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UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF LAW

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?

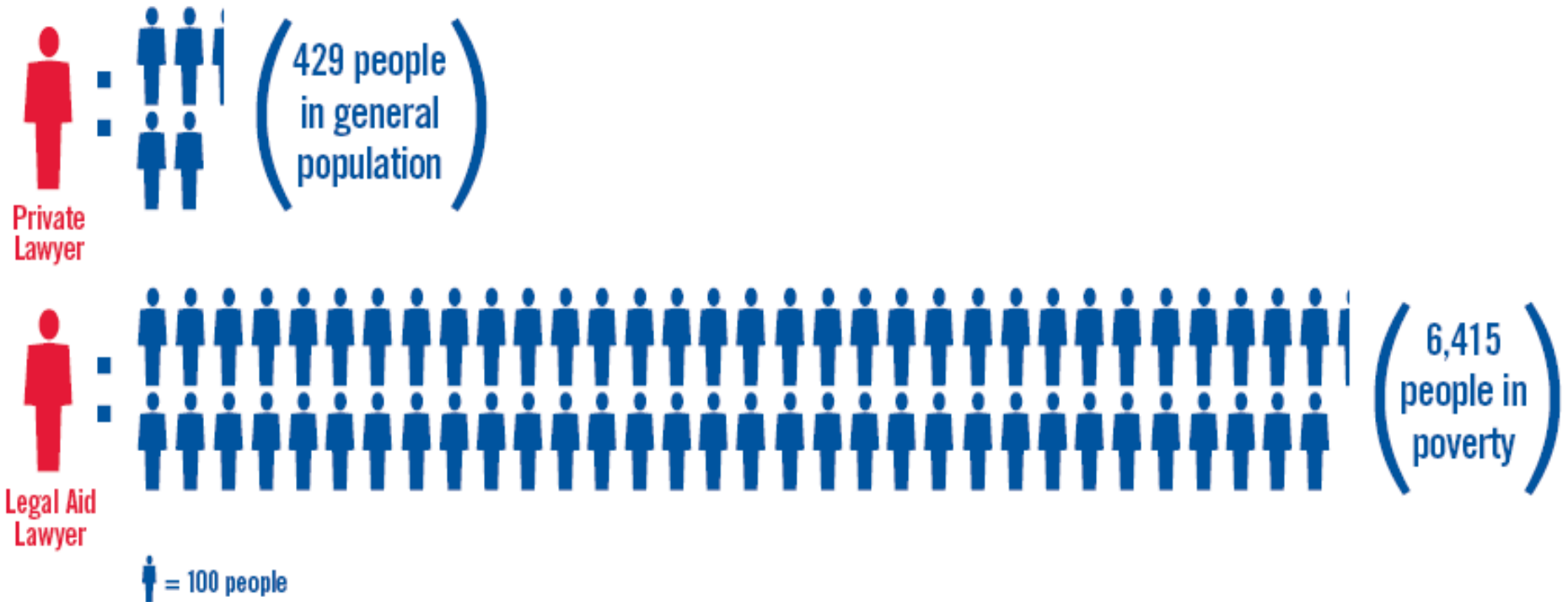
- A preventive healthcare delivery model
- Improves health and well-being of vulnerable populations
- Addresses unmet legal needs
- Removes legal barriers that impede health

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



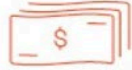
Legal Services Scarcity



RESEARCH SHOWS:

1

60% of a person's health is determined by social factors, including:



Income & Health Insurance



Housing & Utilities



Education & Employment



Legal Status



Personal & Family Stability

2

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

42nd

— in life expectancy —

&

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.



