HEALTH CENTER MLP
PLANNING,
IMPLEMENTATION
& PRACTICE
WEBINAR SERIES



Session 7

MLPs in EMR, the Next Frontier: One System's Success



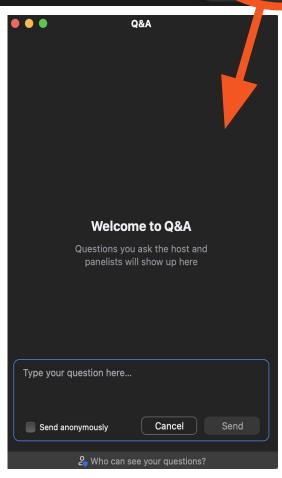
May 30, 2024 | 1-2.30 PM ET





Housekeeping

- Chat Raise Hand Q&A
- Attendees are muted throughout the webinar.
- Type questions into Questions & Answers pane.
- The chat will also be open for engagement.
- Send a chat to the Hosts & Panelists for help.
- To activate captions, select "Live Transcript" and "Show Subtitle."
- This webinar will be recorded and shared at <u>medical-legalpartnership.org/resources/</u>



Housekeeping

We want to hear from you!

At certain points, we'll invite members of the audience to speak. Look out for this instruction on the slide.



Housekeeping





This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award to the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership totaling \$602,314.00 with 0 percent financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit HRSA.gov.



Medical-Legal Partnership Planning, Implementation & Practice (PIP) Webinar Series

February – June 2024

THE WEBINAR SERIES

The National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership (NCMLP) is partnering with the Texas A&M University Institute for Healthcare Access (HAI) to offer a webinar series to support health center-based MLP planning, implementation, and practice (PIP series).

USE THE TOOLKIT AS YOUR GUIDE BEFORE, DURING & AFTER THE WEBINARS

The **Health Center MLP Toolkit** will serve as a resource for participants throughout the series.

ACTIVE LEARNING

For each webinar in the PIP series, we are going to call on participants from health centers, primary care associations, health center controlled networks, and legal services organizations to share insights regarding the specific domain or topic begin covered during the webinar.



Poll Question: Let's find out who is in the audience today.



- a) Health care
- b) Legal services
- c) Academia
- d) Other



- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) I don't know

3) **How does your partnership exchange data and information between entities?** (choose all that apply)

- a) Paper, only.
- b) Email, only.
- c) The legal team can receive referrals and limited information through the EHR
- d) The EHR exchanges data with the legal team's case management software
- e) After the referral is made, we do NOT exchange information or data as partners
- f) Other



Bringing lawyers onto



Part 1: 9 Conversations that Will Help Lay a Strong Foundation			
	1. What SDOH problems do we want to address?	Part 1, Conversation 1	
	2. What staff do we need to meet the need(s) we identified and accomplish our goals?	Part 1, Conversation 2	
	3. Staffing the Legal Services of an MLP - Should we directly hire a lawyer or contract with another organization?	Part 1, Conversation 3	
	4. How are we going to pay for it?	Part 1, Conversation 4	
	5. How do we develop a strong MOU for our MLP?	Part 1, Conversation 5	
	6. What other partners in the community can be helpful?	Part 1, Conversation 6	
	7. How will we address patient consent and information sharing?	Part 1, Conversation 7	
	8. Integrating legal services into the workflows and systems	Part 1, Conversation 8	
	9. How can we make sure our MLP is effective and sustainable?	Part 1, Conversation 9	
	Part 2: Implementing Workflows for Screening and Legal Services & Part 3: Strengthening the Health Center Workforce		
	10. MLP Trainings to Strengthen the Health Center Workforce	Parts 2 and 3	
Part 4: Moving Upstream from Patients-to-Policy			
	11. Using MLP to Move Upstream & Address Emerging Issues	Part 4	

PIP Webinar Sessions



Corresponding Toolkit Topic

Faculty



Keegan Warren, JD, LLM

Executive Director
Institute for Healthcare Access
Texas A&M University Health Science Center



Bethany Hamilton, JD

Co-Director National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership



Jay Sicklick, JD

Adjunct Professor of Law, UCONN
Former MLP Director
Connecticut Pediatric MLP

Our Moderator Today

National Center for Medical Legal Partnership

AT THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSI



Guest Speakers



Emily Foote

Senior Director Social Determinants of Health NYC Health + Hospitals



Julie Brandfield

Associate Director
LegalHealth
New York Legal Assistance Group





Support During and Between the Live Sessions

The National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership has funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to provide free technical assistance to health centers, look-alikes, primary care associations, and health center controlled networks interested in integrating legal services into their care delivery. As you work through this guide and the webinar series, the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership can answer your questions, connect you with other medical-legal partnerships in your state, and provide additional resources. Contact us at ncmlp@gwu.edu.



