Community/Public Service Worksheet

Service Category: Quality of Life Enrichment Programs

Title: Legal Counsel on the Elderly/Elder Law Clinic

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Program Description: The Elder Law Clinic/Legal Counsel for the Elderly Program provides free legal services to those 60 and older in a seven county area of West Alabama, without regard to income or assets. The program provides advice and representation to clients in most civil matters, but focuses on consumer fraud, Medicaid, Social Security, advance planning, health care issues, landlord-tenant disputes, and other civil areas primarily affecting the elderly. The program has been in existence for almost forty years.

Objectives/Outcomes: To provide high quality representation in civil matters to seniors, to provide important community service programs concerning legal issues affecting the elderly, to advocate for the rights of elders in our community and to be involved in the aging community locally and across the state, by providing in-service training to professionals and academics alike.

Assessment Measures: We are required to report our case statistics, results and community outreach to the Alabama Department of Senior Services, using the AIMS reporting system.

Results: On average, the clinic represents 400-500 clients per year and provides 15-20 community legal education programs per year. The director also conducts state-wide training programs for the Department of Senior Services.

Conclusions: The Elder Law Clinic/Legal Counsel for the Elderly has consistently provided a high level of legal representation for seniors in West Alabama. We consistently handle more cases than most other providers in the state, while also providing a sound educational experience for

Improvement Actions: Like many service providers, reaching our rural clientele is the biggest challenge faced year-in and year-out by the program. We must continue efforts to reach those most remote from assistance.