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

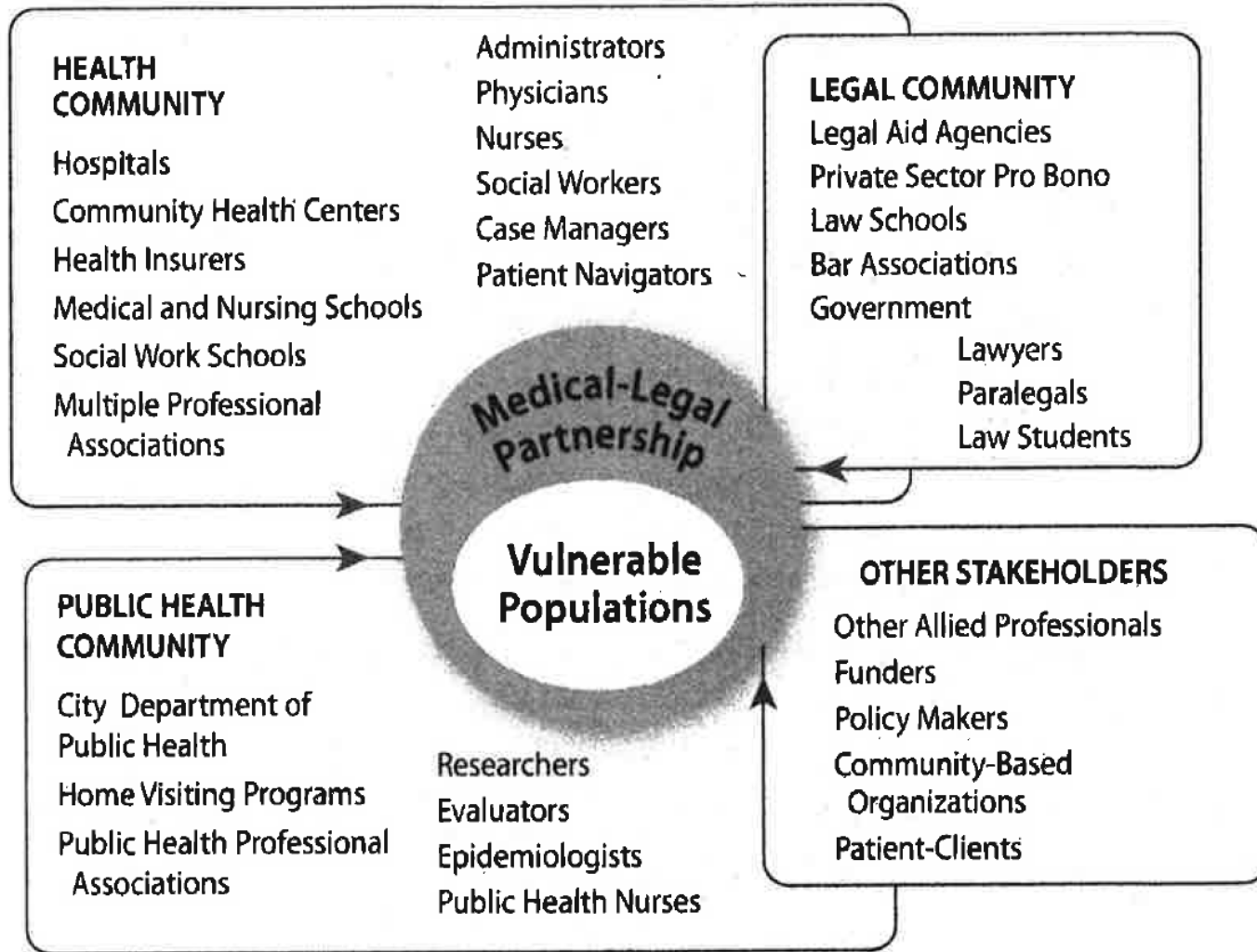
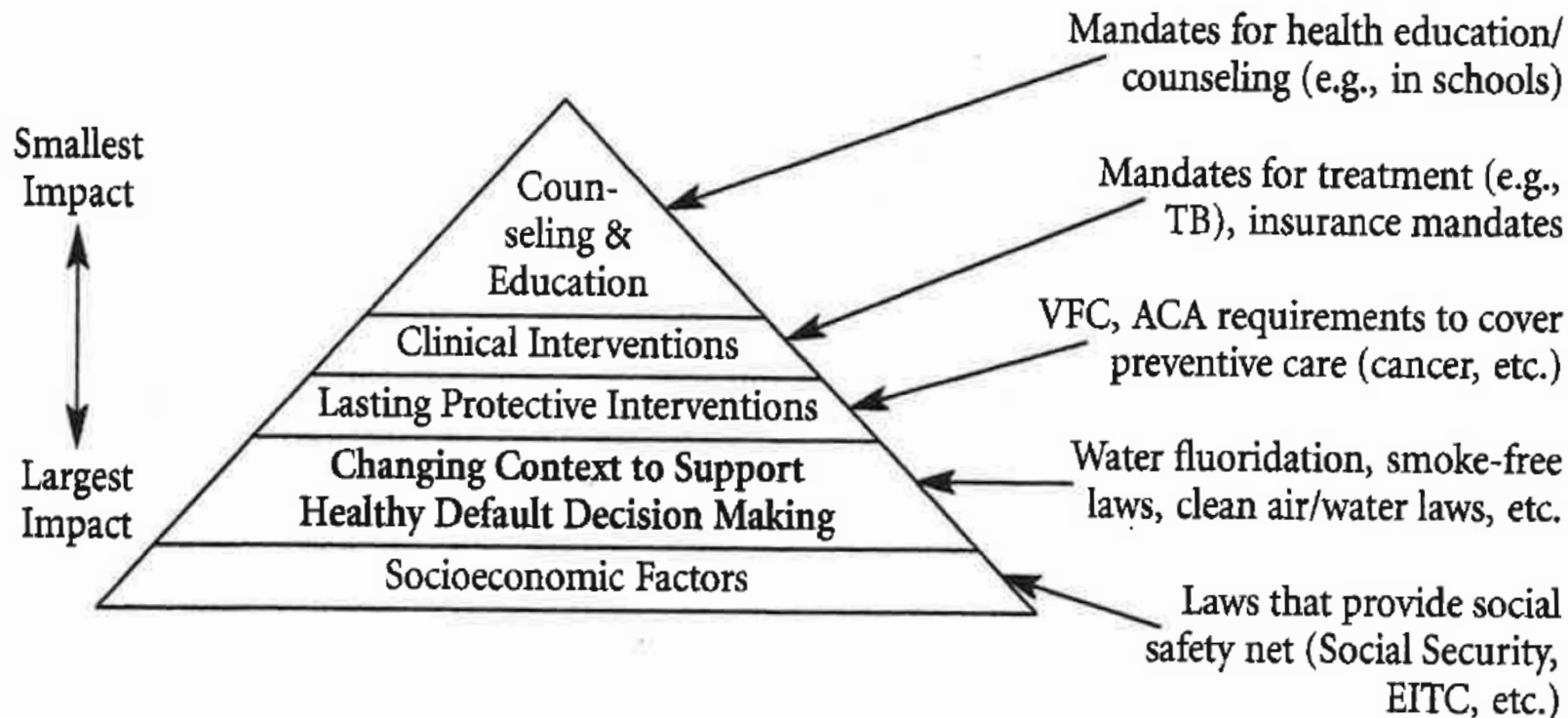


