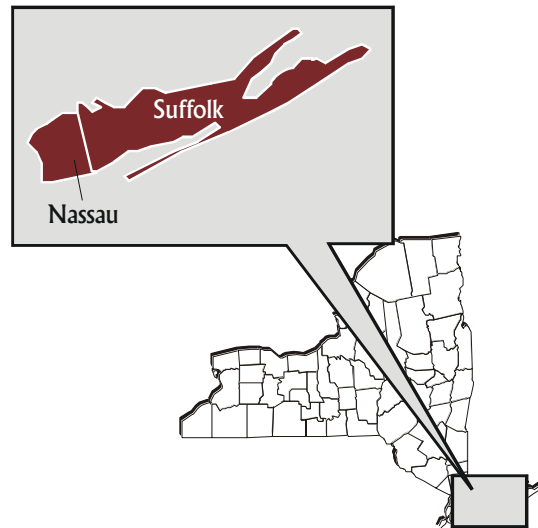


Long Island Advocacy Center

Snapshot of Accomplishments, 2009-2010

- 3,227 school age children in Nassau and Suffolk Counties were assisted by advocates through mediations, negotiations and representation at school meetings.
- 2,526 students received phone intervention and/or educational record review.
- 482 students with disabilities were represented at Committee on Special Education (CSE) meetings, resulting in appropriate classifications, programs and support services.
- 12 students were represented at Section 504 meetings, resulting in appropriate classifications, programs and support services.
- 80 discipline/suspension issues were resolved by advocates resulting in students receiving free appropriate public education either back in school district placements or agreed upon alternative placements.
- 29 school age children were supported by advocates who attended informal meetings which in many cases led to formal meetings and/or litigation on such issues as: overcoming a barrier to enrollment in school, avoiding an inappropriate special education classification, obtaining an individualized educational program and/or appropriate services consistent with special education law, and/or obtaining the correction of school records.
- 1,298 school age children in Nassau and Suffolk Counties were assisted by attorneys at the Long Island Advocacy Center through various levels of service.
- 1,164 school age children received legal advice or counsel from the Long Island Advocacy Center's attorneys resulting in appropriate classifications, programs and support services for these students.
- 82 issues had settlements negotiated without litigation. These included families' requests for impartial hearings and manifestation determinations.



This Provider At a Glance

Population Served: Low Income Children and Families
Area Served: Nassau and Suffolk Counties
Total Funding: \$1,841,460
Total IOLA Grant(s): \$112,500
Program Size - Full Time Equivalents
Total Staff: 32.60
Lawyers: 5.50
Paralegals: 21.00
Other Staff: 6.10

Types of Services Provided

- Direct Civil Legal Representation
 - Brief Services* ●
 - Extended Services* ●
- Hotlines and Other Phone-Based Services ○
- Community Legal Education ●
- Pro Se Assistance ●
- Support for Other Service Providers ●
- Major Cases or Other Advocacy Projects ●

The IOLA Grant(s)
 Nassau/Suffolk Education Advocacy Program \$112,500 *See page 3*

Continued on last page

Outcomes...

18,100 Individuals Benefited from Direct Civil Legal Representation

Extended Representation Outcomes

- 5,260 People obtained individualized education program and/or appropriate services consistent with special education law
- 816 People avoided or delayed suspension
- 196 People avoided inappropriate special education classification
- 112 People obtained correction of school records
- 16 People obtained benefits from other "extended representation"

Brief Representation Benefits

- 8,216 People benefited from legal advice and counsel
- 2,656 People benefited from non-litigation advocacy services
- 828 People benefited by referral to other sources of help

Examples...

