

**Please update your records and GPS coordinates!**

MLPB's new headquarters is at: [200 Portland Street, Boston, MA 02114](#).
Our phone (617) 336-7500 and fax (617) 336-7445 numbers remain the same.

2018 SPRING BREAKFAST

On May 2 at **The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University**, MLPB [convened](#) healthcare and public health leaders from New England to examine how accountable care restructuring impacts efforts to address people's social determinants of health. Leaders of accountable entities, public health departments, hospitals, health centers, and human services organizations came together to explore insights shared by experts in the field. We were thrilled to hear from keynote speaker [Dr. Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH](#), Director of the [Rhode Island Department of Health](#) and President-Elect of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. *Thank you to our sponsors, keynote speaker, panelists, and participants for making this event such a success!*



Panelists (L-R): **Pano Yeracaris, MD, MPH** - Care Transformation Collaborative-Rhode Island; Elizabeth Torres - St. Joseph Lead Center; Arlene Ash, PhD - UMass Medical School; Yvonne Heredia, PhD, MS, RN - Neighborhood Health Plan of RI; JoHanna Flacks, JD - MLPB

**BEYOND SCREEN-AND-REFER: DID YOU KNOW THAT . . .**

- **Fair Housing Protections Matter for Health and Apply to All Tenants!** In early April, Massachusetts Attorney General (AG) Maura Healey [celebrated the 50th anniversary of the nation's Fair Housing Act and reviewed the AG's Offices many recent actions to promote tenant rights to be free from discrimination including retaliation](#). Significantly, the AG's Office also issued an [advisory](#) to "remind landlords and other housing providers that all tenants have a right to be free from harassment and intimidation." This advisory is a powerful tool for workforce members supporting individuals and families — especially immigrants — to make informed decisions about asserting their legal rights in the current environment. MLPB is grateful to AG Healey and the AG Office's Civil Rights Division for responding strongly to the concerns that many of our healthcare and human service partners have raised on behalf of the populations they serve.

- **Sexual Harassment in Housing is Sex Discrimination!** If you are supporting a person who has had [experiences like these](#), they may have recourse under federal civil rights law. The U.S. Department of Justice has made resources available to tenants in multiple languages [here](#).
- **Many Pregnant Workers Employed in MA have New Legal Rights! [Employment matters for health](#)**, and for too long pregnant workers have struggled to stay healthy in the workplace. Thanks to years of advocacy, in 2017 the **Pregnant Workers Fairness Act** (PWFA) was signed into law; it took effect on April 1, 2018. [This civil rights legislation](#) makes it unlawful for any MA employer with 6+ employees to discriminate against an employee due to pregnancy or a condition related to pregnancy (such as breastfeeding or pumping) — thereby ensuring that pregnant workers who need short-term adjustments in their job conditions to safeguard their health and well-being can do so without fear of discharge or retaliation.

SDOH TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



- **Powering Care Teams with a "Low Dose" of Public Interest Lawyer.** On April 9, MLPB Program Manager **Jeannine Casselman** (at right) presented at [Beyond Flexner](#) in Atlanta on *Innovative Community-Based Approaches to Address Social Determinants of Health*. Among other things, she shared best practices from [DULCE](#), an evidence-based intervention that addresses social determinants of health (SDOH) in pediatric primary care through structured partnerships with early childhood systems and legal community partners. And on May 10, MLPB Program Manager **Kara Hurvitz** spotlighted the unique power of [DULCE](#) to support immigrant families on a webinar sponsored by [Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees](#): *Healthy Babies, Successful Families: How Early Childhood Intervention Programs Build Healthy Communities*. MLPB is honored to partner with the [Center for the Study of Social Policy](#) on the DULCE national demonstration project underway in three states
- **Empowering Workforce Members to Effectively Serve Immigrants in a Complex Law & Policy Environment.** MLPB Program Manager **Kara Hurvitz** co-presented on May 3 (with valued colleagues from [Boston Medical Center](#)) on *Family Preparedness Planning* at the [9th Annual Massachusetts Community Health Worker Conference](#) and then on May 8 at the **2018 Annual Massachusetts Early Intervention Consortium Conference**. Meanwhile, Program Manager **Dan Hyman** trained Massachusetts staff operating in [School-Based Health Centers](#) on *Immigration Law Fundamentals* at their quarterly meeting on May 30! Finally, **Jeannine Casselman** shared tips on supporting immigrant families in the housing code enforcement context at the [Asthma Regional Council of New England](#)'s June 1 Summit in Manchester, NH.

IN THE NEWS

- **RIGHA Foundation Fund of Rhode Island Foundation supporting launch of innovative SDOH infrastructure at Lifespan's [Rhode Island Hospital](#).** Thanks to a [generous grant to RIH from the RIGHA Foundation Fund of the Rhode Island Foundation](#), MLPB is providing training and technical assistance to [Connect for Health](#) as it expands into RIH's adult primary care clinic in South Providence -- the **Center for Primary Care**. Together, C4H and MLPB will

support the clinic to more comprehensively respond to patients' housing instability, food and energy insecurity, and barriers to health and well-being related to immigration status and criminal justice system involvement.

- [*Samantha Morton quoted on role of healthcare in responding to SDOH: Can Health Systems Solve America's Social Inequities? \(*Nonprofit Quarterly*, April 6, 2018\)*](#)
 - [*JoHanna Flacks and co-authors from the Vital Village Network at Boston Medical Center and Urban College of Boston published on: Academic-Community Partnerships to Reduce Inequities for Adult Learners: Synergy and Social Change \(May 2018\)*](#) (*subscription access required*).
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NEW TEAM MEMBERS



Maxwell Dismukes

"I am a rising third-year law student at **Northeastern University**. After graduation, I will be moving to El Paso, Texas to clerk for United States District Court Judge Kathleen Cardone. When my clerkship ends in 2020, I plan to remain to practice law in the West Texas / Southern New Mexico region. I hope to use what I learn at MLPB this summer to improve civil access to justice in this deeply under-served area of the country."

Alexandra Stanford

"As a rising junior studying Neuroscience at **Wellesley College**, health is something I think about daily. Over the past four years, I have volunteered in the recovery unit at a large U.S. hospital, worked as a home health aide, performed eating disorder neuroimaging clinical research, and shadowed Haitian clinical practitioners in rural Haiti. Through these experiences, I observed that "patient health" extends far beyond the reaches of the biomedical model. I am deeply inspired by MLPB's model of educating and empowering care team members to better understand the systemic factors that negatively impact health outcomes. I feel blessed be learning from the MLPB team this summer."



Sally Tyre

"I'm a rising junior at the **University of Delaware** majoring in Political Science and Public Policy, and minoring in Africana Studies. I am passionate about civil rights and social justice, and this summer I hope to learn more about the drivers of health inequities, as well as levers that can help reduce negative social determinants of health. MLPB is bridging a gap between people and the health-promoting benefits and services they often are legally entitled to. I'm learning a lot about MLPB's impact on individuals, families, communities, healthcare providers, and systems."

MLPB equips health and human service workforces with upstream problem-solving strategies that address social determinants of health. Leveraging our public interest law expertise, we advance health equity for individuals, families and communities.

And we can't do this work without your support. **Please make a contribution to MLPB now!**

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