Figure 1.10 Health Impact Pyramid with Legal Intervention



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.

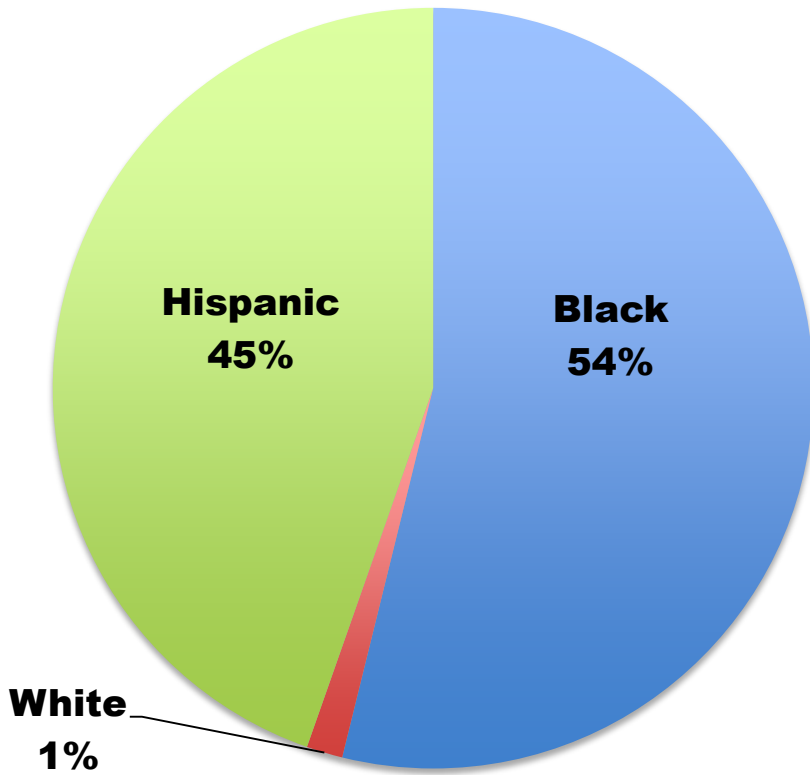
Miami's Health Rights Clinic

- ▶ 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

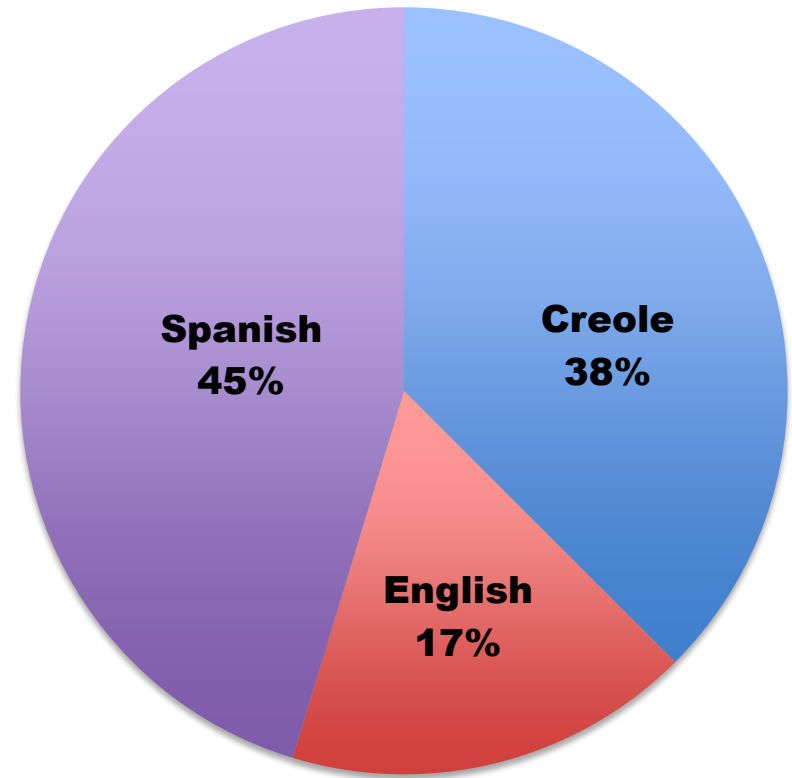


Client Demographics

Assisting the Most Vulnerable



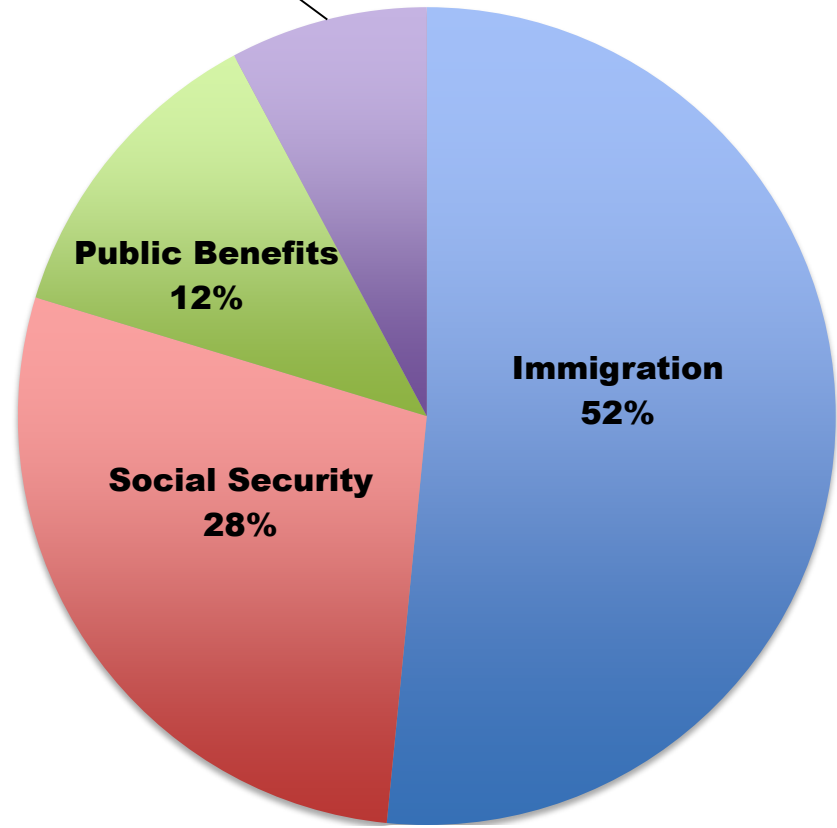
