

RUTGERS

School of Law | Newark

Hosted by the Centennial Seminar

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Rutgers Law Review

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Supporting organizations include: Asian Pacific-American Law Students Association, Association of Black Law Students, Association of Latin American Law Students, La Unidad Latina, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Omega Phi Beta Sorority, Minority Student Program, Public Interest Law Foundation, *Race and the Law Review*, Women's Law Forum, *Women's Rights Law Reporter*.



**100 Years,
100 Milestones**

1908-2008



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NOTES

***Celebrating a 100-Year
Tradition of Diversity:
Reflections on Its Success***

Monday, October 20, 2008
4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Rutgers School of Law—Newark
123 Washington Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102

*All alumni of the 1971 MSP Graduating Class and the “Band of Mothers” will be
specially honored at this event.*

PROGRAM

Greetings

Professor Paul Tractenberg, Rutgers School of Law—Newark
Heidi Alexander, '09, Editor-in-Chief, *Rutgers Law Review*

History of the Law School's Diversity Commitment

Professor Emeriti Alfred Slocum, '70
Professor Emeriti Annamay Sheppard, '58

United States Supreme Court

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Professor, Rutgers School of Law—Newark, 1963-1972

United States Congress

Robert Menendez, '79, United States Senator

New Jersey Judiciary

Justice Jaynee LaVecchia, '79, Supreme Court of New Jersey
Hon. Betty Lester, '71, Superior Court; Graduate of First Minority Student Program
Hon. Barbara Byrd Wecker, '74, Appellate Division (ret.); “Band of Mothers” (an extremely cohesive group of women who attended the law school in the early 1970’s)

Leaders in State Government

Ronald Chen, '83, New Jersey Public Advocate
Yvonne Smith Segars, '84, New Jersey Public Defender
Jennifer Velez, '96, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Human Services

Public Interest

Hubert Williams, '74, President, National Police Foundation
Donna Lieberman, '73, Executive Director, New York Civil Liberties Union
Wade Henderson, '73, President and CEO, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (video recording)

the Commissioner of Education, and 500 high school children and their teachers from around the state.

Freamon was the founding director of Seton Hall Law School's Center for Social Justice and served for five years as Chairman of the Board of Essex—Newark Legal Services. He is a member of the Board of Editors of the New Jersey Law Journal and an elected member of the Board of Trustees of the New Jersey ACLU.

Professor Okianer Christian Dark joined the faculty at Howard University School of Law in the fall of 2001. Previously, she was an Assistant United States Attorney in the Civil Division and the supervisor of the Community Relations Unit. At the time that Dark joined the United States Attorney's Office in Portland (USAO), she was a full professor of law at the T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond. She had joined that faculty in 1984, and subsequently became the first African American to be tenured in the law school and the first African American woman to be tenured in the University. She distinguished herself as a teacher by twice receiving the Distinguished Educator Award at the University of Richmond in 1990 and 1993. She was also the recipient of Distinguished Faculty Award by the Virginia Women Attorneys Association Foundation in 1991. She was a visiting professor of law at Washington College of Law, American University, and Willamette University College of Law. In the spring of 2000, she co-taught a course on Race and the Law at Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon. In the spring of 2001, she also taught a course on Women and the Law at Northwestern School of Law.

Prior to joining the legal academy in 1984, Dark was a trial attorney at the United States Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. She received her B.A. magna cum laude from Upsala College and her law degree from Rutgers School of Law—Newark, where she was the recipient of the Alumni Senior Prize.

