



PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

HIV ADVOCACY & SERVICES SINCE 1995

The Network
News
August 2009
Issue #113

OREGON HIV/AIDS CASE MANAGEMENT

What's New in HIV? 5th Annual Conference, Sept 12th, 2009 Ambridge Conference Center, 1333 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

A dynamic one-day conference that provides up-to-date and accurate information on advances in HIV prevention, care and treatment. The conference offers critical educational and networking opportunities for both individuals living with HIV and for service providers. Presentations include both consumer voices and service providers from some of Oregon's top medical and care facilities.

2009 CONFERENCE AGENDA

9:15 Welcoming Remarks

Graham Harriman, MA, LPC, Commissioner Ted Wheeler, Multnomah County Health Department & Jennifer Jako, Cascade AIDS Project

9:30 Session One

1. Treatment Update for Providers-Mike McVeigh,MD, Medical Director with Multnomah County HIV Health Services
2. Mental Illness and HIV-Josh Boverman, MD, Psychiatrist affiliated with OHSU
3. Epidemiology of Specialized Communities- Sean Schafer, MD, Oregon Department of Health and Human Services & Erin Nortrup, MSW, Clackamas County Community Health
4. Relationships, Stigma, and Disclosure-Josh Ferrer, Cascade AIDS Project & Kurt Hunter, OHSU's Partnership Project

10:45 Session Two

Speakers' Panel- Facilitated by Toni Kempner, RN, BSN, CCRC, ACRN, Research and Education Group Maria Kosmetatos, HIV Nurse Practitioner (FNP), Multnomah County HIV Health Services with patient Melissa Nyendak MD, VA Medical Center with patient

12:30 Keynote Address

HIV Vaccine Update—Shelly Karuna MD, HIV Vaccine Trials Network, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

2:00 Session Three

1. Drug Interactions & Pharmacology, Debby Parrish, RPH MPA:HA, Multnomah County Health Department
2. What's New in Prevention (PeP, PReP, Sexuality Education, Microbicides) Panel: Joseph Sedillo, Cascade AIDS Project, Shelagh Johnson, Cascade AIDS Project and Heidi Printz, OHSU
3. Silence=Death: A Brief History of AIDS Activism BJ Cavnor, Cascade AIDS Project
4. Treatment Update for Consumers Diana Antoniskis, MD, Infectious Disease Specialist, affiliated with Kaiser Permanente

3:15 Session 4

Substance Abuse and HIV Todd Korthuis, MD, affiliated with Oregon Health and Sciences University and David Eisen, OMD, Director, Quest Center for Integrative Health

4:15 Closing/Call to Action

Jack Cox & Jennifer Jako Community Leaders

For more information and to register go to: <http://www.hivaidproviders.org/whatsnew/>
For questions: contact Alicia Toenniges or Email: intern.atoenniges@cascadeaids.org
Call: (503) 223-5907, ext 3843

Next

Case Management
Network Meeting
800 NE Oregon

September 8th

Medical Update

Maria Kosmetatos, NP



This Column is provided as a public service by Attorney Sarah Patterson (www.sarahpattersonlaw.com), by e-mail: Sarah@sarahpattersonlaw.com, (503) 281-4766. Sarah is a lawyer in private practice and represents claimants with HIV and AIDS in Social Security and SSI disability cases and is not associated with the Social Security Administration

How Can a Claimant Afford a Lawyer?

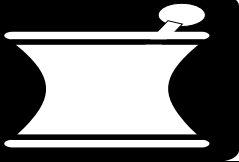
Virtually all Social Security and SSI **disability claimants are unemployed**. Because of this, many claimants (and those trying to help them) believe that they cannot afford appropriate legal help. It's a **common misconception to think that a lawyer's help is not an option**. It would be ideal if these applications and appeals were simple enough to do alone. The new all-electronic records implemented this year by Social Security **has actually made things more complicated**. Getting things into the right place in the electronic files is a new hurdle.

Our office will **assist with the paperwork that often overwhelms a disabled claimant**. We will obtain the necessary medical reports and records, and submit them to the **right office**.

We have been working in this **area of law for many years**. We know the people and the rules and laws. We will work with you to form a winning strategy. We may also be able to obtain a **larger back benefit** for a claimant by re-opening a prior claim.

But how can a claimant, who is disabled and usually in financial distress, afford to hire a lawyer? We represent claimants on a **contingency fee basis**. The fee - 25% of the back benefit obtained for the claimant - is set by federal regulation and must be approved by Social Security. The **claimant does not have to pay unless and until the case** is won and there is a recovery of benefits. Congress also sets a \$6000 maximum on the fee for work done, up to and including a hearing.

