



**THANK YOU** to everyone who donated to MLPB on **#GivingTuesday** – you helped us exceed our goal!

Your generosity is allowing us to produce **Spanish** and **Haitian Creole** translations of several [\*\*It Takes Two Guides for Patients and Providers\*\*](#), supporting improved communication between consumers and their healthcare teams when clinicians must "gate-keep" access to health-promoting benefits and services.

## SAVE THE DATE - MLPB'S SPRING BREAKFAST!

This event will take place on **Thursday, April 27 from 8:30-10:30am** at the Federal Reserve Plaza, Boston. Details coming soon!



## ASSURING FAMILY STABILITY THROUGH TRAINING AND PROBLEM-SOLVING COACHING FOR FAMILY SUPPORT WORKERS

A home visitor with [\*\*Greater Fall River Healthy Families\*\*](#) was concerned that a parent with a medically complex pregnancy might be facing discrimination in the workplace – an urgent threat to her health and to the family's income stability. The employer had rejected several reasonable requests for accommodation – for example, seeking time off to attend medical appointments and permission to sit down more (often where doing so did not impair her ability to perform her job functions).

MLPB advised the family support worker that pregnancy can be considered a disability under civil rights law, and that the parent had related rights in this situation. Equipped with this legal information, the family support worker engaged the parent about her rights and she re-approached her employer with this new knowledge. This time, she was successful in securing the reasonable accommodations she needed (and was entitled to) at work. And a looming crisis was averted!

## HUMAN-CENTERED WORKFORCE AND SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION

- Check out **Samantha Morton's** 1/10/17 guest blog in [\*\*The Pump\*\*](#):

[\*\*Managing Health-Related Social Needs: The Prevention Imperative in an Accountable Health System\*\*](#)



- [\*\*How Does Where You Live Affect Your Health?\*\*](#) MLPB Legal Director **JoHanna Flacks** participated in a panel on **High-Risk Populations and Strategies to Improve Health** at this Symposium convened by the [\*\*Boston University School of Public Health\*\*](#) on Dec. 1. You can watch highlights from the symposium, including this full panel presentation ("Afternoon Panel 2"), [here](#).

**BUILDING THE EVIDENCE BASE:  
LET'S PUT THE "HS" BACK IN "HHS"**

- **Evaluating Social Support Among Newly Diagnosed Breast Cancer Patients Seeking Care at an Urban Safety Net Academic Medical Center:** MLPB's research collaborator [Naomi Ko, MD, MPH](#) presented this poster at the [San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium](#) in December 2016 on behalf of the interdisciplinary team leading [Project SUPPORT](#). In addition, this team's leadership on patient engagement in research was recently highlighted in a [PCORI blog](#) authored by Project SUPPORT's Principal Investigator [Tracy Battaglia, MD, MPH](#).



- **Housing Prescriptions as Health Care** was featured in [The New Housing Call for Pediatricians](#), a November 28 blog on the [Build Healthy Places Network](#). MLPB is honored to participate in this [Health Starts at Home](#) study funded by [The Boston Foundation](#) in partnership with [Children's HealthWatch](#) and a range of terrific collaborators.

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**NEW TEAM MEMBER**



**Jeannine Casselman** recently joined MLPB as a Program Manager. She was previously with the Rhode Island Center for Law and Public Policy and served as the Program Director for the Rhode Island Medical-Legal Partnership from 2011-2016. Ms. Casselman graduated from Roger Williams University School of Law in 2009 where she focused on public interest law. She interned with the Rhode Island Commission for Human Rights, South Coastal Counties Legal Services and the Community Mediation Center of Rhode Island. Ms. Casselman currently sits on the board of directors for the Center for Mediation and Collaboration RI. **Welcome Jeannine!**

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