Reha Manikandasamy, MS

Senior Research Assistant (Data Science) National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership Send questions to Reha at ncmlp@gwu.edu.

Session 6 Recap





Exploring Health Center vs. Hospital-Based MLPs Insights from Georgia Legal Services Program

Learning Objectives

1

To learn
generally about
medical-legal
partnerships
(MLPs) and their
formation

2

To discuss how relationships with community powerbrokers impact MLPs

13

To explore the differences between hospital-based and health center-based MLPs

4

To hear the insights of attorneys who facilitate the groundwork at MLPs

How will we address patient consent and information sharing?

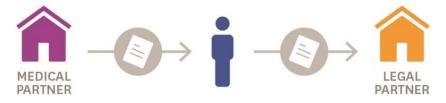


Info-sharing process can depend on MLP structure

Referral Network



Coordinating Staff



One Organization

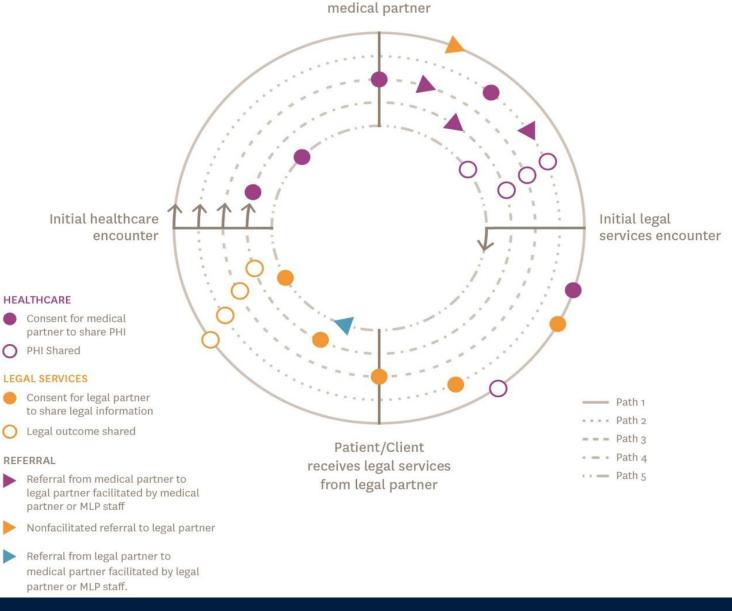




<u>Information-Sharing in Medical-Legal Partnerships:</u> <u>Foundational Concepts and Resources</u>

An in-depth look at privacy laws, consent models, and MLP info-sharing tools.

Five pathways for consent & disclosure of info for MLPs



Patient/Client receives treatment from

Questions to establish info-sharing parameters



- What agreements are in place governing the MLP relationship and what do they require?
- What laws apply to the partner organizations?
- What restrictions, if any, are attached to the organizations' **funding**?
- What structural model will best suit the info-sharing needs of the MLP partners and the patients/ clients? Are there any goals that are not being met or processes that could be better aligned?
- What consent process will suit the needs of the patients/clients and the MLP partner organizations?
- What information systems are already in place and do they serve the needs of the MLP?
- What kind of information and how much information should be shared?

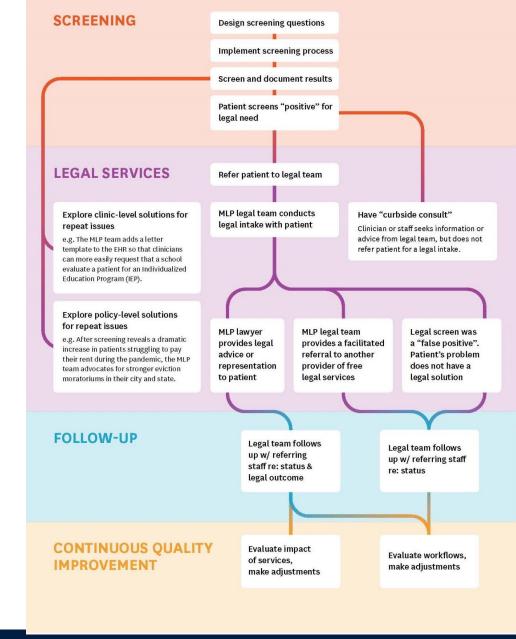
How will we integrate legal services into our workflows and systems?