Race



Language

Types of Cases 2017

**Other (IEP, School Loan
Discharge, Dependency)**
8%



Comprehensive AIDS Program/SFAN



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Jackson
HEALTH SYSTEM

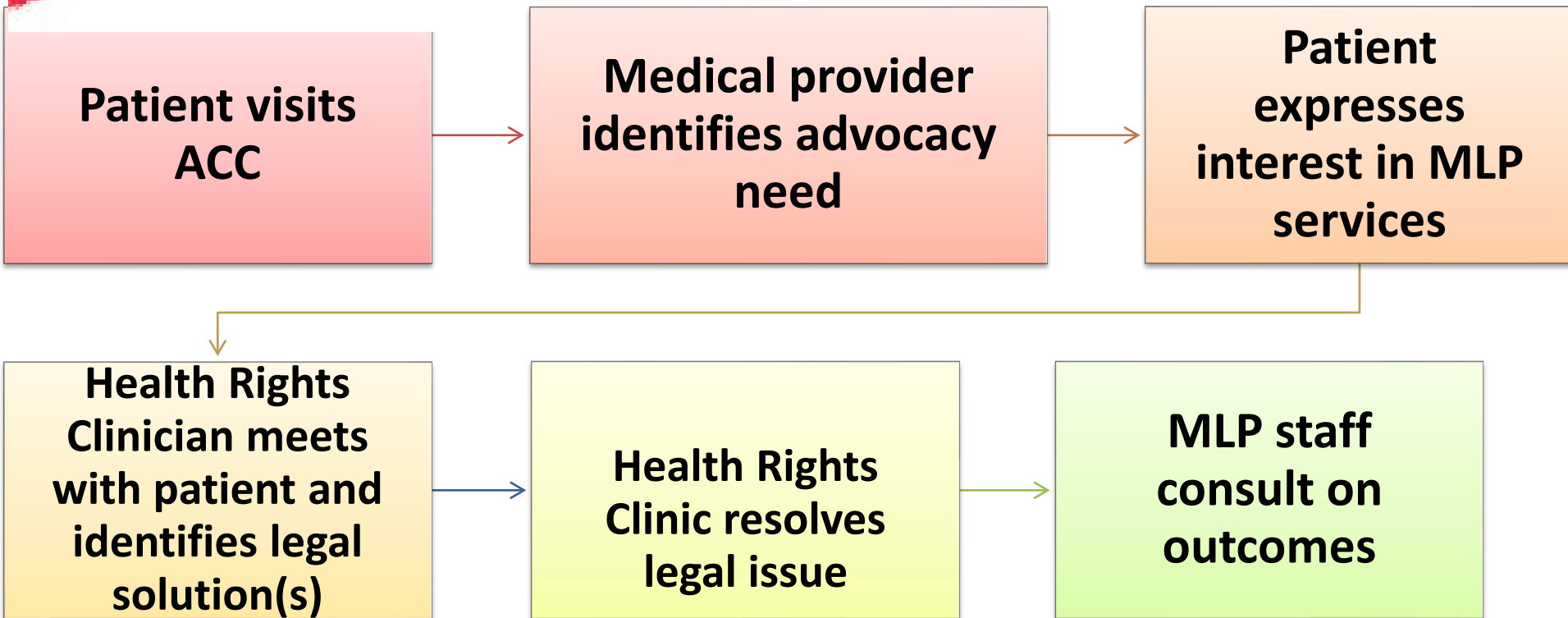


PUBLIC HEALTH TRUST



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MLP Case Flow



V.L.

