



Policy and Advocacy for PLWH: Medical Legal Partnerships

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Goals

- What is a Medical Legal Partnership?
- How do patients benefit from a Medical Legal Partnership?
- How can Medical Legal Partnerships contribute to informed policy decisions?
- How can organizations form Medical Legal Partnerships?



What is a Medical-Legal Partnership?

- A preventive healthcare delivery model
- Improves health and well-being of vulnerable populations
- Addresses unmet legal needs
- Removes legal barriers that impede health



Why a Medical-Legal Partnership?

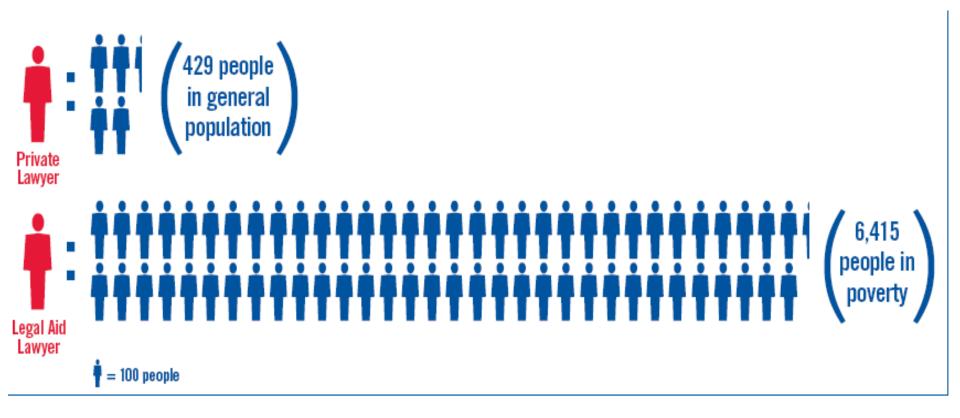
- Healthcare teams have access to vulnerable populations
- Build on trust in healthcare professionals
- Reduce barriers to legal services
- Channel limited legal resources







Legal Services Scarcity







RESEARCH SHOWS:



60%

of a person's health is determined by social factors, including:



Income & Health Insurance



Housing & Utilities



Education & Employment



Legal Status



2

The U.S. spends more money on health care than any industrialized country, but it ranks:

42nd





169th in low birth weight

3

These poorer outcomes aren't the result of spending too little; they are the result of where the money is spent.

s

The U.S. spends \$0.90 on social services for every \$1 it spends on health care.



Other first-world countries with better outcomes spend \$2 on social services for every dollar they spend on health care.

Research from The American Health Care Paradox (2015) by Elizabeth Bradley and Lauren Taylor.



Figure 3.9 MLP Stakeholders

HEALTH COMMUNITY

Hospitals

Community Health Centers

Health Insurers

Medical and Nursing Schools

Social Work Schools

Multiple Professional

Associations

Administrators

Physicians

Nurses:

