

1 Resolution # (08) –2008 Annual Leadership Forum

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4 TITLE: Medical-Legal Partnership: Promoting child health through preventative law

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6 SUBMITTED BY: Benjamin Gitterman MD FAAP

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8 DATE: Dec 11 2007

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10 DISPOSITION:

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12 Whereas, child health is affected not only by biology and behavior, but also by socio-
13 economic factors present in communities and environments in which they live; and

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15 Whereas, low income families can have several unmet legal needs, such as food
16 insecurity, housing problems, and utility arrearages which increase the risks for poor
17 health and potential hospitalizations; and

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19 Whereas, low income families facing disproportionately high energy costs are forced to
20 make household budget trade and possibly lead to disconnections, evictions, and
21 homelessness with subsequent threats to a child’s physical health; and

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23 Whereas the American Bar Association recently passed a resolution “That the American
24 Bar Association encourages lawyers, law firms, legal services agencies, law schools and
25 bar associations to form medical legal partnerships with hospitals, community health care
26 providers and social service organizations to help identify and resolve diverse legal issue
27 that affect patients’ health and well being”; therefore be it

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29 **RESOLVED**, that the Academy encourage closer and more frequent collaboration
30 between legal service and medical professionals, and be it further

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32 **RESOLVED**, that the Academy promote “medical-legal partnerships,” in which lawyers
33 work with members to identify and resolve legal issues affecting the health and well
34 being of children.

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36 REFER TO: 2008 Annual Leadership Forum

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38 AUTHOR/CONTACT

39 PERSON: Benjamin Gitterman MD FAAP
40 District of Columbia Chapter
41 111 Michigan Ave., NW
42 Washington, DC 20010

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44 Telephone: (202) 476-3968

45 FAX: (202) 476-3386

46 E-mail: bgitterm@cnmc.org

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CO-AUTHOR: Megan Sandel MD MPH FAAP
Massachusetts Chapter, AAP
91 E Concord St
Boston MA 02118

Telephone: 617-414-3680
FAX: 617-414-3679
Email: megan.sandel@bmc.org

BACKGROUND

INFORMATION: Background from the Community Pediatric Training Initiative (CPTI)

- The AAP Community Pediatric Training Initiative strives to train future pediatricians to engage in interdisciplinary collaborations, community partnerships, and the practices of evidence-based community health care and child advocacy to advance child health in their communities. They promote the health of all children within the context of the family, school, and the community; with a commitment to use a community's resources in collaboration with other professionals, agencies, and parents to achieve optimal accessibility, appropriateness, and quality of services for all children, and to advocate especially for those who lack access to care because of social, cultural, geographic, or economic conditions or special health care needs. Members should be aware that these lawyers are partners in working to protect children.