Private Practice

Ann Lesk, '77, Partner, Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP; President, New York County Lawyers Association

Alberto Rivas, '85, Partner, Lite, DePalma, Greenberg & Rivas, LLC; former Assistant United States Attorney

Nancy Erika Smith, '80, Partner, Smith Mullin PC

Legal Education

Professor Bernard Freamon, '74, Seton Hall University School of Law
Professor and Associate Dean Okianer Christian Dark, '79, Howard University School of Law

BIOGRAPHIES

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg received her B.A. from Cornell University, attended Harvard Law School, and received her L.L.B. from Columbia Law School. She served as a law clerk to the Honorable Edmund L. Palmieri, Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, from 1959-1961. From 1961-1963, she was a research associate and then associate director of the Columbia Law School Project of International Procedure. She was a professor of law at Rutgers School of Law—Newark from 1963-1972 and Columbia Law School from 1972-1980, and a fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavior Sciences in Stanford, California from 1977-1978. In 1971, she was instrumental in launching the Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and served as the ACLU's General Counsel from 1973-1980 and on the National Board of Directors from 1974-1980. She was appointed a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in 1980. President Clinton nominated her as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, and she took her seat on the Court on August 10, 1993.

Professor Alfred Slocum earned his B.S. from Newark College of Engineering (now New Jersey Institute of Technology). He worked as an electrical engineer for almost a decade, during which time he became active in the NAACP. As an NAACP official, he saw the law as in

dire need of reform and decided to go to law school. He received his J.D. from Rutgers School of Law—Newark in 1970, and upon graduation was appointed to the faculty. He later earned his L.L.M. at Yale Law School. While a student at Rutgers, Professor Slocum became a spokesperson for the rights of people of color and other minorities within the law school community. Together with Professor Frank Askin and others, he formed a committee that led to the creation of the Minority Student Program — the most extensive and renowned program to train minority lawyers of any school in the United States.

In 1974, Professor Slocum took a leave of absence to serve as Executive Director of the Council on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO). CLEO was the first national organization dedicated to recruiting minority students into law schools. He was elected president of CLEO in 1984. Professor Slocum became Public Advocate of the State of New Jersey in 1986 and later that year was appointed Public Defender. For five years he championed the causes of the voiceless underclass and the indigent defendant. In 1990, he returned to the law school where he taught until retiring from the faculty in 2001.

Professor Annamay Sheppard earned a B.S. in Labor Relations from Cornell University in 1948, M.S. in Industrial Education in 1949, and LL.B from Rutgers School of Law—Newark in 1958. Professor Sheppard began her legal career as an associate at the Law Office of William O. Barnes, Jr. from 1960-1963, and at the law firm Hannoeh, Weisman, Stern & Besser from 1963-1966. Professor Sheppard was the Assistant Administrator of the Newark Legal Services Project from 1966-1969.

In 1970, Professor Sheppard joined the faculty at Rutgers School of Law—Newark. While at the law school, Professor Sheppard established the Urban Legal Clinic, which she taught and directed for five years. She also taught in the Constitutional Litigation and Women's Rights Clinics. She retired from the faculty in 1999.

Senator Robert Menendez grew up the son of immigrants in a tenement building in Union City, New Jersey. A product of New Jersey's public schools and a graduate of the state's universities, including Rutgers School of Law—Newark in 1979, he has served as a school board member, a mayor, and a state legisla-

pendent Monitor over the New Jersey State Police in the Consent Decree between the Department of Justice and the State of New Jersey.

Rivas clerked for Judge Anne E. Thompson of the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey from 1985 to 1987. Thereafter, he was an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey in the Criminal Division until 1996. In that capacity, he handled a wide variety of matters, including the first federal death penalty case brought in the District of New Jersey. From 1994 to 1996, Rivas was the Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division.

Rivas regularly appears both in federal and state court. He has tried over twenty cases to verdict. Rivas has also served as Law Director for the City of Perth Amboy, where he represented the City before state agencies and in court, and supervised other City litigation.

Rivas has served as an adjunct professor at Rutgers School of Law—Newark, teaching courses in trial practice and white collar crime. He is a frequent commentator on Court TV. Rivas has served on various court committees, including the Lawyers Advisory Committees for the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey.