Aligning screening with existing tools & workflows

- Why are we considering screening?
- What questions will we ask?
- How / when / where will patients be screened? Who will screen them?
- How will patients' answers be documented?
- Can we use existing data in the EHR to bypass the need for patient-to-patient screening or to screen only a subset of all patients?



Resources

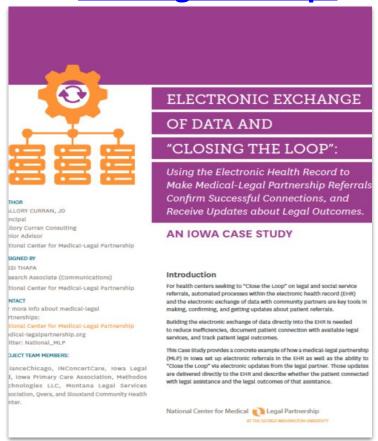


Leveraging the Electronic Health
Record to Link Health Center Patients
with Medical-Legal Partnership
Services

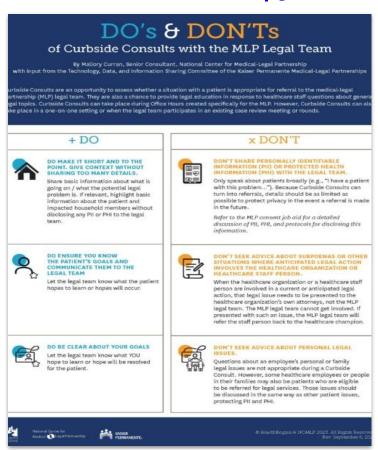
This issue brief provides concrete examples of how health centers in Iowa, Montana, and Texas are leveraging the EHR to complement their screening for the social determinants of health as well as to increase their capacity to deliver targeted MLP-related interventions.

Resources, cont'd

<u>Electronic Exchange of Data and</u> <u>"Closing The Loop"</u>



Do's & Don'ts of MLP Curbside Consults | Job Aid



MLPs in EMR, the Next Frontier: One System's Success



Today's Learning Objectives

1

Understanding the impetus for building MLP referrals in EMR 2

Nuts and bolts on how system was built 3

Lessons
learned and
next steps







ABOUT LEGALHEALTH

LegalHealth, a division of NYLAG, provides free legal assistance and develops policy to help New Yorkers who are experiencing financial hardship and have serious or chronic health problems. We bring together legal and medical professionals in the healthcare setting.

ABOUT NYLAG

The New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) is a leading non-profit that provides free civil legal services, financial counseling, and engages in policy advocacy efforts to help people experiencing poverty.





We are Generalists - Range of Legal Services

- Government Benefits
 - SSI/SSDI
 - Public Assistance
 - Food Stamps
- Insurance Disputes
 - Medicaid
 - Medicare
 - Commercial
- Housing

- Veterans' Issues
- Immigration
- Debtor/Creditor Issues
- Workplace Accommodations
- Advance Planning
 - Will, health care proxy, power of attorney and permanency planning





LegalHealth Model











- Train healthcare providers on health harming legal needs
- Provider referrals to legal clinic to be scheduled by health care facility
- 5-6 weekly on site legal appointments in ambulatory clinic (in-patient visits done too)
- Healthcare provider consultations throughout the week
- Systemic policy advocacy collaboration





LegalHealth & NYC H+H

2002

LegalHealth Partners with H+H Elmhurst Hospital

2014

LegalHealth expands to all 11 NYC H+H Acute Care Hospitals

2016 & 2017

LegalHealth funded by City to expand immigration services to H+H, including 3 FQHCs

2023

NYLAG enters 3-year contract to provide MLP services across entire H+H system with EPIC integration