Social Workers

Case Managers

Patient Navigators

Medical-Legal Partnership

LEGAL COMMUNITY

Legal Aid Agencies

Private Sector Pro Bono

Law Schools

Bar Associations

Government

Lawyers

Paralegals

Law Students

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMUNITY

City Department of Public Health

Home Visiting Programs

Public Health Professional

Associations

Vulnerable Populations

Researchers

Evaluators

Epidemiologists

Public Health Nurses

OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Other Allied Professionals

Funders

Policy Makers

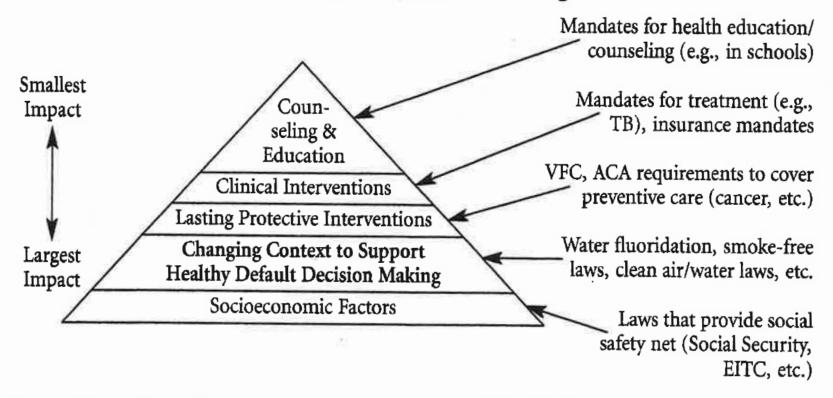
Community-Based

Organizations

Patient-Clients



Figure 1.10 Health Impact Pyramid with Legal Intervention



Source: Adapted from T. R. Frieden, "A Framework for Public Health Action: The Health Impact Pyramid," American Journal of Public Health, 100, no. 4 (April 2010): 590-595.



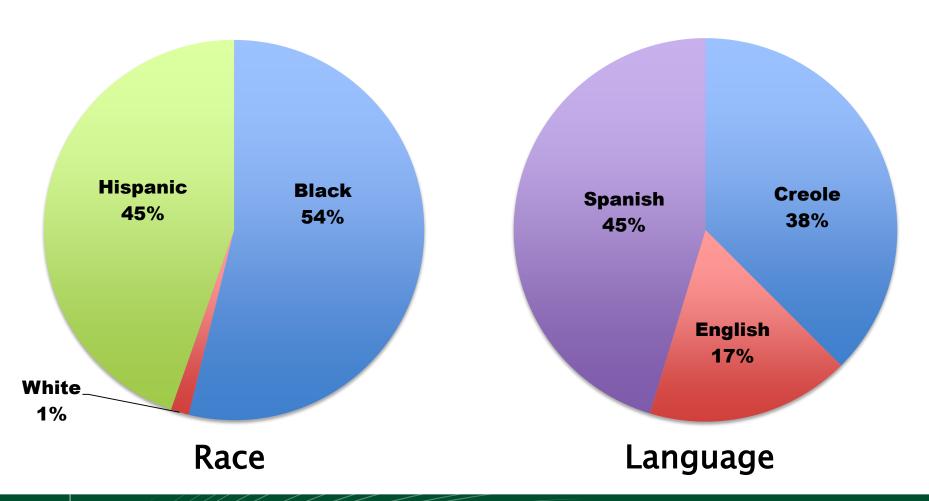
Miami's Health Rights Clinic

- Schools of Medicine and Law MLP Clinic Since 2005
- ► HIV/AIDS Clinics
- ▶ 3000 low-income patients helped with:
 - Public Benefits
 - Social Security and Veterans
 - Health insurance
 - Housing and immigration cases
 - Advance directives
- Recovered \$10.7M for patients in benefits
- >280 future lawyers trained





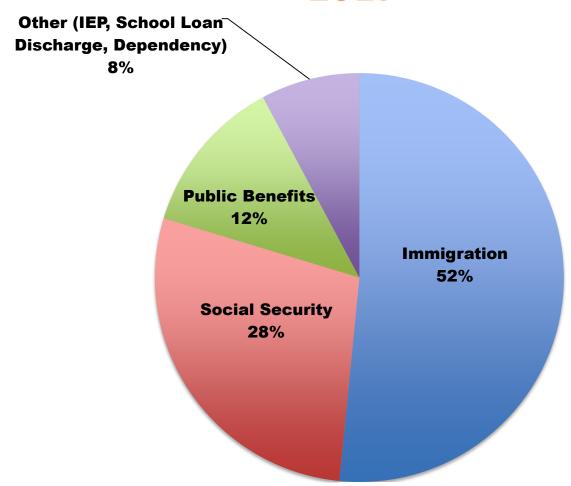
Client Demographics Assisting the Most Vulnerable







Types of Cases 2017







Comprehensive AIDS Program/SFAN







UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI MILLER SCHOOL of MEDICINE













MLP Case Flow **Patient Medical provider Patient visits** expresses identifies advocacy interest in MLP ACC need services **Health Rights MLP** staff **Clinician meets Health Rights** consult on with patient and **Clinic resolves** identifies legal outcomes legal issue solution(s)



V.L.

