



September 2015 Newsletter

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

### MLP SUCCESS STORY

During our first few weeks of partnership with [Greater Fall River Healthy Families](#) (based at [People, Incorporated](#)), a thoughtful Home Visitor reached out to the integrated MLP attorney. She was working with the parent of a medically fragile infant and the family was concerned about losing access to Special (enteral) Formula, a prescription-based nutritional support for kids who need help with growth and development. Special Formula is expensive – often costing more than \$200 per month out of pocket – and the family had only one day of formula left. The parent had learned that her current supplier was going out of business, and hit a dead end when she contacted an alternate supplier. The MLP attorney coached the Home Visitor on how to communicate with the child's health insurance company about the need to expedite this prescription renewal, and she did so successfully – the formula was ready at the pharmacy the next day.

Doing the math: high dose home visitor + low dose lawyer = healthy baby!



## SAVE THE DATE



6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

***Going Upstream: How Doctor's Notes and Medical Certifications  
Influence Health, Healthcare Quality, and Health Equity***

**Tuesday, November 3, 2015 • 8:30 am-4:00 pm • Federal Reserve Bank of Boston**

**All workshops are designed to engage interdisciplinary audiences—no silos here!  
CME, CNE and CEU credit will be available, as well as  
Certificates of Attendance for community health workers.**

**Register at:** <http://www.bumc.bu.edu/cme/educational-opportunities/live-meetings/medical-legal-partnership-boston/>  
**(Early Bird = \$125; after 10/9 = \$175)**

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 AMA PRA credit.

This educational activity has been provided by Continuing Nursing Education Provider Unit, Boston University School of Medicine and jointly-provided by Medical-Legal Partnership Boston.

Continuing Nursing Education Provider Unit, Boston University School of Medicine is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

## MLP IN THE NEWS

- **Talking about social determinants with the [Association of Academic Health Centers \(AAHC\)](#):** Check out MLP | Boston's interview at [wherehealthbegins.org/stories](http://wherehealthbegins.org/stories), and the August 6 webinar "[SDOH Forward: Non-Healthcare Approaches to Improving Health, Medical-Legal Partnerships](#)."
- **Brainstorming about how to "Upstream" EHRs with the [Association of American Medical Colleges \(AAMC\)](#):** Check out this terrific [report](#) on the June 18 proceedings of the health equity subgroup of the AAMC's Research on Care Community Health Equity body (ROCHe). It discusses MLP | Boston's role in supporting [Boston Medical Center's Department of Pediatrics](#) in a successful patients-to-policy utility service access campaign!
- **Reflecting on lessons learned from *Ageing Right in the Community*, our pilot collaboration with [Boston Medical Center's Elders Living at Home Program \(ELAHP\)](#):** Our Legal Director **JoHanna Flacks** recently authored an article entitled "[Extreme Case Management with Legal Care: A Best Practice for Serving Elders at Homelessness Risk](#)" for [Bifocal](#), a journal of the the [American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging](#).

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## MLP ON THE MOVE

- Thank you, [Just-a-Start](#), for hosting on June 16 our pilot training on *Social Determinants of Health: Helping People Access Critical Benefits and Services!* This curriculum was developed thanks to a **Health Care Workforce Transformation Fund** training initiative convened by the [Metro North Regional Employment Board](#) (for more detail, click on image to the right). The grant that makes this work possible was issued by the **Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development**, and is administered by **Commonwealth Corporation**. We look forward to bringing this curriculum to our new partners at [Cambridge Health Alliance](#), [Hallmark Health System](#), and [Mount Auburn Hospital](#) this fall!
- We were delighted to join the [National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership](#) in sharing best practices in MLP experience with [Maine Quality Counts](#) stakeholders during this July 14 webinar: [Integrating Health Care & Legal Aid to Improve Health Outcomes: Medical-Legal Partnerships](#).
- It was an honor to support the [Massachusetts Resiliency Center's](#) September 8 forum on *Education and Advocacy*, with a special focus on students struggling with trauma. MLP Staff Attorney **Elizabeth Brusie** moderated the interdisciplinary session, which included experts from the legal, advocacy and clinical communities.



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## TIMELY TIP

- **It Takes Two:** Did you know that a person often cannot access health-promoting benefits or services (such as FMLA protections, SSI or SSDI disability benefits, or special education services) without an appropriately completed doctor's note or medical certification form? This critical "gatekeeping" role will be the focus of our 6th annual conference (see Save the Date above). Thanks to support from the [J.E. & Z.B. Butler Foundation](#), and with graphic design expertise from [Artists for Humanity](#), MLP | Boston is building a series of tools to facilitate improved communication between providers and patients about these important letter requests. We were thrilled to premiere the first tool – [Keeping a Kid's Home Safe and Healthy: An It Takes Two Guide for Patients and Providers](#) – during a July webinar for [MDPH Prevention & Wellness Trust Fund](#) grantees who are focused on pediatric asthma initiatives. Stay tuned for additional tools in our next newsletter!

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## NEW TEAM MEMBER



MLP is pleased to welcome Dan Hyman as a new attorney on our team. Dan is leading a pilot partnership with [Greater Fall River Healthy Families](#), based at [People, Incorporated](#), which provides a range of family support services to first-time parents of any age who reside in Fall River, Westport, Somerset and Swansea. This pilot was initiated and funded by [Healthy Families Massachusetts](#), a program of the [Children's Trust](#). Prior to joining MLP, Dan was a litigator focused on foreclosure defense and consumer protection in both private practice and legal services. During two stints as an AmeriCorps member, he conducted fair housing litigation and supported public health approaches to HIV/AIDS prevention. Dan is a graduate of **Brandeis University** and **Northeastern University School of Law**. As a law student, he interned with the United States Department of Labor, the National Labor Relations Board, and Community Catalyst, as well as with a mid-sized private firm. Welcome Dan!

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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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