NYC H+H by the Numbers

Nation's largest safety net healthcare system

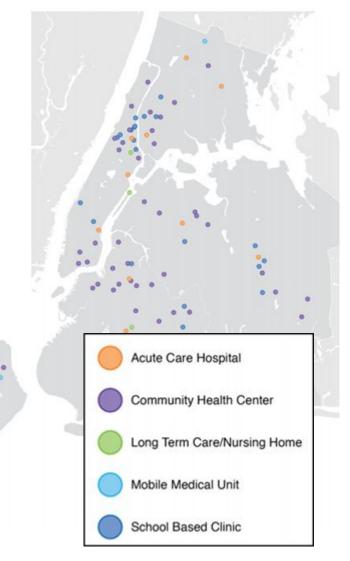
- 11 acute hospitals, 60+ health centers, 6 amb care centers
- Long-term care, home care, correctional health services
- 45,000 staff
- Serve all regardless of documentation status or ability to pay

1.1 Million+ New Yorkers served annually

- 160,000 admissions
- ~1 million emergency department visits
- 4 million clinic visits (including 1 million primary care visits)

Our adult patients are:

- 27% uninsured
- 37% speak a language other than English
- 6% homeless
- Racially and ethnically diverse:
- 42% Hispanic/Latinx, 31% Black or African American, 9% White, 6% Asian/Pacific Islander, 12% Other







What is Population Health?

- Population Health refers to "the health outcomes of a group of individuals"
- While not a part of the definition itself, it is understood that population health outcomes are the product of multiple determinants of health, including medical care, public health, genetics, behaviors, social factors, and environmental factors.
- Population health is an approach to health that aims to improve the health of the entire population and to reduce health inequities among population groups. In order to reach these objectives, it looks at and acts upon the broad range of factors and conditions that have a strong influence on our health.
- Fundamentally, it is about a more proactive approach to addressing avoidable human suffering

^{1) (}Kindig, D., and G. Stoddart. 2003. What is population health? American Journal of Public Health 93(3):380-383)

^{2) &}lt;u>www.publichealth.gc.ca</u>





Scheduling & Appointment Challenges

- Reliance on either one person per site to schedule or an overtaxed phone system
- Inconsistent reminders resulting in high no show
- Legal staff getting schedule in advance for conflict check
- Human error (names misspelled, incorrect phone number)
- Variation of clinic utilization across sites

Shared Goal: referrals and appointments made in same manner as medical appointments





Background – Strategic + Operational Challenges

- Health care leadership wanted more and better data about the breadth and impact of MLP
- Local referral and scheduling systems were manual, inconsistent, under-resourced and lacked sufficient transparency
- Missed appointments, high "no show" rate
- Access to legal support not equitable
- Health care staff frustrated when they didn't know how to connect their patients with LegalHealth
- No standard mechanism for "closing the loop" on referrals





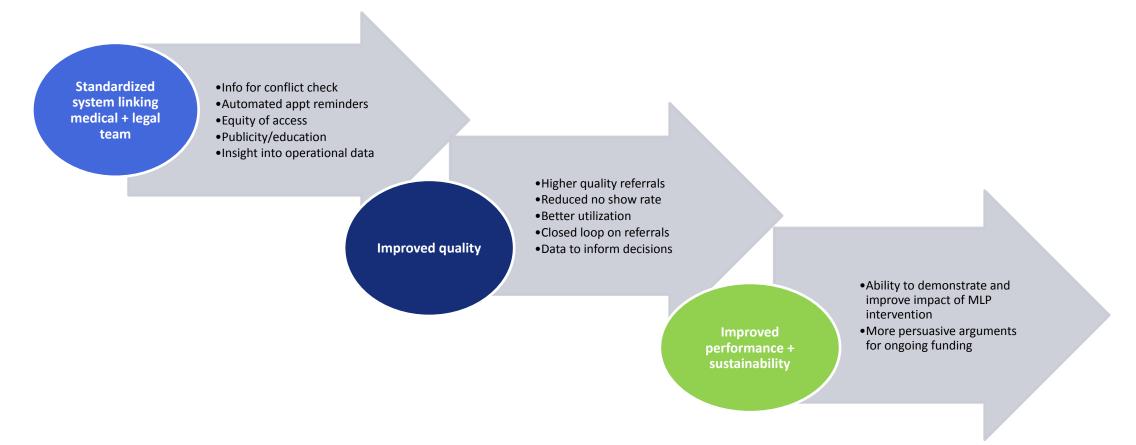
Background – Key Players

- Health system leadership Financial, Legal + Compliance, Clinical, Human Resources
 - Health system governance decision-makers for resource allocation, centralized onboarding + clearance for attorneys, including staff to support EMR architecture + build
- Facility-based health care staff
- NYLAG/LegalHealth attorneys + paralegals
- Patients