Medical Issues:

AIDS, numerous PPE, chronic fatigue

<u>Legal</u> <u>Intervention</u>:

File naturalization case; Social Security Disability Hearing V.L., 50

y.o.

Advocacy Needs:

Needs income, needs US Citizenship Social Barriers to Care:

No income, lack of stable housing, illiterate, stress due to inability to become US citizen



L.R.

Medical Issues:

AIDS CD4 range 1-60; multifocal leukoencephalopathy

Legal
Intervention:
Social Security
Disability Case,
Hearing before
ALJ

L.R., 52 y.o.

Advocacy Needs:
Needs disability
income to get
stable living
conditions and
reduce stress

Social Barriers to Care: Homeless, lack of stable housing, sleeps on the floor in back of a shop



Department of Special Projects



UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL of LAW

Haitian Nationals who are UM -JMH Patients

apply for Temporary Protected Status with

help from University of Miami School of Law attorneys and law students.

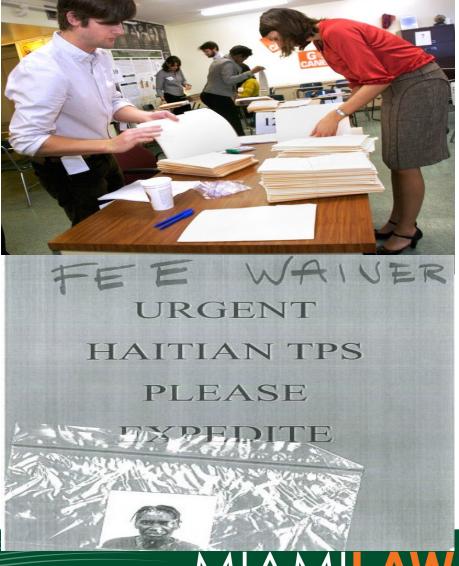
Where: Jackson Medical Towers

1500 NW 12 Avenue Miami, FL 33136 8th Floor West

When: Friday, January 22

9:00AM - 5:00PM







January 12, 2010







Our Medical Colleagues Respond to Tragedy in Haiti









January 15, 2010: A Way to Respond

- US designates TPS status for Haitians
- Complicated legal procedure
- Risks for the unrepresented
- Community vulnerable to unscrupulous providers





Helping the Haitian Population with a Legal Intervention

- Why?
- · What?
- How?







January 22, 2010: Responding to the Haitian Earthquake

- From a legal perspective
- In partnership with medical providers





Forming a Medical Legal Partnership

- PHASE I: Lay the Groundwork
 - Assess population's needs
 - Assess local health and legal landscapes
- PHASE II: Build Infrastructure
 - Formalize relationship in a Memorandum of Understanding
 - Lay out MLP activities and each partner's responsibilities
 - Secure funding





Phase I

Overview of Steps Start Phase II of Exchange the MLP Toolkit information with partner Conduct health / legal institution assessment of Conduct partner health / legal institution assessment of 6 your health / legal institution Conduct a Engage a population / potential health / legal partner landscape **Review MLP** assessment approach and framework

Steps 1-3: Completed by the health / legal institution that downloaded the toolkit

Steps 4-7: Completed by the health and legal institutions together

From: medical-legalpartnership.org





Phase II

- MLP's Purpose, Strategic Goals
- Data Collection and Evaluation Plans
- Funding
- Administration, Leadership and Staff
- Resource Allocation
- Confidentiality



Summary

Medical-Legal Partnerships are an approach to comprehensive healthcare

Legal needs can affect patients' health

Preventive legal care can improve patients' health and well-being and improve policies

There are resources available to form MLPs

