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Sandy Ballard, Esquire
Public Services Coordinator
Dauphin County Bar Association
213 North Front Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

PLSE/DCBA Expungement eligibility intake clinic report

On October 10, 2015 the Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity, "PLSE," in partnership with the People's Paper Co-Op, "PPC," facilitated an expungement eligibility clinic with the Dauphin County Bar Association, "DCBA," and the Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network. The expungement eligibility clinic was held with space generously donated by CareerLink located at 100 North Cameron Street in Harrisburg, Pa. The purpose of the expungement eligibility clinic was to enable the Dauphin County Bar Association to increase their pro bono opportunities and resources for its members by performing community outreach to engage impacted people. Additionally, the clinic created an opportunity for the Dauphin County community to receive invaluable advice, service, and aid regarding criminal record expungement while getting to know members of DCBA.

One hundred people pre-registered with an additional one hundred and fifty people requesting services. Due to the overwhelming amount of need for service, PLSE provide an educational presentation on the creation, dissemination, and destruction of criminal records pursuant to the Criminal History Record Information Act at Bethesda Mission. At CareerLink, PLSE trained volunteers from the DCBA, Penn State Law School, and other interested attorneys on the creation, dissemination, and destruction of criminal records, how to read a court summary, how to perform empowered intakes, and on the requirements of the Criminal History Record Information Act for potential employers.

The expungement eligibility intake clinic began with an educational presentation on the Criminal History Record Information Act with an emphasis on the use of criminal history by employers and eligibility for expungement. Following the brief presentation, volunteers conducted one-on-one interviews with potential clients. Intakes were processed on a first-come-first-serve basis. The average

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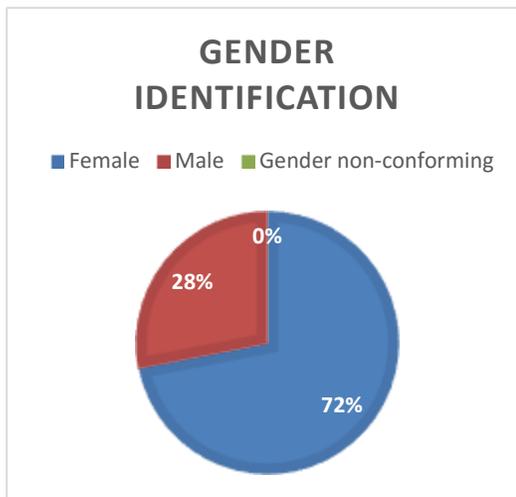
intake lasts about fifteen minutes, and included completing an electronic intake form, searching the AOPC website for criminal history, and explaining to participants which charges are eligible for expungement. Following the interview, participants were encouraged to join PPC to shred a copy of their court summary to create new paper and answer a writing prompt “Without a criminal record I am...” On October 10, 2015, eighty-six intake interviews were performed. After the intake, PLSE obtained court summaries for all individuals interviewed and is willing to provide assistance on the client acceptance process with DCBA. The next step is for the DCBA to assign clients to volunteer attorneys to begin the expungement process. Please let me know how you would like to proceed with the next steps.

Sincerely,

Michael Lee, Esq., Executive Director
Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity

There were eighty-five respondents to the October 10th expungement eligibility intake form. Not everyone who attended the clinic completed the intake process. Of the eight-five intakes, fifty-nine people identified as female. Thirty-women, 65%, currently support at least the age of 18.

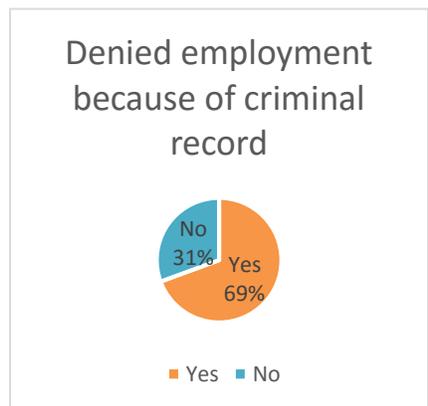
There were only two interviewees who veteran of the armed services. The an interviewee is 40 years old with 65% African American. Seventy interviewees to vote, and have voted within the last



eight of these one child under

identified as a average age of identifying as are registered four years.

