Medical-Legal Partnership & The Patient Experience

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The problems are visible.
The solutions are not.
50 million Americans need legal care to be healthy.

1 in 6 Americans live in poverty.

And every single one has a civil legal problem that negatively affects their health.
**Making the connection:**

Legal problems *are* health problems.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Legal Problem</th>
<th>Social Determinant of Health</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Families wrongfully denied food supports or housing subsidies</td>
<td>Lack of basic resources</td>
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<td>Children living in housing with mold or rodents, in violation of housing laws</td>
<td>Physical environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seniors wrongfully denied long-term care coverage</td>
<td>Lack of access to insurance</td>
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Medical-Legal Partnership Approach

Building a healthcare team able to identify, treat and prevent health-harming legal needs for patients, clinics and populations.
MLPs help patients with I-HELP® issues

- Income supports & Insurance
- Housing & utilities
- Employment & Education
- Legal status
- Personal & family stability
The Medical-Legal Partnership Approach

Train & Identify Need → Treat Patients → Transform Clinic Practice → Improve Population Health

Developed by the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership
www.medical-legalpartnership.org
2. Delineate Stakeholder Roles

Successful MLP Requires Effective Coordination

Confusion About Responsibilities May Jeopardize Success

Risk of duplicated efforts, critical tasks fall through the cracks without clear breakdown of responsibilities

1) Many Stakeholders Contributing to MLP

Source: The Advisory Board Company interviews and analysis.
“If what patients need to be healthy is safer housing, better food and consistent utilities, how are we going to stock that dwindling pharmacy?”

– Dr. Megan Sandel
Individual patient legal interventions are
pathways to finding the policy interventions
for improving population health.
Stocking the utility pharmacy: An MLP patients-to-policy story

No heat or electricity meant asthma attacks, sickle cell pain and the inability to refrigerate medicine for thousands of low-income families in Boston.
Stocking the housing pharmacy: An MLP patients-to-policy story

Unsafe housing brought more than a dozen children to the hospital. Health / legal hotspotting led to the remodeling of several neighborhood buildings.
There isn’t enough in the legal aid pharmacy without changing how legal care is provided.

8,000 civil legal aid attorneys in U.S. with a $600 million budget & help from law schools & pro bono partners try to serve 50 million low-income people with 2-3 needs.

They are able to meet less than 20% of the need each year, and unfair systems go unchanged.
Find MLP Partnerships in your state

See which health and legal institutions in your community have developed medical-legal partnerships. Each institution links to more information about its medical-legal partnership.

119 Hospitals
112 Health Centers
88 Legal Aid Agencies
28 Medical Schools
37 Law Schools

Reset
For more information:

www.medical-legalpartnership.org

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