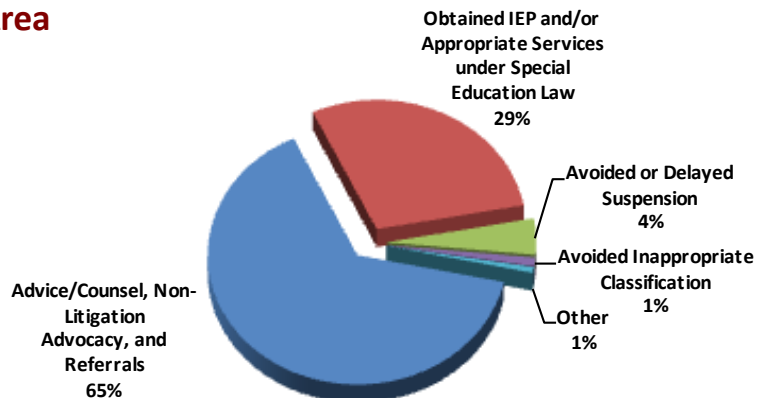
Outcomes for Clients

An 18 year old high school student had been suspended one week, for cutting classes. During his suspension, he was seen by the school principal on school grounds, at which time the police were called and the student was arrested. The student's mother contacted LIAC when she was told by the principal that he did not want her son returning to school and to sign him out, with the justification that the student was 18. Unaware of their rights, the mother did so until she was advised to contact LIAC. The mother informed the LIAC advocate that she felt her son was being discriminated against due to their ethnic background. The mother was advised of New York State Educational Law section 3202 regarding a person's right to attend public school until the age of 21, if they have not received a high school diploma. With regard to discrimination the mother was told that she was entitled to file a complaint with the New York Civil Liberties Union. When the mother requested documentation from the school regarding the student's suspension and the principal's decision to dismiss him from school, the school recanted their position claiming that there had been a mistake and had been wondering why the student had not been in school. Compensatory instruction was provided for the time the student should have been receiving home instruction.

Examples continued on page 4

Breakdown By Legal Problem Area

| Total | 18,100 People |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Advice/Counsel, Non-Litigation | |
| Advocacy, and Referrals | 11,700 People |
| Obtained IEP and/or | |
| Appropriate Services under | |
| Special Education Law | 5,260 People |
| Avoided or Delayed | |
| Suspension | 816 People |
| Avoided Inappropriate | |
| Classification | 196 People |
| Other | 128 People |



Other Services

Legal Services Other Than Direct Legal Representation

A total of 5,104 individuals including: parents, school personnel, human service agency providers, and attorneys, received training on laws effecting students with disabilities. Topics presented included: Advocacy, The CSE Process, Discipline Regulations, IDEA 2004, Legal Issues in Special Education, Response to Intervention, Role of the Parent Member, Testing Students with Disabilities and Transitioning from CPSE to CSE. Emphasis was placed on Transitioning to Adulthood, since school districts are often out of compliance with the requirements of IDEA and the Part 200 Regulations.

Most LIAC trainings include PowerPoint presentations, and handouts with information on education law and advocacy techniques. This information enables individuals who otherwise do not have access to knowledge about their rights in the education process the tools necessary to ensure that their children receive the educational services they require.

Advocates who work on the Nassau County Department of Social Services PINS Prevention Program provide regular training to DSS staff members from Family Solutions and Long Beach Reach.

LIAC is also under contract to Positive Behavior Supports, Inc. and provides training regarding adult services and benefits to families and school personnel.

The Long Island Advocacy Center is a member of Nassau and Suffolk Transition Steering Committees and provides trainings to the members of the committees as well as to parents and professionals.

Support for Other Service Providers

LIAC provided trainings for: law students on "Careers in Public Service"; Family Court Justices and Law Secretaries regarding "Special Education Law"; Touro Law School staff and students on "Response to Intervention"; foster parents on the "CSE Process" at the Nassau County DSS; incarcerated youth and staff at the Nassau Correctional facility; parents and staff on "Advocacy Strategies" at Touro Law School; staff at Long Beach Reach; staff at Family Solutions; staff on "Special Education Law" at Manhasset SEPTA; Suffolk County Intensive Case Management staff on "Transition Services."

Major Cases or Other Advocacy Projects

The Substance Abuse Health and Services Administration (SAMSHA)

The Substance Abuse Health and Services Administration (SAMSHA) has provided Nassau County funding to develop a system of care in Nassau County that provides services to families with an member who has an emotional behavioral difficulty. Nassau County has formed a Family Resource Center that provides community based services to families of children with behavioral

IOLA Project Grants

Nassau/Suffolk Education Advocacy

IOLA Funding Amount: \$112,500

IOLA funds are utilized for children's services which protect the legal rights of students who are at risk for failure or dropping out of school in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. These goals are achieved through assistance to families in resolving individual school problems such as truancy discipline, residency, special education placements, support services and dropout prevention.