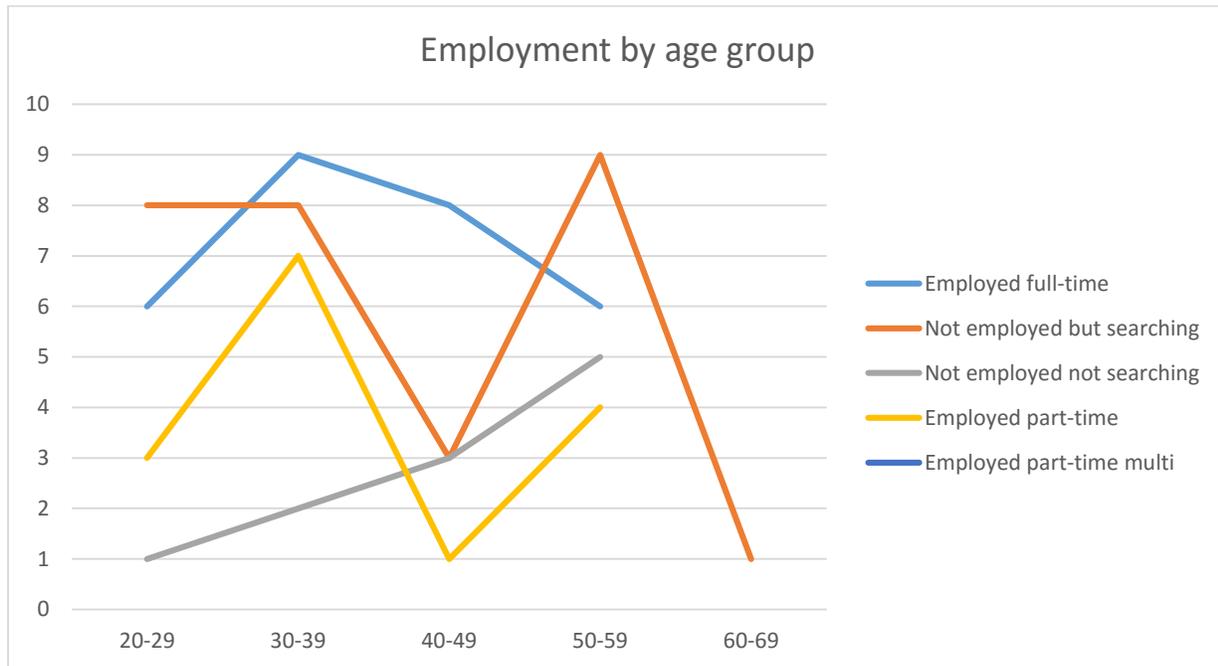
73% of the interviewees came to the clinic to gain or improve their employment situation. Everyone actively seeking employment believes that a criminal history hinders their ability to find or maintain employment. Interestingly, there were as many unemployed people, 29, as there were people employed full time, which PLSE believes reflects the impact a criminal history can have on current as