Strategic goals for new system







Making the case for investment

- Population Health-led effort
- Identified challenges and possible solutions, eliminated several EMR-adjacent options that did not support scheduling functionality
- Designed preliminary solution with Epic consultant
- Established centralized onboarding process for HR
- Secured required Compliance + governance approval for full "discovery" and subsequent implementation
- Secured financial support for centralized staff to support new centralized process
- Sought input and buy-in from health care teams who had struggled to manage referral and scheduling process locally



Implementation

- Epic Build
 - Discovery
 - Build and Test
 - Launch
- Central Operations
 - Staffing
 - Onboarding
 - Training
- Launch
 - Pilot
 - Attorney training
 - Health care team prep + training





Operationalizing Epic with LegalHealth

- LegalHealth & H+H Population Health identified team responsible for operationalizing
- Weekly or bi-weekly operations meetings
- Wanted to create systems that worked for both sides of MLP





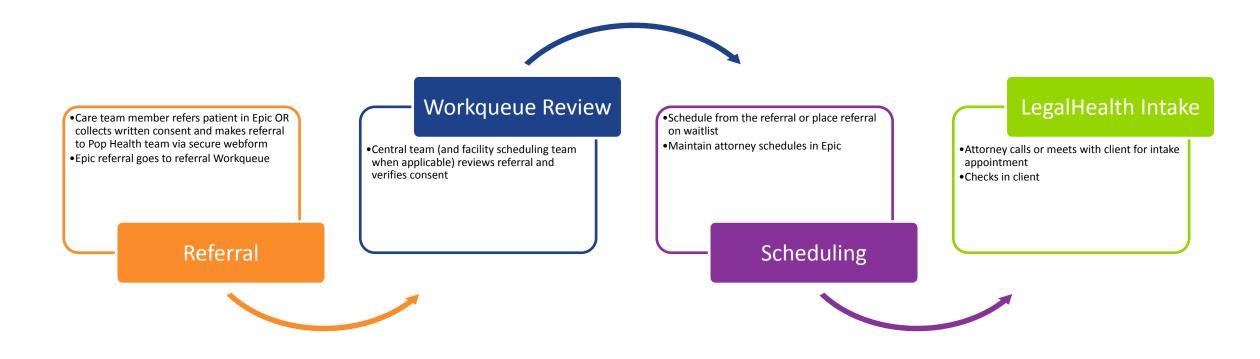
Operationalizing Epic with LegalHealth

- Identifying legal issues for referrals
- Establishing clearance criteria so legal staff could use EPIC
- Training scheduling team on LegalHealth services and expectation setting with future clients
- Creating protocols together for process
- Training legal team on accessing appointment schedule in EPIC and checking patients in
- Hiring legal program manager





Epic Workflow Overview







Referral Processes

Referrals must be made by a staff member:

- Epic
 - Any clinical staff with ability to place orders (aka "referrals") in Epic can refer to LegalHealth
 - Can find by searching "LegalHealth" "Legal" or "NYLAG"







Referral Details







Scheduling

 Referrals are captured on a workqueue (task list) in Epic – centralized staff contact patients to schedule