If the claimant is indigent and unable to pay for medical records, we will get those records, **deferring repayment until the claimant receives benefits** or other arrangements are made to repay the costs. Anyone can have an attorney for a Social Security or SSI claim. In our practice, we provide a free initial consultation and will review a case at no charge.

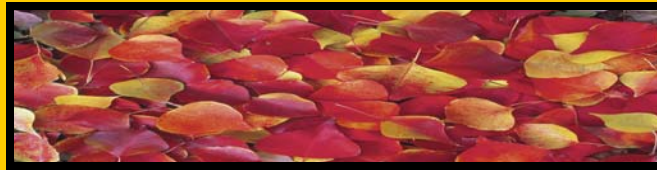


Ask Debby is on Vacation this month

Is it too early to think about Thanksgiving? No, at Partnership Project we are already planning our 3rd Annual Thanksgiving Program. Read more to find out how you can help!

3rd Annual Thanksgiving Program

PROVIDE A THANKSGIVING MEAL FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS



OHSU/PARTNERSHIP PROJECT is asking you to help provide Thanksgiving for individuals and families who would likely go without a turkey dinner.

Provide a meal and allow people to gather and celebrate—stress free.

Thanksgiving 2008 we served 72 clients—We hope to match that this year.

Your tax deductible donation can be sent to:

OHSU/PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

5525 SE Milwaukie Ave Portland ,OR 97202

[HTTP://WWW.OHSU.EDU/PARTNERSHIP/DONATE.HTML](http://www.ohsu.edu/partnership/donate.html)



CONTACT: Lauren Nathe, RN

503-230-1202 X236 nathe@ohsu.edu

JOIN Partnership Project at AIDS Walk 2009!!

Walk with Partnership Project this year on Sunday, October 11th and raise critical funds for both Partnership Project and Cascade AIDS Project. This year 75% of the funds our team raises will remain with Partnership Project and help us provide critical case management and Prevention services.

To join our team visit:

<https://www.kintera.org/faf/r/default.asp?ievent=307185&lis=1&kntae307185=1F5BFE4A62CE45FA82B8A85B075CD0C6>

We would love to have you join us!!

Social Security Question and Answer

Question:

I was disabled for a while several years ago. My health has since improved. Can I receive disability benefits for the time I was disabled?

Answer:

If you were disabled "several years ago," but are not disabled now, you probably can't get benefits at this point. Whether or not you are entitled to what we call a "closed period of disability" depends on: When you became disabled; and when you apply for Social Security disability benefits. You may be entitled to a "closed period of disability" when medical evidence establishes you were unable to engage in substantial gainful work activity for a continuous period of 12 months, but by the time the disability decision is made, you have medically recovered. You must also meet the following requirements to be entitled to a closed period of disability: You must file an application within 14 months after the disability ended; or you must have filed an application between 15 to 36 months after the disability ended and you must show that your failure or inability to file a timely application was due to your physical or mental condition. If you meet the requirements for disability benefits, there is a five-month waiting period before your first monthly benefit can be paid. You can receive up to 12 months of retroactive benefits from the date you file an application with Social Security. Learn more about Social Security disability benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability.

Question:

Can I get both Social Security benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI)?

Answer:

You may be able to receive SSI in addition to monthly Social Security benefits. But you only can get both if your Social Security benefit is low enough not to interfere with the SSI limit on income. The basic SSI payment is the same nationwide. In 2009, the SSI payment for an eligible individual is \$674 per month and \$1,011 per month for an eligible couple. However, some states add money to the basic payment, so the amount of SSI you may be able to receive also depends on where you live. If you receive Social Security, that income will reduce the amount of SSI you're able to receive. The more income you have, the less your SSI benefit will be. If your countable income is over the allowable limit, you cannot receive SSI benefits. Learn more about SSI income limits by visiting our online publication, *SSI*, at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/11000.html.

This newsletter is published by
OHSU/ Partnership Project.

Our thanks to Kim Lewis and Myrna Walking Eagle for their patient proofreading, Barbara Danel for website posting and Annick Benson for distribution of the newsletter.

The editor is Julia Lager-Mesulam.

Comments/questions about this publication should be
directed to:

Julia Lager-Mesulam at lagermes@ohsu.edu,
or call (503) 230-1202, FAX (503) 230-1213,
5525 SE Milwaukie Ave. Portland, OR 97202

**This issue, and issues from Feb 2002 on, can be found
electronically at [http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/hiv/
services/news.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/hiv/services/news.shtml)**