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***Calling early childhood systems to action:
Prioritize legal partnering to promote families' access to concrete supports***

Upcoming free webinar series launches Oct. 10, 2019

Boston, MA: Today, the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) published [Legal Partnering for Child and Family Health: An Opportunity and Call to Action for Early Childhood Systems](#), authored by **Samantha Morton of MLPB** with **Stephanie Doyle of CSSP**.

Family access to [concrete supports in times of need](#) is a protective factor that is critical to helping children and their parents survive and thrive. However, accessing concrete supports has grown increasingly difficult for families due to programmatic and policy barriers, leading to both real-time and life-course harm to children. Against this backdrop, early childhood systems (ECS) (ECS) should “step out of their silo” to partner with individuals and organizations with public interest law expertise, an important lever that can ensure the safety, stability and well-being of children and families.

Developed with funding from [The JPB Foundation](#), this new and timely brief:

- Reviews the distinguished history of the public interest law community in vindicating the civil rights of families;
- Describes the evolution of an evidence-based legal strategy pioneered and refined by MLPB that builds capacity in care teams to partner effectively with families experiencing barriers to concrete supports;
- Introduces a *Health-Promoting Legal Partnering Impact Pyramid* to guide how historically siloed systems can partner in a range of ways to promote access to concrete supports and the health of young children;
- Illustrates, with some examples from the [DULCE national demonstration project](#), the many levels of impact that can be achieved with families by partnering with legal community colleagues; and
- Calls upon early childhood systems to robustly integrate legal partnering into its concrete support “toolbox”—so that all families “know their rights” and more

families can pursue those legal rights if they wish, either independently or in partnership with a trusted resource.

According to Samantha Morton, MLPB's CEO and lead author of the brief, "while many early childhood systems have developed allies in the public interest law community, there is room to develop more formal relationships that include workforce training and population-level data exchange relating to families' civil rights. These more integrative partnerships can transform and accelerate early childhood system solution-finding with families and communities."

MLPB and CSSP will host a **webinar series** this fall to engage stakeholders around these best practices. The first webinar – geared to early childhood systems leadership – will be held on **Thursday, October 10, 2019 from 3-4:30pm EST**. Interested stakeholders may [register here](#).

ABOUT MLPB: MLPB believes in the power of justice to advance health. We equip health and human services teams with problem-solving strategies that disrupt the evolution of a person's social, economic, or environmental need into a legal—and health—crisis. Through robust training and technical assistance support, we help workforce partners understand their unique capacities to *unlock access* to a range of health-promoting benefits, services, and legal protections—for which many individuals, families, and populations are eligible. For more information, visit www.mlpboston.org.

ABOUT CSSP: The Center for the Study of Social Policy works to achieve a racially, economically, and socially just society in which all children and families thrive. We do this by advocating with and for children, youth, and families marginalized by public policies and institutional practices. For more information, visit www.CSSP.org.

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