Medical Issues:
**AIDS, numerous
PPE, chronic
fatigue**

**V.L., 50
y.o.**

Social Barriers to Care:
No income, lack of stable
housing, illiterate, stress
due to inability to become
US citizen

Advocacy Needs:
Needs income,
needs US
Citizenship

Legal
Intervention:
File naturalization
case; Social
Security Disability
Hearing

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.**

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

Advocacy Needs:

Needs disability
income to get
stable living
conditions and
reduce stress

Department of Special Projects



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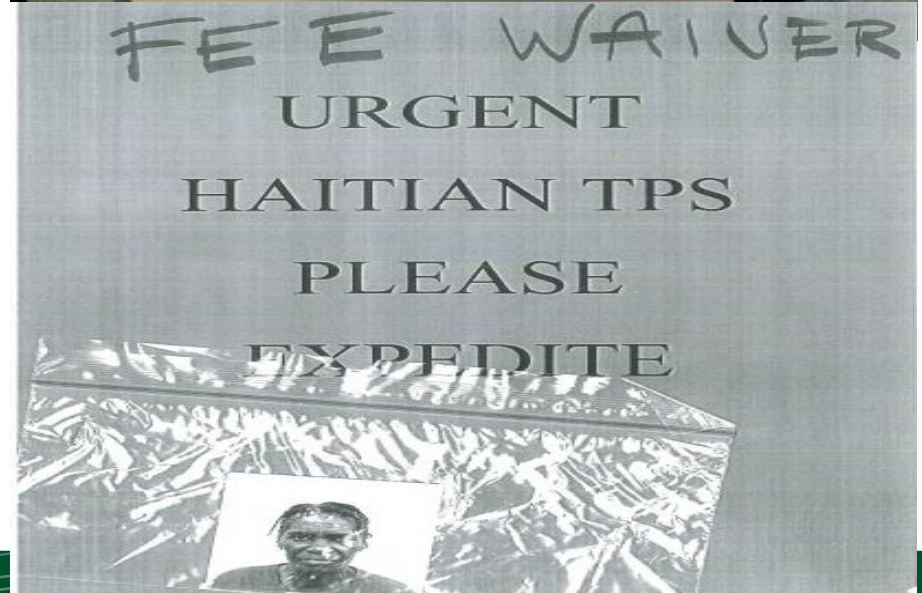


