Healthcare Legal Partnerships: Advancing Health Equity

OR

How to Increase Physician Success When Patients Have Complex Needs

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Objectives

1) Define Healthcare Legal Partnership (HLP).
2) List benefits of Healthcare Legal Partnerships.
3) Explain how to start a Healthcare Legal Partnership.

HLP Definition

Integrated, embedded lawyers and paralegals alongside health care teams to detect, address and prevent health harming social conditions for people and communities; different from usual referral

HLPs Address Negative Social Determinants of Health

The conditions and circumstances in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age. These circumstances are shaped by a set of forces beyond the control of the individual: economics and the distribution of money, power, social policies, and politics at the global, national, state, and local levels.

WHO and CDC (adapted)

Disclosure Information
Dept. of Medicine Grand Rounds 1/31/19

Dr. Eileen Weber, DNP, JD, PHN, RN
I have no financial relationships to disclose
I will not discuss off label use and/or investigational use in my presentation
Healthcare Legal Partnerships (ELSWHERE CALLED MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS)

MLPs help patients with I-HELP® issues
- Income supports & Insurance
- Housing & utilities
- Personal & family stability
- Employment & Education

Why doctors are prescribing legal aid for patients in need (PBS, 2015) 8:06

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKVFHwjWih8

Every low income person has on average 2 – 3 health-harming legal needs = 50 million people in U.S.

1 in 6 people needs legal help to be healthy. (www.medical-legalpartnership.org)

Poverty is Our Cancer (2015) (1:15)

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGEnrrhsg0
- Dr. Robert Needlman, a pediatrician at MetroHealth Medical Center and Professor of Pediatrics, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, explains why he prefers to practice medicine with a legal aid lawyer by his side.

Medicine is often not enough

Housing is the best pill.

Jeffrey Brenner, MD, Executive Director
Camden (NJ) Coalition of Healthcare Providers
- Hotspotting
- National Center for Complex Health and Social Needs

“We understand that health is created by much more than just good medical care.”

Cover letter on health disparities report to MN Legislature signed by 24 MN state commissioners.

Advancing Health Equity, Feb. 1, 2014

HLP/MLP in 46 States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospitals &amp; Health Systems</th>
<th>HRSA Health Centers</th>
<th>Children’s Hospitals</th>
<th>Legal Aid Agencies &amp; Law Schools</th>
<th>VA Medical Centers</th>
<th>Other Health Care Sites</th>
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<td>33</td>
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January 2019: http://www.medical-legalpartnership.org/partnerships/

Expand the Understanding of What Creates Health

Determinants of Health

- Genes and Biology
- Physical Environment
- Clinical Care
- Health Behaviors

Social and Economic Factors

Necessary conditions for health (WHO)
- Peace
- Shelter
- Education
- Food
- Income
- Stable eco-system
- Sustainable resources
- Mobility
- IT connectivity
- Health Care
- Social justice and equity


1993: University of MN at Forefront
CUHCC legal clinic merges human rights with medical care
https://www.healthtalk.umn.edu/2017/05/31/cuhcc-medical-legal-partnership/

Deinard Legal Clinic
The legal clinic is embedded at CUHCC, and addresses socio-economic determinants of health that affect our patients’ outcomes and quality of life.
Services include:
- Family law
- Housing
- Immigration
- Application for government benefits such as disability

Amos Deinard, Jr., MD
- Pediatrician extraordinaire
- Professor of Pediatrics, U of Minnesota
- Pediatric Consultant, Minneapolis Children and Youth Project
- Director, Community University Health Care Center
- Ground breaker in:
  - Lead poisoning
  - Care of refugees
  - Oral health
  - To name just a few
- Healthcare Legal Partnership

Changing Lives
Contacting a landlord and the City Housing Inspector on behalf of a family whose child made numerous visits to the Emergency Room for asthma exacerbated by the unabated mold in their home.
Representing a Hmong woman who survived domestic abuse to seek and obtain child support and legal custody of the children from her former spouse.
Working with a case manager to help a Somali client with major mental illness who was previously denied for disability to successfully file and receive approval for benefits.

Deinard Legal Clinic – An HLP Pioneer
A Partnership Between Stinson, Leonard, Street & Community-University Health Care Center
The first health law partnership in the country, an exemplary private legal and FQHC relationship
Served more than 3,000 clients from more than 56 countries around the world
Provided more than 102,120 hours of service
Donated over $21 million in legal services to the community
ABA Pro Bono Publico Award (2015)

Legal Aid HMC Whittier Clinic
(2015 4/07)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tttuK_LBJE
HLP Impact

91% fewer adult asthma ED visits
$2 million in Social Security benefits
Better maternal-child outcomes
Reduced child abuse
Fewer missed appointments
Improved cancer treatment adherence
Better advocates for selves, able to discuss with MDs


Starting Your HLP

- Review toolkit from national center
- Start with community assessment
- Assess your patient panels
- Engage partners, legal capacity and expertise
- Possible funding: philanthropy, pilot/demo project, CHNAs
- SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)
- Join the (free) HLP Learning Collaborative (email Weber)
  - growing regional expertise shared
  - next meeting Sept. 13, 2018, 1-4pm; continuing ed on housing and health from 1-2pm (online participation for those who register ahead)

Provider Benefit

Examples

$1 million recovered in previously denied claims for cancer treatment
319% ROI > 3 years for healthcare provider of an Illinois HLP
$4 million to pay healthcare debts
86% surveyed healthcare organizations reported improved health outcomes for patients (https://medical-legalpartnership.org/impact/)


Physician Support

The Medical-Legal Partnership Toolkit
Phase I: Laying the Groundwork
Updated March 2015

www.medical-legalpartnership.org/mlp-resources/toolkit/

The Medical-Legal Partnership Toolkit
Phase II: Building Infrastructure
Updated March 2015

www.medical-legalpartnership.org/mlp-resources/toolkit/
Funding
Roughly $120,000/year total compensation for legal aid attorney in MN
- Often start with philanthropy. Coal is health system $s.
- More than a third of partnerships in US get some support from healthcare organization operations budget
- CHNA (“china”): ACA’s Community Health Needs Assessment and plans; MN Hospital Assoc has list
- HRSA: legal services = “enabling service” = nonclinical; facilitate access to care, improve health, similar to transportation, interpreters, case management, etc.
- Legal Services Advisory Committee; Equal Justice Works
- Research and evaluation grants; demonstration projects

HLP Collaborative
Started in 2014: Cancer Legal Care and CUHCC’s HLP
- 2017: 17 HLPs
- no member fees
- From Aim to Impact Conferences 2016, 2017
- Commissioner Ed Ehlinger
- US Senator Al Franken
- Former U of M Medical School Dean, AHC VP Frank Cerra
- Chris Wendt, Mayo attorney and chair of LSAC
- Education, networking, expertise sharing, outreach

Summary & Next Steps
Summary
- HLPs embed legal services w/th delivery
- HLPs address negative social determinants of health
- HLPs can improve patient health outcomes
- More data is needed but there is enough to increase sites now
- UM has been a national leader and should continue to lead

Next Steps
- Lead
  - Grow network of champions
  - Education
  - Outreach
  - Collaboration
  - Share expertise
- Demonstrate
  - Measure performance; build metrics
  - Crisis care vs primary care
  - Tool development
  - Screening
  - HRPA; disclosure permissions
  - EHR tools
  - Communicate and Disseminate
- Sustain
  - DHS plot funding for top FQHC HLP
  - System funding

For More Information
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Resources (others on slides)


National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership. Toolkit, research, and many resources. http://www.medical-legalpartnership.org


Resources (others on slides)