Number of People Benefited by Legal Services Other Than Direct Legal Representation...

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Total: | 242,748 People |
| Community Legal Education: | 242,523 People |
| Pro Se Assistance: | 225 People |

Other Services, continued

and/or emotional needs. LIAC has an education advocate located at the Family Resource Center in Hempstead. This is a drop in center and the Education Advocate provides services to an at-risk population.

The SAMSHA funded Family Resource Center has been operating since December 2009 and services have been provided since January 2010. For the period commencing January 1, 2010 through March 31, 2010, 75 youth were referred to the program. Of those youth, 30 were provided educational and/or psychological assessments, 50 received advocacy and intervention, 15 had an advocate attend school meetings with them and for nine youth, PINS and JD designations were diverted. Each student with whom the advocate worked was provided appropriate educational services and programs. This significantly impacts students remaining in school. Educational advocacy reduces the dropout rate and prevents school disciplinary actions such as suspensions and expulsions. This translates to reduced costly court placements as

well. Additionally, in terms of future independent living, the outcomes for students who remain at home are far better.

Pro Bono Private Attorney Involvement

Law students perform community service work at the Long Island Advocacy Center's offices, and volunteer attorneys do intakes and participate in trainings in order to increase their knowledge of education laws and regulations. As their knowledge base increases, these attorneys perform pro bono work for the agency and represent families at superintendent disciplinary hearings.

| Pro Bono Statistics | |
|---|----------|
| For the 15-month period, volunteer lawyers participating in our program achieved the following results: | |
| • Number of cases completed: | 7 |
| • Hours contributed: | 122 |
| • Dollar value of services*: | \$18,300 |
| *estimated at \$150 per hour | |

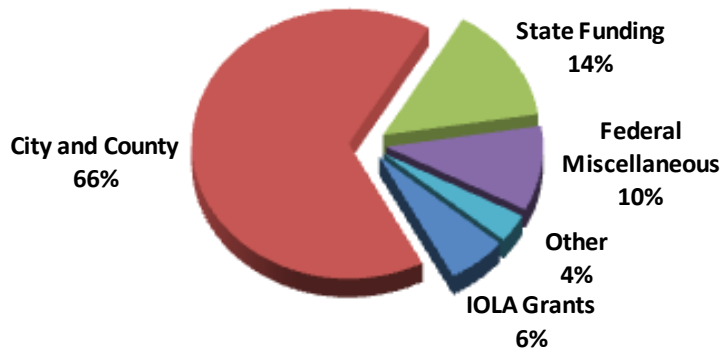
Outcomes for Clients continued from page 2

A five year old who had been receiving Early Intervention services and was in a self contained (12:2:2) preschool class was being recommended for a mainstreamed placement in Kindergarten. The mother called LIAC to express her concerns that her child would not be successful with less support. The LIAC advocate

recommended the mother request updated school evaluations (the last were done two years prior) in order to help make more informed decisions and requests. The advocate also referred the mother to the Early Childhood Direction Center as another possible resource.

Sources of Funding

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Total | \$1,841,460 |
| IOLA Grants | \$ 112,500 |
| City and County | \$1,220,474 |
| State Funding | \$ 257,965 |
| Federal Miscellaneous | \$ 187,500 |
| Other | \$ 63,021 |



Snapshot of Accomplishments *continued from page 1*

- 52 issues with settled with litigation. Of those, 46 suspension issues were resolved by attorneys resulting in students receiving free appropriate public education; and 29 students were represented at impartial hearings. In these instances, students were classified and received appropriate services; charges were dropped when the hearing officer concurred with the attorney, evaluations were provided leading to classification and appropriate services; and three students pleaded no contest and received alternative instruction for the remainder of the year.
- Six administrative agency decisions were made. As such, three students were represented at Resolution Hearings. Settlements were reached providing appropriate services for each student; six Appeals to the Commissioner resulted in the school district's challenges being dismissed and the verdicts held on appeal; and eight State Education Department Complaints were made by parents under the guidance of our attorneys.