Nancy Erika Smith is a member of Smith Mullin, PC, a plaintiff's litigation, employment discrimination, and civil rights law firm in Montclair. Smith received her B.A. from Montclair State University in 1977 and her J.D. from Rutgers School of Law—Newark in 1980. She is one of the leading employment and civil rights litigation attorneys in New Jersey.

Professor Bernard Freamon received his B.A. from Wesleyan University and his law degree from Rutgers School of Law—Newark. He also possesses L.L.M. and J.S.D. degrees from Columbia University School of Law. Freamon was recently awarded a postdoctoral fellowship in the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at Yale University.

He was asked by Governor Corzine, the New Jersey Departments of State and Education, and Princeton University to give the keynote address at the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the 1948 New Jersey Constitution, which ended de jure racial segregation in the New Jersey public schools. The lecture, entitled "The Origins of the Anti-Segregation Clause in the New Jersey Constitution," was attended by the Governor, the Secretary of State,

coalition. He is actively involved with the newly reconstituted National Quality Forum Board of Directors and the FDIC Advisory Committee on Economic Inclusion. He also leads an effort to pass the Employee Free Choice Act.

Prior to his role with the Leadership Conference, Henderson was the Washington Bureau Director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). In that capacity, he directed the government affairs and national legislative program of the NAACP. Henderson also served as Executive Director of the Council on Legal Education Opportunity. He is a graduate of Howard University and the Rutgers School of Law-Newark.

Ann Berger Lesk graduated from Rutgers School of Law—Newark with high honors in 1977. While at Rutgers, she was Editor-in-Chief of the *Rutgers Law Review* and a staff member of the Rutgers Women's Rights Law Reporter. She clerked for Justice Worrall F. Mountain, Jr. of the New Jersey Supreme Court.

Lesk started at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson, LLP as a summer associate in 1976, and has worked there continuously since completing her clerkship. Since 1995, she has been the head of the Trusts and Estates Department.

Lesk is the President of the New York County Lawyers' Association, a 10,000-member bar association that has advocated equal opportunity and access to justice since it was founded 100 years ago. She is a member of the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association.

Lesk is a fellow of the American College of Trusts and Estates Counsel and the American Bar Foundation. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Appalachian Mountain Club, a 90,000-member organization whose mission is promoting conservation, education, and recreation in the Northeastern United States.

Alberto Rivas, a former Assistant United States Attorney, handles criminal defense, municipal law, eminent domain, and sophisticated commercial litigation, including class actions at Lite, DePalma, Greenberg & Rivas, LLC. He has successfully represented clients both in federal and state court. In 1999, he was appointed by the United States District Court of New Jersey to serve as an Inde-

tor. From 1992 to 2006, he served in the House of Representatives, where he was the third-highest ranking Democrat in the House before taking office in the Senate in 2006.

Senator Menendez first entered public service as a 19-year-old college student when he launched a successful petition drive to reform his local school board. In Congress, he has worked to make health care more affordable and to improve schools. Elected in 2002 as the Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, Senator Menendez became the highest-ranking Hispanic in Congressional history. He previously served as the Vice Chairman of the Democratic Caucus and has led key task forces on education and homeland security.

After being appointed by New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine, Senator Menendez was sworn into the Senate on January 18, 2006. In November of that year, Senator Menendez was elected to serve a full six-year term as United States Senator. He currently serves on the Senate Committees on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs; Energy and Natural Resources; Budget; and Foreign Relations.

Justice Jaynee LaVecchia was nominated by Governor Christine Todd Whitman to serve on the Supreme Court on January 6, 2000. She was confirmed by the New Jersey State Senate on January 10, 2000 and sworn in for a term to begin on February 1, 2000.

At the time of her nomination, Justice LaVecchia had been serving as the New Jersey Commissioner of Banking and Insurance since August 24, 1998. Prior to her appointment as Commissioner, Justice LaVecchia had been the Director of the Division of Law within the Department of Law and Public Safety since August 1, 1984. As Director, she was responsible for the legal work of all lawyers assigned to the civil side of the New Jersey Attorney General's Office.