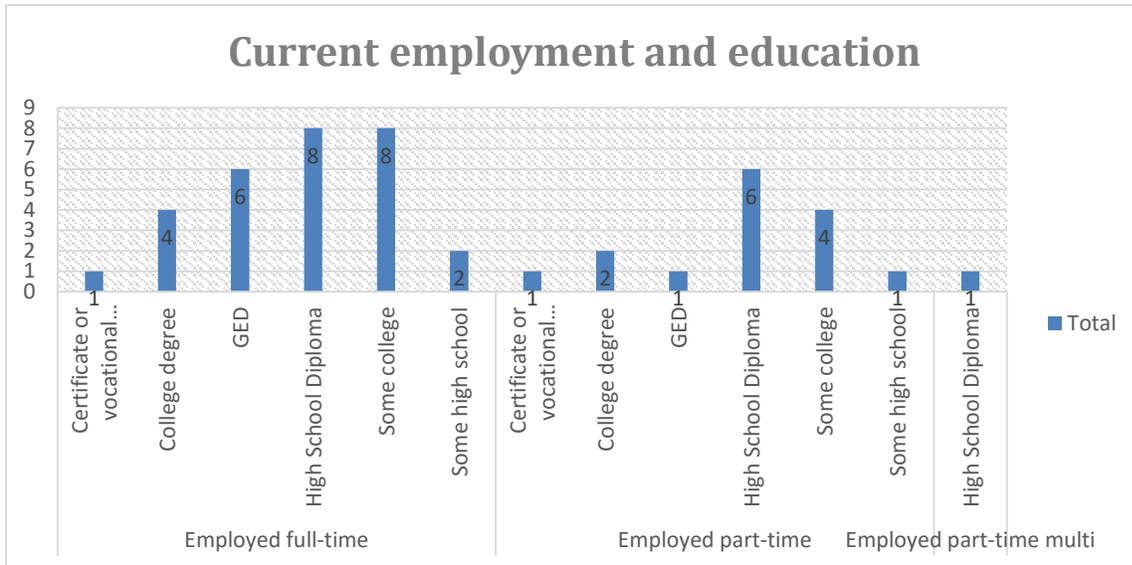
well as potential employment. Many people believe they are overqualified for their current full time position, or simply need a full time job that pays a livable wage. In fact, 69% of the people interviewed believe that they have been denied employment in the last two years because of

the existance of criminal history record information. PLSE hopes that the DCBA can aid many of these individuals to remove barriers to employment created by criminal records.

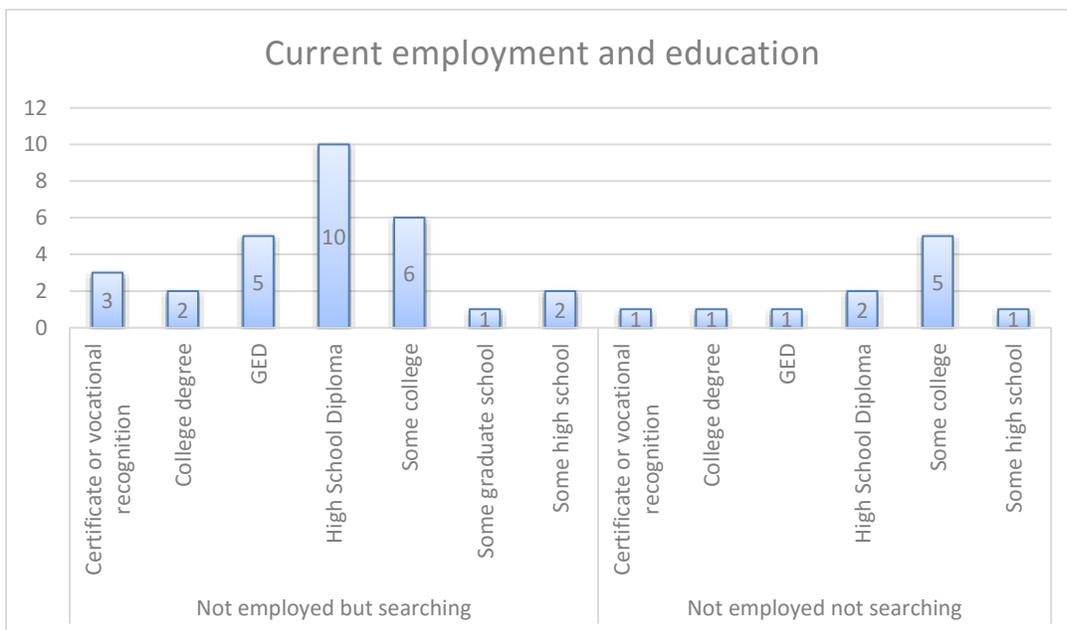




The above chart illustrates interviewees' current employment status by age group. The age group 30 – 39 has the highest number of people employed full-time, while the 50- 59 age group has the highest number of people seeking employment.



The above bar graph reflects the highest level of education completed for interviewees with at least part-time employment.



The above bar graph reflects the highest level of education completed for interviewees not currently employed.