





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


CONFERENCE UPDATE


Medical  Legal Partnership | Boston
RAISING THE BAR FOR HEALTH


**GOING UPSTREAM:
HOW DOCTOR'S NOTES AND MEDICAL CERTIFICATIONS INFLUENCE
HEALTH, HEALTHCARE QUALITY, AND HEALTH EQUITY**


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CME, CNE and CEU credit available, as well as
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Keynote:
Maura Healey
Attorney General of Massachusetts



Tuesday, November 3, 2015
8:30 AM – 4:00 PM
Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of Boston University School of Medicine and Medical-Legal Partnership | Boston. Boston University School of Medicine is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians. This activity has been approved for ABIM, PBA credit.
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MLP IN THE NEWS

- **Building legal momentum in Greater Fall River:** Thank you, [Fall River Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc.](#), for helping [spread the word](#) (p. 4) about an opportunity to support families in Greater Fall River through *pro bono* legal assistance. Volunteer time will support participants in [Greater Fall River Healthy Families](#) (a program of [People, Incorporated](#)), thanks to an MLP pilot made possible by [The Children's Trust](#).
- **Reflections on pro bono service to a [Dana-Farber Cancer Institute](#) patient-family:** Myra Greenshares her thoughts on her Access to Justice fellowship with MLP | Boston, including her successful unemployment benefits advocacy for a vulnerable family. Thanks again for your terrific contributions, Myra, the [Lawyers Clearinghouse](#), and the [Access to Justice Fellows Program!](#)

MLP ON THE MOVE

- **Connecting to case managers serving older adults:** It was a pleasure to present on *Building a Toolkit to Prevent Homelessness for Older Adults* at the [Case Management Society of New England's](#) 26th Annual Conference on October 2, in Boxborough, MA. What a great group of participants! We had a lot to talk about, including **how a high dose of case manager + a low dose of lawyer = elder homelessness prevention rates > 90% for 2 years running** in the context of our *Aging Right in the Community* pilot with [Boston Medical Center's Elders Living at Home Program](#).
- **What do Massachusetts, Vermont, Florida and California have in common?** A commitment to innovating pediatric primary care in ways that measurably enhance protective factors for families. Building on the [promising findings from the DULCE study](#) conducted at [Boston Medical Center](#), the [Center for the Study of Social Policy](#) is leading a replication effort in five communities in CA, FL, and VT that involve a range of closely coordinated interdisciplinary service providers. We are delighted to be providing technical assistance to the legal teams participating in this initiative.
- **Downloading how legal advocates can engage in academic medical research successfully and live to tell the tale:** Thank you very much to the [National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership](#) for hosting us and **Dr. Naomi Ko** (Assistant Professor of Medicine, Section of [Hematology Oncology](#) & [Women's Health Unit](#), [Boston University School of Medicine](#)) on a Research Brief webinar on September 22. It was terrific to get questions from national peers on how we're evaluating our [P-CORI](#) and [American Cancer Society](#)-funded *Innovation in Cancer Care Delivery Using a Patient-Centered and Community Research Approach*. The intervention we're testing leverages a **high dose of patient navigator + a low dose of lawyer!**

TIMELY TIP

- **It Takes Two!** Many healthcare staff don't realize that people often can't access health-promoting benefits and services without medical certifications or "doctor's letters." For example, an adult's application for disability benefits and FMLA (Family and Medical Leave Act) protections requires a medical certification. And a child's application for disability benefits or special education services from the school system also requires medical evidence and opinions. The healthcare workforce actually functions as a powerful gatekeeper to many critical resources like those. For the most part, providers who work with individuals and their families across the age and health continuum must navigate this gatekeeper role day-to-day without much training or back-up. Simultaneously, individuals and families have little support in how to approach a provider about these documents, and they can be difficult conversations. In a **patient-centered environment** that meaningfully **accounts for social and environmental drivers of health**, we have to better support these high-impact interactions. That's why our [11/3 annual conference](#) is focused on this topic, and why we partnered with the [J.E. and Z.B. Butler Foundation](#) to build a pilot portfolio of tools that can support better communication between patients and providers around these high-stakes paperwork requests.

Some new **It Takes Two** tools are now available on our website - and when printed (legal or letter size) they can be folded into a familiar tri-fold brochure format:

- [Supporting Trauma Survivors to Succeed in School](#)
- [DAPA, DACA, and Immigrant Youth: What's Real?](#) (Greater Fall River edition)
- [Keeping a Kid's Home Safe and Healthy: A Guide for Patients and Providers](#) (Greater Fall River edition)

Please let us know if you have any suggestions on how we can make these materials even more useful, or ways MLPB might support your work through training and consultation! Just contact our AmeriCorps fellow [Kathleen Wahl](#).

NEW TEAM MEMBERS

MLPB recently welcomed two team members, **Elizabeth Grella**, MSW candidate at Boston University, and **Kathleen Wahl**, an AmeriCorps Fellow. Here, in their own words, are their goals for their time at MLPB:



Kathleen: As an [AmeriCorps](#) and [New Sector](#) Fellow working at MLP | Boston, I hope to create meaningful social change in the Greater Boston Area. I believe that MLP | Boston is unique because it bridges the gap between medical and legal fields to address the social determinants of health. As an aspiring JD student, I am excited that each day brings the opportunity to grow my knowledge of social justice, legal advocacy, and public health. I am honored to work with an inspiring team that approaches every day with passion for MLP's goal of promoting health equity for vulnerable people.



Elizabeth: As a MSW candidate focused on Macro Social Work, interning at MLP | Boston is a great opportunity to learn about and explore how public policy and law can be used to address issues of social justice, particularly in terms of healthcare. MLP | Boston's focus on addressing legal issues through the lens of the social determinants of health is an exciting area for me to explore. I look forward to gaining valuable knowledge and experience through being a part of the MLP | Boston team.

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. We are a fiscally sponsored program of [Third Sector New England, Inc.](#)

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