In addition, Justice LaVecchia served as Director and Chief Administrative Law Judge for the Office of Administrative Law from 1989 through July 1994. She also served in the Office of Counsel to Governor Thomas H. Kean, first as an Assistant Counsel and then as Deputy Chief Counsel. She has also worked in private practice and as a Deputy Attorney General in the Division of Law.

Justice LaVecchia is a 1976 graduate of Douglass College and graduated in 1979 from Rutgers School of Law—Newark. She has been a member of the New Jersey Bar since 1980. In 1996, she was elected a Fellow of the American Bar Association. She has

chaired or served on various Supreme Court Committees, Subcommittees, and other Court-assigned projects.

Judge Betty J. Lester received a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Howard University in 1968, a law degree in 1971 from Rutgers School of Law—Newark, and was admitted to the Bar in May 1972. From 1971 to 1977, Judge Lester worked with Newark Legal Services and the Public Defender's office, as well as with a private corporation.

Judge Lester began her career as a jurist in 1977 when she was appointed to the bench in the Newark Municipal Court. She served as Presiding Judge of the Newark Municipal Court from 1979 until 1985 when she was appointed by then Governor Thomas Kean to the bench of the Superior Court of New Jersey. Between 1996 and 1999, she served as Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division of the Essex County Superior Court.

Over the years, Judge Lester has served on many committees of the Supreme Court including: the Committee to Study New Jersey Bar Admissions, the Committee on Municipal Courts, the Task Force on Women in the Courts, the Task Force on Municipal Improvement, and the Task Force on Minority Concerns. She is a member of the New Jersey State Bar Association, the Essex County Bar Association, and the National Association of Women Judges. On the national level, Judge Lester was appointed as a Commissioner of the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies.

Judge Barbara Byrd Wecker served as a judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey for more than 20 years before retiring from the bench in 2006, first as a trial judge in Union County and for 10 years on the Appellate Division. In 2007, Judge Wecker joined the Newark firm of Greenberg Dauber Epstein & Tucker as Of Counsel in the firm's Alternative Dispute Resolution Department. She is an arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association and a New Jersey Supreme Court approved mediator. In 2006, she was named a Distinguished Alumna by the Rutgers Law School Alumni Association.

Judge Wecker was an editor of the *Rutgers Law Review*, graduating with honors in 1974. She is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Cornell University, has a masters degree in counseling from the Univer-

as the Associate Director from 1988 to 1993 and Founder/Director of the NYCLU Reproductive Rights Project from 1990 to 2000. Under Lieberman's leadership, the NYCLU has expanded the scope and depth of its work, supplementing and strengthening the pursuit of litigation with an aggressive legislative advocacy and a field organizing program that works on behalf of civil liberties and civil rights. As a result, the organization has experienced a resurgence in its role as the state's leading voice for freedom, justice, equality, and as an advocate for those whose rights and liberties have been denied.

Lieberman began her public interest legal career as a criminal defense lawyer in the South Bronx office of the Legal Aid Society, and she later acted as Executive Director of the Association of Legal Aid Attorneys, UAW. She served on the faculty of the Urban Legal Studies Program at City College for nearly a decade. She appears regularly in local and national news coverage and on op-ed pages throughout the state. She also speaks frequently at local and national events on reproductive rights, police practices, freedom of speech, and other civil liberties and civil rights issues. Lieberman graduated magna cum laude from Harvard in 1970 and earned her law degree from Rutgers School of Law—Newark in 1973.

Wade Henderson is the President and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR) and counselor to the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund. The LCCR is the nation's premier civil and human rights coalition. He is also the Joseph L. Rauh, Jr., Professor of Public Interest Law at the David A. Clarke School of Law of the University of the District of Columbia.

