



Not All Health Problems are Medical

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Introduction, Background

Medical Legal Partnership (MLP) started in 1993 in Boston¹. Currently MLP's have been established in over 450 health care institutions in 49 states.

Patient Legal Support (PLS) began in August 2009 and is a collaborative effort between Corewell Health East (then Beaumont Health system) and Lakeshore Legal Aid. Modeled after Boston Medical Center's Family Advocacy Program, PLS provides educational training to health care providers, helping them recognize legal issues that affect the health of their patients, refer patients with legal problems, and improve their own advocacy skills.

I-HELP

Social conditions that impact health

- I** Insurance, disability, social security
- H** Housing, foreclosure, utilities, housing subsidies
- E** Education, employment, school issues
- L** Legal, credit card default, garnishment, expungement
- P** Personal stability, domestic violence, guardianship

Aims and Objectives

From its inception a goal of our medical-legal partnership) has been to involve as many medical students and residents, in as many ways as possible. We provide didactic and experiential learning to teach ways to address health harming legal needs while improving patient and population health outcomes.

Approach

Medical students have had opportunities to learn about and contribute to our MLP in the following ways

1. Embark medical student research projects
2. Presentations at national conferences
3. Internships (one month at the end of 1st year)
3. 4th year elective rotations
4. Dice- directed independent elective

Residents receive a lecture on MLP during a Healthcare Disparities Elective



Medical student Mayan Yakir M3 receives prestigious 2019 United States Excellence in Public Health Award

Impact

In 2021, Welch et.al. conducted a systematic review of 438 studies of MLPs. **They concluded that including MLPs into training programs was an effective approach to teaching trainees to identify, understand and address social determinants(drivers) of health²**. We have had several students each year engage in MLP activities. Approximately 20 residents attend lectures each session. Our hope is to continue these activities and to evaluate our own program in the future.



Poster presentation at the AAP National Conference

References

1. Zuckerman B, Sandel M, Lawton E et al. Medical-legal partnerships: transforming health care The Lancet 2008, 372, 1615-1617
2. Welch, Kristian, et al. Teaching the social determinants of health through medical legal partnerships: a systematic review. *BMC Medical Education* 21.1 (2021): 302