Medical-Legal Partnership as a Tool to Teach and Address Social Determinants

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Presentation Roadmap

1. Joel: Overview of MLP, NCMLP, & Civil Legal Aid

2. Liz: National Perspective on MLP Education

3. Melissa: Innovative MLP Training to Improve Pediatric Residents’ Assessment of Social Risks

4. Natalie: Operating a High-Functioning MLP
MLP Education Milestones

1990’s
MLP training for pediatric residents

2003
First joint MLP course for law and medical students

2000s
MLP law clinics (on site in hospitals and clinics)

2011
MLP casebook published

2010-present
Dev’t of IPE In health profs ed
Value of MLP Education

Teaches Students to:

• *Identify* the social, economic and environmental determinants of health

• *Understand* the role of law and policy in shaping & addressing those determinants

• *Develop* skills in systems-thinking and policy advocacy strategies

• *Practice* hands-on interprofessional team-based problem-solving strategies for patients and populations (focused on SDOH)
## Trends in Medical Education and MLP

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<tr>
<th>Medical Education</th>
<th>MLP Education</th>
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<tr>
<td>Health disparities and health equity</td>
<td>Vulnerable populations focus</td>
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<td>Social, economic, environmental, determinants of health</td>
<td>Screening for addressing legal needs as part of SDOH</td>
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<td>Patient-centered care</td>
<td>Part of PCMH</td>
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<td>Improving patient care quality &amp; reducing costs</td>
<td>Institutional change with prevention focus</td>
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<td>Integration of clinical care and population health</td>
<td>Detects community-level determinants of disease in clinic</td>
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<td>Interprofessional, team-based learning &amp; practice</td>
<td>Lawyers integrated as members of the healthcare team</td>
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<td>Advocacy &amp; policy change</td>
<td>Upstream “Patient to Policy”</td>
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MLP in Undergraduate & Graduate Medical Education

**Undergraduate**
- Preclinical curriculum (often joint with law, social work, nursing students)
- Rotations/clerkships at clinics with MLPs

**Graduate**
- Didactics:
  - Residency program curriculum
  - Noon conferences
  - Grand Rounds
- Practice in screening for SDH/unmet legal needs & working with MLP legal partners
2016 MLP Site Survey: Medical Education

- 15 undergrad courses include MLP
- 27 have clerkship/rotation that includes MLP
- 53 residency programs with MLP (didactic and/or experience)

MLP Education in Medical Schools
Residency Programs with MLP

• Internal Medicine
• Family Medicine
• Pediatrics
• Geriatrics
• OB-GYN
• Psychiatry
• Oncology
• Endocrinology
• Palliative care
• Pulmonology
Residency Competencies & MLP

- General Competencies and Medical-Legal Experiences
  - Medical Knowledge
    - Gain knowledge of how legal needs of patients impact health
  - Practice-Based Learning
    - Obtain reports on SDH data through EHR, medical-legal training of interprofessional teams
  - Professionalism
    - Be accountable to patients, society, and profession; care for vulnerable populations effectively
  - Systems-Based Practice
    - Address legal needs routinely and understand limits of systems and policies in meeting patient’s needs
  - Communication Skills
    - Identify and address legal needs; physician-lawyer team as powerful advocate for patients
  - Patient Care
    - Include treatment of patient’s legal needs as part of patient-centered care plan
Brown Undergraduate & Graduate MLP Curriculum

**Undergraduate**
- Preclinical elective: Poverty, Health and Law (with law, SW, nursing & PH students)
- Rotation site for community rotation

**Family Medicine Residency**
- Legal needs assessment & pre and post knowledge assessments
- Didactics across three years
- All residents get on-site experience with MLP lawyer
MLP Casebook

- *Poverty, Health and Law* textbook (2011): the intersection of health and unmet legal needs

- Accessible to medical, law, nursing, social work & public health students

- Interprofessional team-based case studies

- “Patients to Policy” examples
2016 Site Survey: MLP in Legal Education

- 67 have MLP law clinic or externship
- 42 have pro bono opportunity in MLP

MLP Education in Law Schools
MLP and IPE: Who is on the team?

Accountability-Based Primary Care Workforce Model

- RN: Triage, Education, Care Management
- MD: Diagnose, Plan of Care, Complex Patients
- PA: Diagnose, Plan of Care, Must practice under MD supervision
- Medical Assistant: Provide Direct Patient Care
- Clinical Social Worker: Case Management
- Health Coaches: Community Liaisons
- Pharmacist: Pharmaceutical Management

Attributions of Team
- Role Clarity
- Role Training
- Working to top of practice
- Team communication
- Subject experts for patient population

Driven by patient needs
Opportunities for MLP as part of IPE

• SDOH focus
• Solutions-oriented; not just descriptive
• Patient-centered, but also focused on upstream systems-change
• Demonstrates effective team: everyone works at top of profession
• Links patient to population & policy
Further Reading: MLP in Medical Education