Henderson is well known for his expertise on a wide range of civil rights, civil liberties, and human rights issues. He works principally in the areas of civil rights enforcement; voting rights; public education reform; fair housing policy; immigration policy reform; media and telecommunications policy; and economic and political empowerment for people of color, women, persons with disabilities, and the poor. Under his leadership, the LCCR has become one of the nation's most effective defenders of federal affirmative action policy and one of the strongest advocates for passage of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

Since taking the helm of the LCCR in June 1996, Henderson has worked diligently to address emerging policy issues of concern to the civil rights community and to strengthen the effectiveness of the

malnourished former foster children and was responsible for the Office's work in the area of juvenile justice reforms.

From 1998 until 2003, Velez served Governor James E. McGreevey, Acting Governor Donald DiFrancesco, and Governor Christine Todd Whitman as Senior Associate Counsel and Assembly Liaison in the Office of Governor's Counsel. She was primarily responsible for advising each on legislation and regulations affecting the Department of Human Services.

She also played a significant role in the architecture of several laws that have impacted the health and welfare of New Jersey's children, including the Homeless Youth Act, the Safe Haven Infant Protection Act, New Jersey FamilyCare, the creation of a Kinship Legal Guardianship status, the Adoption and Safe Families Act, and the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Before entering public service, Velez was in private practice at the law firm of Pitney, Hardin, Kipp & Szuch. She received her law degree from Rutgers School of Law—Newark in 1996.

Hubert Williams is President of the Police Foundation, a research-oriented think tank that provides technical assistance to local police departments to enhance the quality of public safety within the context of America's constitutional standards and democratic values. He began his law enforcement career as a police officer in Newark, rising through the ranks to serve as director of police for eleven years.

Mr. Williams received his B.S. from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York, and was a Harvard Law School Fellow. He received his law degree from Rutgers School of Law—Newark. Mr. Williams is a member of the New Jersey Bar Association, and has been admitted to practice law before the Supreme Court of the United States.

He is founding President of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), and serves on the advisory boards of the National Committee on the Right to Counsel, The Constitution Project, and as a member of the Council on Foreign Relations Independent Task Force on Civil Liberties and National Security. He previously served on the Congressional Advisory Panel to Assess Domestic Response Capabilities for Terrorism Involving Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Donna Lieberman has been Executive Director of the New York Civil Liberties Union since December 2001. She served

city of Missouri, and earned a master's degree from the University of Virginia School of Law in 2005.

While in private practice from 1974 through 1985, Wecker taught appellate advocacy at Rutgers School of Law—Newark for four years as an adjunct faculty member. Before her appointment to the bench in 1985 by Governor Tom Kean, Wecker was a member of the State Board of Bar Examiners. She was an active member of several bar associations, served as a trustee of Legal Services of New Jersey, the New Jersey State Bar Foundation, and the Union County Bar Association, and was the first president of Women Lawyers in Union County. Wecker was a founding member and second president of the Willard C. Heckel American Inn of Court, sponsored by Rutgers Law School. She is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

Ronald K. Chen became the first Public Advocate of New Jersey in 13 years when the Department of the Public Advocate was restored in 2006. As a member of the Governor's Cabinet, he is charged with providing advocacy for a number of specific constituencies, including elder citizens, persons with disabilities, mental health consumers, and ratepayers, and is generally given standing to represent the public interest in legal proceedings.

Prior to becoming the Public Advocate, Chen was the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Rutgers School of Law—Newark where he was responsible for overall academic and curricular operations and policy. Previously, he was Acting Director of the Minority Student Program, Director of Financial Aid, and an Assistant Professor of Law. Through all these jobs, he has maintained a busy schedule as a law professor, teaching contracts, federal courts, constitutional law, and church-state relations. In addition to his teaching schedule, Public Advocate Chen provided pro bono legal representation to a host of client on a range of civil rights and constitutional law cases.

Chen was an active lay leader of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). He first served as a Trustee on the New Jersey affiliate board from 1989 to 2002, and then was elected to ACLU's national board. In 2002, he was elected by the national board to serve on the National Executive Committee.

