard Fellow | Florida Health Justice Project

## Speakers



**Ellen Cheek**

Senior Staff Attorney | Bay Area Legal Services



**B. Maria Carruba-Fuentes**

Senior Staff Attorney | Bay Area Legal Services



**Tracie Rayfield**

District OMB Manager | Florida Ombudsman Program



**Erica Hill**

Legal Advocate | Florida Department of Elder Affairs

## Rapid Fire Panel

10:20 AM – 12:00 PM

This fast-paced session will cover a range of relevant topics for advocates. Panelists will provide concise updates on recent administrative, legislative, and litigation changes to Florida's Medicaid program; the new Florida Supreme Court pro bono CLE rule; strategies for assisting immigrants with mental health issues and navigating public charge concerns; Medicaid coverage during emergencies; APD/iBudget waiver advocacy; restoration of rights; and guardianship alternatives including supported decision-making. The session will conclude with an overview of new and updated tools for poverty health law attorneys.

- Recent changes to Florida's Medicaid program that impact individual clients—Katy DeBriere
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## KidCare updates and issues—Lynn Hearn

- New Supreme Court pro bono rule-CLE - Ronnie Graham
- Understanding public charge issues and concerns –Troy Elder
- Medicaid & Disaster Response: Coverage During Emergencies : Kathy Grunwald,
- APD/i-budget waiver: Leigh Markowitz
- Guardian Advocacy and Supported Decision making: Glorian Maziarka
- Restoration of Rights: Leigh Markowitz
- Key Tools for Florida Poverty Health Law Attorneys—Haley Brown

### Moderator



**Miriam Harmatz**

Of Counsel, Founder | Florida Health Justice Project

### Speakers



**Katy DeBriere**

Senior Attorney | National Health Law Program



**Ronnie Graham**

Pro Bono Director | Florida Health Justice Project



**Troy Elder**

Director, Detention Program | Americans for Immigrant Justice



**Kathy N. Grunewald**

Disaster Coordinator Attorney | Legal Services of North Florida



**Leigh Markowitz**

Managing Attorney | Disability Rights Florida



**Glorian Maziarka**

Children's Health Access Attorney | Florida Legal Services

### Lunch & Farewell

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Please join us for lunch as we wrap up the Poverty Health Law Conference. Thank you for being part of this event and for your commitment to advancing health justice in Florida.