Haitian Nationals who are UM -JMH Patients

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



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January 12, 2010



Our Medical Colleagues Respond to Tragedy in Haiti



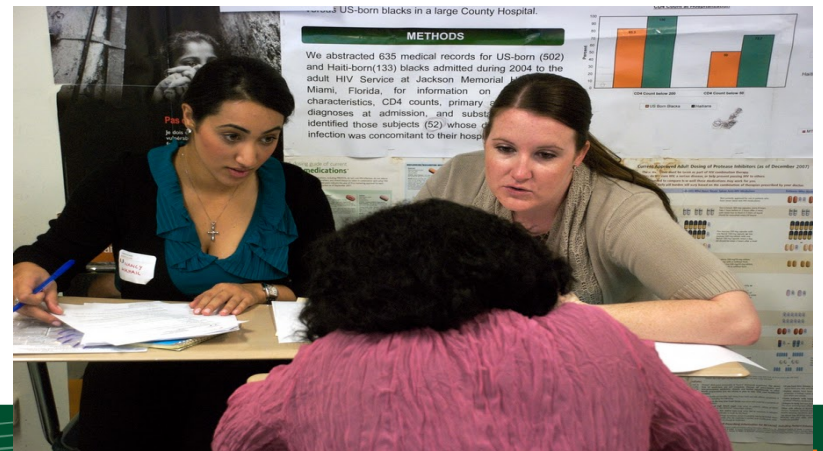
January 15, 2010: *A Way to Respond*

- 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

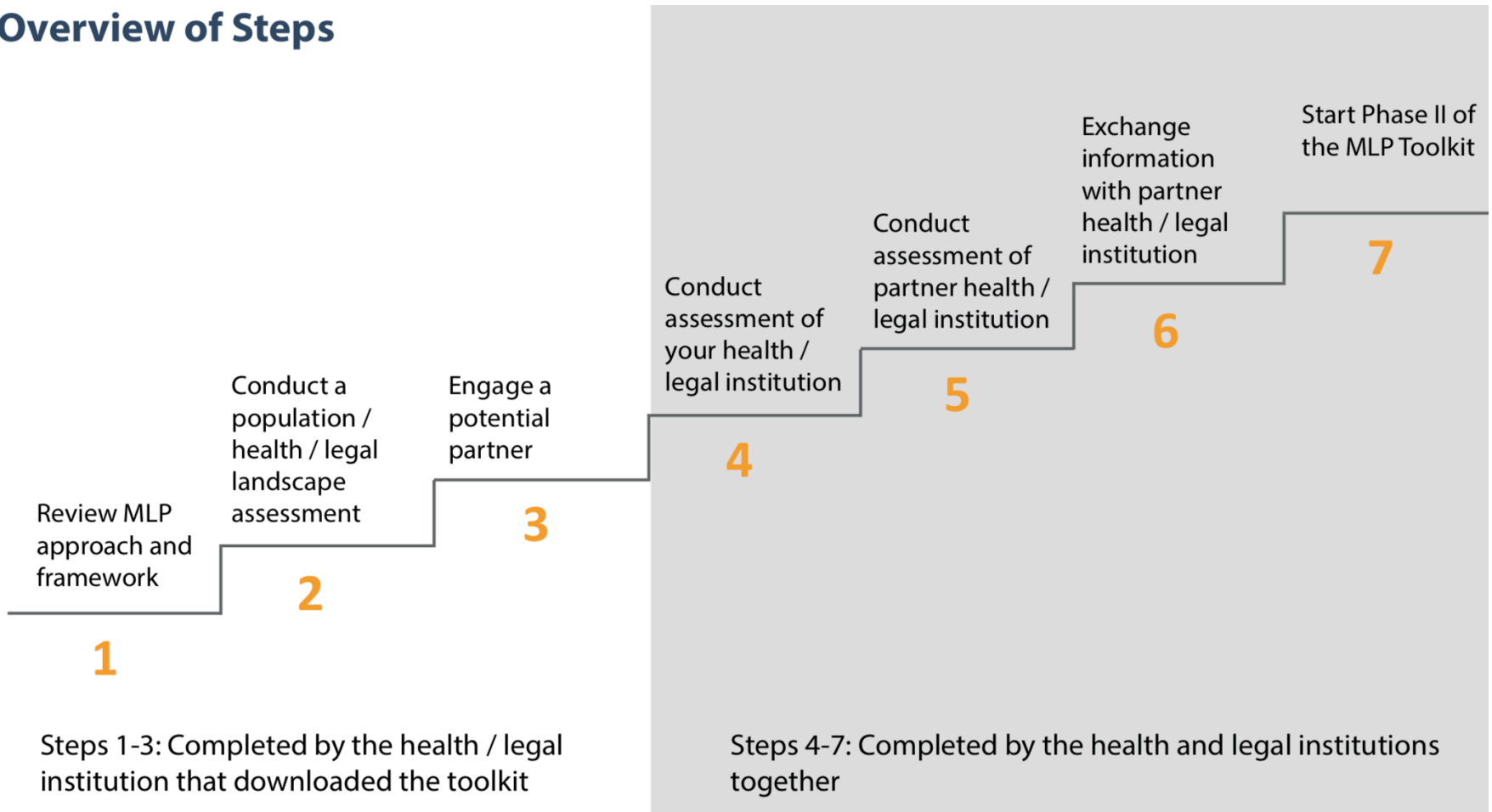


Forming a Medical Legal Partnership

- 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



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

