Medical-Legal Partnership: Legal Problems ARE Health Problems

COMMUNITY

HEALTH PARTNERS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

STRENGTHENING HEALTHCARE FOR RESIDENTS OF PUBLIC HOUSING
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Today’s Presenters

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Comprehensive Family Services
(Honolulu, HI)

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Clinical Director
Rising Sun Health Center
(Philadelphia, PA)
The problems are visible.
The solutions are not.
50 million Americans need legal care to be healthy.

And every single one has a civil legal problem that negatively affects their health.

1 in 6 Americans live in poverty.
Medical-Legal Partnership Approach

Building a healthcare team able to identify, treat and prevent health-harming legal needs for patients, clinics and populations.
Making the connection: Legal problems are health problems.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Legal Problem</th>
<th>Social Determinant of Health</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Families wrongfully denied food supports or housing subsidies</td>
<td>Lack of basic resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children living in housing with mold or rodents, in violation of housing laws</td>
<td>Physical environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors wrongfully denied long-term care coverage</td>
<td>Lack of access to insurance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MLPs help patients with I-HELP® issues

- Income supports & Insurance
- Legal status
- Housing & utilities
- Personal & family stability
- Employment & Education
Individual patient legal interventions are pathways to finding the policy interventions for improving population health.
# Unpacking Civil Legal Aid Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National leader</th>
<th>Federal Legal Aid</th>
<th>State &amp; Local Legal Aid</th>
<th>Private Pro Bono Resources</th>
<th>Academia: Law School Clinics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal Services Corporation</td>
<td>National Legal Aid &amp; Defender Association</td>
<td>American Bar Association</td>
<td>Assoc. of American Law Schools</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Healthcare equivalent</th>
<th>Federally Qualified Health Centers</th>
<th>Look-alike CHC</th>
<th>Free Clinic</th>
<th>Medical student rotation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scope</th>
<th>138 offices</th>
<th>700+ civil legal aid offices</th>
<th>900+ pro bono programs</th>
<th>200+ law school clinics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>$600 million</th>
<th>$500 million est</th>
<th>$180 million est</th>
<th>$75 million est</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case priorities</th>
<th>domestic violence, public benefits, housing, consumer</th>
<th>expand to include immigration, policy advocacy</th>
<th>no pattern</th>
<th>no pattern</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
There isn’t enough in the legal aid pharmacy without changing how legal care is provided.

8,000 civil legal aid attorneys in U.S. with a $1.3 billion budget

& help from law schools & pro bono partners try to serve 50 million low-income people with 2-3 needs.

They are able to meet less than 20% of the need each year, and unfair, unhealthy systems go unchanged.
Start From the Beginning

Rising Sun Health Center
Philadelphia, PA
Overview of Steps

1. Review MLP model and framework
2. Conduct a population / health / legal landscape assessment
3. Engage a potential partner
4. Conduct assessment of your health / legal institution
5. Conduct assessment of partner health / legal institution
6. Exchange information with partner health / legal institution
7. Consult with NCMLP

Steps 1-3: Completed by the health / legal institution that downloaded the toolkit
Steps 4-7: Completed by the health and legal institutions together
Rising Sun Health Center serving North Philadelphia (19111, 19124, 19120)

Patient Population

- 35% uninsured rate
- >90% below 200% FPL
- Significant population of immigrants
- High rates of limited English proficiency
- All ages served
- Limited access to legal-aid services
Challenges to MLP Implementation

- Space/IT support
- Financial support & sustainability
- Program evaluation
- Staff buy-in
- New workflows
- Access to protected health information
- Competing priorities
Benefits to MLP Implementation

- Access to healthcare related legal information
- Up-to-date rules & regulations on insurance and Affordable Care Act
- Guidance on medical cases to maximize legal impact
- Increased access to healthcare services due to legal intervention
Sustaining a partnership...

Rising Sun Health Center ‘s
Community Legal Services
Neighbors Being Neighborly to Neighbors

Kōkua Kalihi Valley
Hawaii
The Medical-Legal Partnership Toolkit

Phase II: Building Infrastructure

Updated February 2014

Developed by the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership at the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health
# I. Preamble
   a. Statement of purpose
   b. Strategic goals

# II. Common Provisions
   a. Training and education
   b. Evaluation
   c. Funding
   d. Administration
   e. Term, renewal and termination of MOU

# III. Legal Services Partner Responsibilities
   a. Leadership and staff
   b. Resource allocation and access
   c. Insurance
   d. Privacy / confidentiality

# IV. Health Partner Responsibilities
   a. Leadership and staff
   b. Resource allocation and access
   c. Confidentiality

# V. Appendix
   a. Issues addressed by MLP and legal care services provided
   b. Issues NOT addressed by MLP and legal care services NOT provided
   c. Conflicts of interest
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examples of Specific Indicators</th>
<th>Referral Network</th>
<th>Partially Integrated MLP</th>
<th>Fully Integrated MLP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Legal presence at healthcare institution</em></td>
<td>Legal professionals occasionally on-site at HC institution.</td>
<td>Legal professionals regularly on-site at HC institution to meet patients, occasionally meet HC providers.</td>
<td>Legal professionals see patients at HC institution, participate in meetings with HC providers and administration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Case, clinical and systemic priorities</em></td>
<td>Set by legal team without HC input or health framework.</td>
<td>HC team has input, but priorities follow legal aid framework.</td>
<td>Set jointly by legal and HC teams using health framework and aligning with HC institutional priorities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Communication between legal and healthcare teams</em></td>
<td>No feedback loop between legal and HC teams. Minimal/no regular training of HC providers. No shared data across partners/systems.</td>
<td>Minimal feedback loop between legal aid and HC teams. HC providers trained by legal professionals. Episodic, non-systemic data sharing.</td>
<td>Expectation of case feedback and clinical communication (often across Electronic Medical Record). Regular trainings between health and legal teams. Joint data collection and analysis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Healthcare staffing</em></td>
<td>No dedicated staff time from HC providers.</td>
<td>Minimal dedicated, compensated staff time from HC providers.</td>
<td>Sufficient dedicated staff time from HC providers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
KKV Case Example

National Center for Medical Legal Partnership

Milken Institute School of Public Health
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
Feedback

• Clinical team
  • example
• Legal team
  • example
• Client/Patient
  • example
National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership
= NCA as of July 2014

Helps FQHCs develop and sustain medical-legal partnerships with health center specific:

- Toolkits
- Webinars / trainings
- Research and evidence

Prevention =
treating the laws and policies that make people sick.

www.medical-legalpartnership.org/join-movement/health-centers/
Find MLP Partnerships in your state

See which health and legal institutions in your community have developed medical-legal partnerships. Each institution links to more information about its medical-legal partnership.

135 Hospitals
127 Health Centers
127 Legal Aid Agencies
32 Medical Schools
46 Law Schools
For more information:

www.medical-legalpartnership.org

NCMLP

National_MLP
Medical-Legal Partnership Summit

April 8 – 10, 2015
McLean, Virginia

Agenda, registration & hotel info:
www.medical-legalpartnership.org/join-movement/Summit

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