

It's simple. Many people need legal care to be healthy.

December 2014 Newsletter



MLP HELPS PATIENT EXIT UNHEALTHY HOUSING AND AVOID FUTURE HOSPITALIZATIONS

A hospital social worker consulted with MLP about "Ms. Santos", who was inpatient due to a recent heart attack as well as infections acquired due to a vermin infestation in her apartment. As a person also living with asthma, Ms. Santos was particularly vulnerable to having significant medical complications in connection with the infestation, potentially triggering avoidable hospitalizations.

The MLP attorney, based out of the [Justice Center of Southeast Massachusetts](#), met with Ms. Santos in her hospital room and helped her write a "withholding of rent" letter to the landlord based on the poor conditions in her unit. When the landlord initiated eviction proceedings, another MLP team member represented Ms. Santos and got the case dismissed based on the code violations. At settlement, Ms. Santos' non-payment of rent was excused and she received an additional \$3,000 from the landlord. Ms. Santos was able to use the settlement money to re-locate to healthy housing, where she no longer is at risk for ongoing infections.

This interdisciplinary team effort directly improved Ms. Santos's health and set her on a path toward optimal care utilization -- and was triggered by the savvy social worker who placed that initial call to MLP!

MLP IN THE NEWS

- **MLP now an "enabling service" for FQHCs!** In recognition of the link between health and legal needs for vulnerable and low-income populations, the **U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)** recently clarified that civil legal aid may be included in the range of "enabling services" that HRSA-funded health centers (FQHCs) provide to meet the primary care needs of the population and communities they serve. [Learn more here.](#)
- [MLP approach covered by NBCNews.com.](#)
- [Nutter McClennen & Fish LLP](#), long-time MLP | Boston *pro bono* partner, was [honored with MLP | Boston's Excellence in Partnership award](#) in October. Congratulations and thank you for your leadership in advancing health through justice, Nutter!

MLP CAPACITY-BUILDING

- It was a pleasure to present a Grand Rounds on medical-legal partnership to the [Department of Medicine at BIDMC](#) several weeks ago. Thank you for the invitation!
- We were proud to present on our research study with the **Boston Medical Center Women's Health Unit**, Project SUPPORT, at the [National Cancer Legal Services Network](#) meeting in New York City last month.

- **MLP and Aging:** Thank you to [Grantmakers in Aging](#) for hosting, at its late October annual conference in San Francisco, a roundtable on homelessness prevention for older adults. We were delighted to co-facilitate this session with our colleagues from [BMC's Elders Living at Home Program](#) and the **Florence V. Burden Foundation**. We look forward to building on these experiences when we present with the same colleagues at [Aging in America 2015](#), the annual conference of the [American Society on Aging](#) in Chicago next March.
- **5th Annual MA MLP Conference:** On October 28, MLP | Boston convened over 100 interdisciplinary stakeholders hailing from healthcare, public health, law, and human services at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston to engage with key issues confronting medically vulnerable people and the care teams that serve them. Thank you to the impressive speakers and participants who made this event a success!



"Getting Health Equity on the Leadership Agenda" Plenary Session Panelists (l-r):

John Erwin, Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals, **Kirsten Hinsdale**, Boston Medical Center, **Robert Sege**, Health Resources in Action, **John Riordan**, Boston Children's Hospital, **Meredith Benedict**, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center



TIMELY TIPS ON IMMIGRATION FOR OUR PARTNERS

TIP 1 - President Obama's Executive Order re: Immigration

The Obama Administration recently announced new immigration changes that may affect some of your patients/clients:

1. **Deferred Action for Parents ("DAPA") program**, for immigrant parents living in the U.S. since January 1, 2010 who are parents of U.S. citizens and permanent residents, and;
2. Expansion of the existing **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals ("DACA") program**, for young adult immigrants who were brought into the U.S. as children.

It's important to understand that DAPA and DACA are "executive actions" only, not permanent legal reforms. Currently, **DAPA and DACA are not paths to a green card or citizenship**, but do provide employment authorization. Please read this [fact sheet](#) for more details about DAPA and DACA. Any legal action carries some risk for an undocumented person. It is very important that immigrants interested in applying for DAPA or DACA **meet with a legitimate immigration advocate** to get advice before applying. Immigrant parents can also check out this flyer on the [Top Ten Ways to Prepare for Executive Action on Immigration](#) (available in several different languages) from the National Immigration Law Center's website.

TIP 2 - New Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Country Designations

In connection with the outbreak of Ebola virus disease in West Africa, the Department of Homeland Security has designated **Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone** for TPS for 18 months. Certain eligible nationals of Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone who are currently residing in the U.S. may apply for TPS with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). More information is available at www.uscis.gov/tps.

NEW TEAM MEMBER

MLP recently welcomed Alexa Bernstein, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and New England Law | Boston, as a volunteer. Here, in Alexa's own words, are her goals for this internship:

I gained an interest in the connection between health care and the law while in law school through classes I took and an internship at Steward Health Care System. Working at MLP | Boston has not only broadened my outlook on the role of law within health care but has also made me realize the benefits when used in conjunction with one another. A majority of my projects at MLP | Boston relate to social determinants of health as barriers to accessing health care and low funding of civil legal aid as a barrier to accessing legal assistance. The knowledge I am gaining on these issues will help me become more well-rounded and informed as I continue to pursue a legal career in healthcare.



Welcome Alexa!

Connect with us!



MLP | Boston's mission is to equip healthcare, public health and human services teams with legal problem-solving strategies that promote health equity for vulnerable people.

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



Medical-Legal Partnership | Boston c/o Nutter McClennen & Fish 155 Seaport Blvd. Boston, MA 02210

You received this email because you are subscribed to Marketing Information from Medical-Legal Partnership | Boston.

Update your [email preferences](#) to choose the types of emails you receive.

[Unsubscribe from all future emails](#)