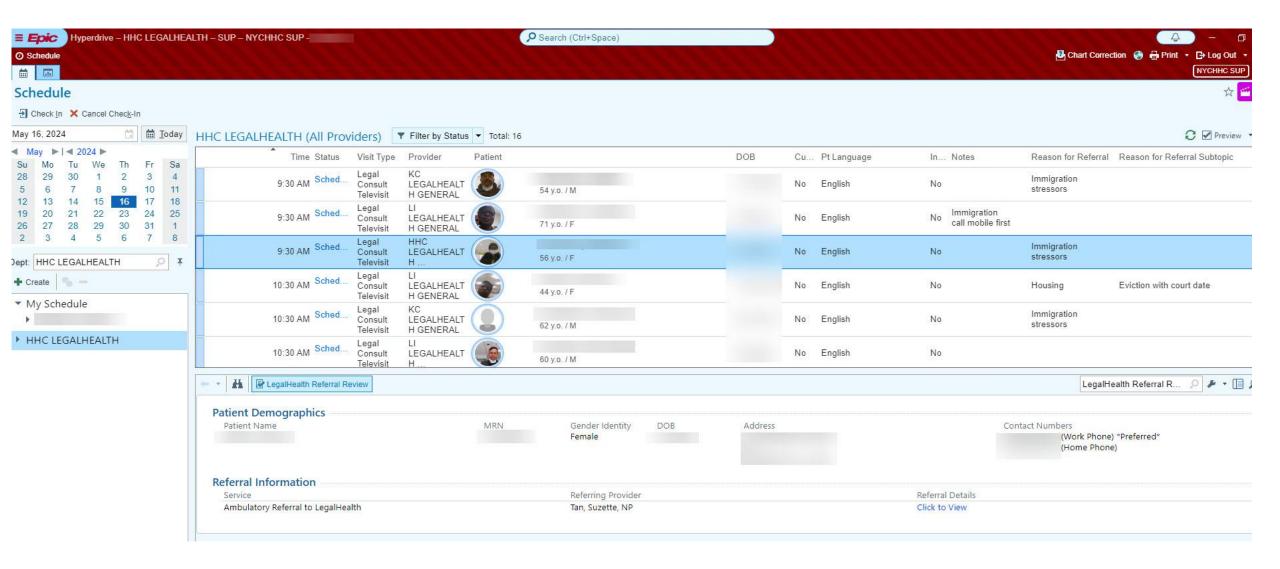
Template Management

- Each LegalHealth clinic has a schedule template in Epic
- NYC H+H staff manage schedule templates (times/dates, number of slots, urgent slots, unavailability, etc.)
- Appointments slots are built out 4 months in advance
- Currently centrally managed



Attorney View









Successes

- Equity of access
- Closed loop for referring staff
- Data
 - Improved, accessible data visualizations
 - Demographics of patients by location
 - Insight into who is referring (staff role, department)
- Standardized appointment reminders
- Reduced no show rate/increased utilization
- Improved staff satisfaction





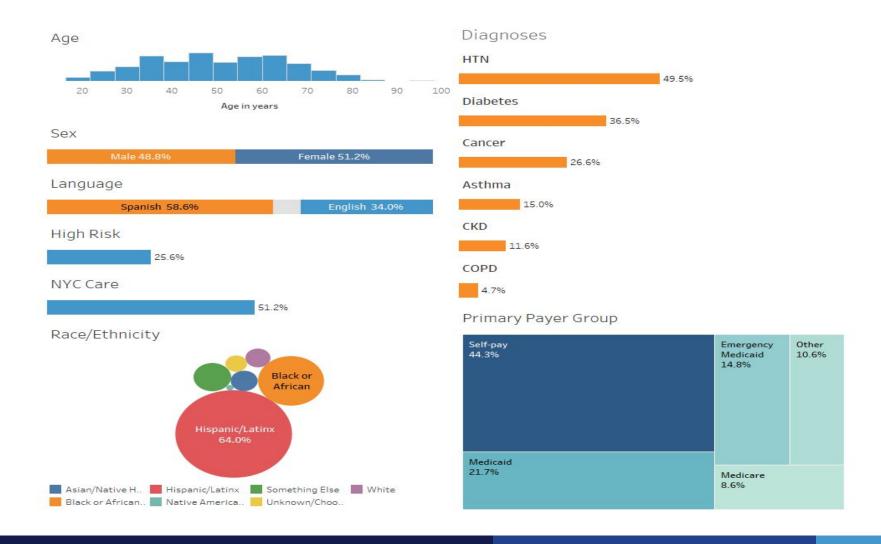
Case Success

- Ariella was referred by her social worker at Bellevue Hospital for immigration stressors. Her appointment was on March 30, 2024 and the attorney did a full immigration screen and Medicaid eligibility assessment. On April 15, the social worker referred the patient for another appointment for government benefits/NYS Medicaid and specifically noted her urgent need for a liver transplant. The Population Health scheduling team, aware that the patient had just met with the attorney, reached out directly to LegalHealth to see if another appointment was needed. While the client had not mentioned the need for organ transplant, the attorney in doing a full immigration legal consultation had asked for the client's immigration documents. Luckily, those had just arrived, and the attorney was able to verify that the patient did not need a new appointment, and was able to advise the client and social worker on how the client could apply for Medicaid and what documents to provide.
- Take Aways: Appointment history shows in EPIC so that duplication/repeat appointments are avoided and available for other patients