Chen earned a Bachelor's Degree from Dartmouth College in 1980 and graduated from Rutgers School of Law—Newark with

high honors in 1983, where he was Editor-in-Chief of the *Rutgers Law Review*. He was named the New Jersey Law Journal's "Lawyer of the Year" for 2007, in large part because of his work in utilizing state constitutional principles to prevent eminent domain abuse. His other areas of focus as Public Advocate have included voter's rights, affordable housing, childhood lead poisoning prevention, deinstitutionalization of persons with developmental disabilities and mental health consumers, and affordable energy for ratepayers.

A child of Chinese immigrants who came to this country after World War II, Chen has lived most of his life in Berkeley Heights. He has been named by Governor Corzine as Chair of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel on Immigrant Policy, which is charged with making recommendations to the Governor on how state government can best assist immigrants to integrate into the New Jersey community.

Yvonne Smith Segars has been New Jersey's Public Defender since 2002. In that capacity, she oversees an agency of 1,000 employees, including over 500 staff attorneys and the services of over 500 outside counsel. The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) provides a multitude of services to indigent adults and juveniles, particularly in the area of criminal defense. This multi-faceted agency represents abused and neglected children through the Office of Law Guardian and individuals facing termination of parental rights through the Office of Parental Representation.

A defense attorney for 20 years, Segars is a staunch advocate for the poor and disenfranchised. Prior to her appointment, she served as the Chief Managing Attorney in Essex County, the largest OPD region in New Jersey. Besides her managerial duties, she tried a gamut of cases from simple assault to multiple homicides. Earlier she served as bond counsel with the New Jersey firm of McManimon & Scotland, LLC, gaining experience in municipal finance and transactional law.

Segars is a pioneer in the New Jersey drug court movement and has lectured nationally on drug courts and policies related to criminal justice and drug treatment. She was the first Drug Court Public Defender in Essex County, and a founding member of the New Jersey Network of Drug Court Professionals. In her capacity as Public Defender she created the first Statewide Drug Court Unit in the agency. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Na-

tional Association of Drug Court Professionals, and is a core faculty member of the Justice Management Institute and the National Drug Court Institute.

As New Jersey's Law Guardian, Segars has aggressively launched initiatives in the child welfare reform movement and has been a member of the Governor's Cabinet for Children since its creation in 2003. She sits on the Board of Advisors for the Office of the Child Advocate, the Division of Youth and Family Services Staffing and Outcome Review Panel, and is Chairwoman of that group's Subcommittee on Juveniles in Detention.

Segars has appeared as a legal commentator on numerous national television programs. She received her J.D. from Rutgers School of Law—Newark and her B.A. in psychology from Kean University.

Jennifer Velez, an attorney with an extensive background in social service issues in New Jersey, was nominated to be Commissioner of the Department of Human Services (DHS) by Governor Jon S. Corzine in February, 2007, and was confirmed and sworn in on June 21, 2007.

Velez works in partnership with the Administration on initiatives including: increasing enrollment in New Jersey FamilyCare; ensuring a safe, secure and therapeutic environment in New Jersey's public psychiatric hospitals and developmental centers; advancing Olmstead plans which provide for the community placement of independent persons with developmental disabilities and mental illness; and sustaining the safety-net of services made available for New Jersey's low-income individuals and families. Additional priorities for the department involve increasing housing opportunities for those served by the department, increasing employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, and engaging in substantive contract reform.

Before becoming Commissioner, Velez served as Deputy Commissioner for Family and Community Services at DHS from January 2006 until her nomination. In that position, she oversaw the divisions that administer Medicaid and public welfare and was involved in making recommendations to the Commissioner on all aspects of the Department's responsibilities.

Velez came to DHS from the Office of the Child Advocate, where she was named the Office's First Assistant Child Advocate when it was created in September 2003. In that position, she led the Office's investigations into the child welfare system's care for four chronically