Pro Bono Conference Session Title:

Pro Bono Mentorship Models

Name/Title of Project/Model:

DVIAP (Domestic Violence Immigration Advocacy Project) Collaborative Listserve

Name of Organization:

Bay Area Legal Aid

Project/Model Overview

1. Brief Overview of PURPOSE and MISSION of this project/model:

The DVIAP (Domestic Violence Immigration Advocacy Project) Collaborative Listserve is a forum for pro bono attorneys who have agreed to assist Bay Area low-income immigrant survivors of DV, abuse, and/or violent crime with their immigration cases (VAWA and U Visa). The Listserve provides a forum for Q&A between the participants, exchange of info about trainings, substantive updates, samples, USCIS memos, etc. . It is not formally monitored by immigration specialists, though many participate.

2. Why was it created?

The goal was to maximize the limited resources of the legal services experts in this substantive area and utilize the growing experience among volunteers at various law firms. The model was meant to compliment additional mentoring provided by the agency who placed the pro bono client.

3. What partners or organizations were involved?

Including, but not limited to:
Bay Area Legal Aid;
International Institute of the Bay Area;
Canal Alliance;
Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence;
law firms throughout the Bay Area

4. What successes has it accomplished?

It has created a forum to be able to provide answers and updates to many volunteers involved in similar cases at once, rather than on a more time consuming one-on-one basis.

5. What particular strategies or program components does it demonstrate?

Collaboration and maximizing resources with technology.

6. What challenges/barriers were faced in creating it?

There are some challenges to coordinating getting people signed up.

7. What are THREE primary things you would want conference attendees to know about the project/model?

1. Benefits of collaboration between agencies to support pro bono projects.
2. Benefits of collaborating and coordinating with law firms to develop mentorship model is mutually beneficial.
3. Utilization of free online resources to maximize resources (Yahoo)

For more information regarding this particular project/model, please contact:

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