

Hi Friend of MLP,

It's simple. When we raise the bar for justice, we raise the bar for health.

We're proud to be bridging the gap between law and medicine, professions that serve a common constituency - low-income, medically vulnerable people - and too often do so in isolation. Thank you for your partnership in this important work!



MLP colleagues discuss a project that will help to detect patients' housing-related barriers to care. Together we can eliminate many of these barriers through legal advocacy!

(Left to right: JoHanna Flacks - Legal Director, MLP | Boston; Ambili Ramachandran - Academic Fellow, BMC General Internal Medicine; Sarah Primeau - Research Assistant, BUSM Women's Health Unit)

A TIMELY TIP FOR CLINICAL PARTNERS: DON'T FORGET...



Spring has sprung, but with it **the winter moratorium on utility shut-off protection for low-income consumers expires TODAY, April 1, 2013** (having been extended from the statutory expiration date of March 15). Your patients may receive final shut-off notices beginning April 19, 2013. When supplied to utility companies, the combination of (1) verification of low income and (2) a doctor, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant's certification of acute- or chronic-serious illness, can protect your patients from utility disconnection year-round. Start screening your patients now to prevent utility service emergencies!

For more information, check out these links:

<http://mlpboston.org/resources/for-health-care-providers/trainings-and-toolkits/utilitytoolkit>
http://www.nclc.org/images/pdf/energy_utility_telecom/stay%20connected/utility_flyer_11.pdf

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Learn more about [Veterans' Health: Issues Around Access](#) on April 2, 2013 from 12-2pm. This Boston Bar Association Event, co-sponsored by the Health Law and Delivery of Legal Services sections, will feature an interdisciplinary panel and spotlight how legal needs affect the health and well-being of veterans, including mental health.

- **The Annual [MLP Summit](#)** will be held on April 11-12, 2013 in Bethesda, MD, hosted by the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership (now based at The George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services). Join leaders in healthcare, law, public health and government to share ideas, insights and best practices about how to integrate health and legal care for vulnerable people.
- **It's [National Public Health Week!](#)** Check out the link for information about public health-themed events in your community.

MLP IN THE NEWS

- [For Compassionate Care, Call A Lawyer.](#) In January, MLP | Boston guest blogged for the Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare.
- [Medical-Legal Partnerships Bring Social Determinants of Health into Clearer Focus.](#) In February, the American Association of Medical Colleges reported on the growth of MLP programs nation-wide.
- [From Practice to Theory: Medical-Legal Partnership Enters its Third Decade.](#) In February, our Executive Director authored an article for the Boston Bar Association *Health Law Reporter*.

NEW STAFF



Rajan Sonik, JD, MPH is an Equal Justice Works fellow who joined us in September 2012 and is dedicated to MLP advocacy for patients with sickle cell disease.



Meg Baker arrived as our new Operations Manager in October 2012.



We welcomed **Fatima Sammy**, MPH as a Research Assistant in January 2013; she also works with the BUSM Women's Health Unit.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

- **Expansion of MLP services to older adults in Greater Boston** through a project with BMC's [Elders Living at Home Program](#) (ELAHP): MLP | Boston and ELAHP have been awarded a challenge grant from the Oak Foundation. If successful in meeting this challenge, we'll launch a homelessness prevention initiative that supports elder tenants through closely coordinated case management and legal services. To launch this ground-breaking project on July 1, we need to raise ~\$50K in the next month.

Want to help us make this project and others a reality? DONATE NOW!

DONATE NOW

MLP | Boston's mission is to anticipate, prevent, and address social determinants of health affecting vulnerable people through legal strategies. Informed by public health knowledge and interdisciplinary approaches, we tackle patients' health-harming legal risks and problems. Our services measurably improve the health and well-being of patients and reduce the incidence of health disparities.

Information contained in this newsletter is for educational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice or establish an attorney-client relationship.



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