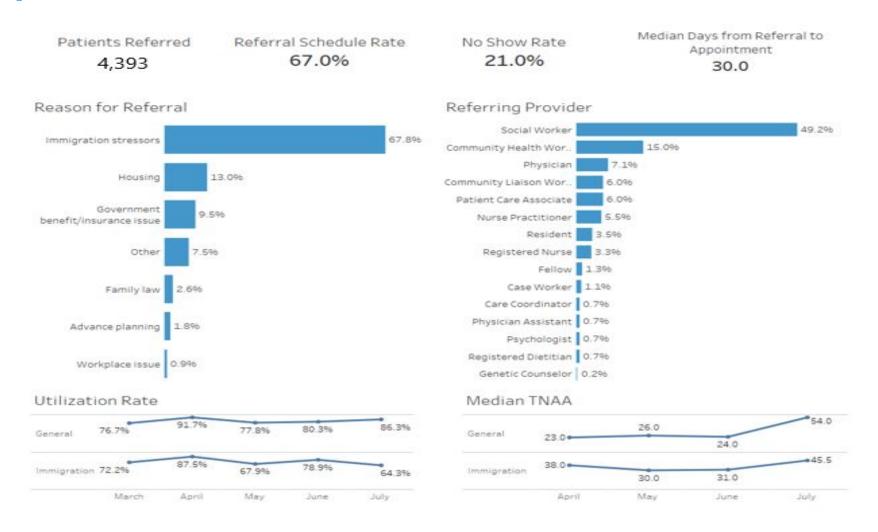
Sample Epic Data







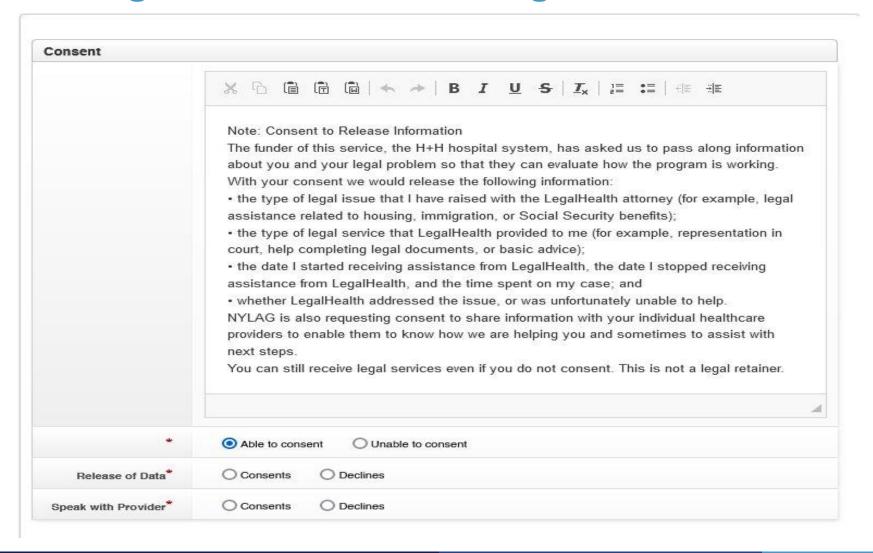
Sample Epic Data







Consent for LegalHealth Data Exchange







Challenges

- Long timeline
- Pandemic!
- Bureaucratic barriers
- Competing priorities
- Culture change for legal staff
- Communications issues associated with "remote" scheduling team
- Less flexibility increased need for standardization
- Coverage
- Centralized scheduling staff at capacity





Lessons learned

- Build in more detail when client can't be reached
 - Left voice message
 - Voicemail full/non-working phone
 - Patient unable to speak (noisy environment)
 - Patient no longer wants appointment
- Ability to track or flag certain sensitive referrals
- Issues around requesting for consent to share data





Next steps

- Complete implementation across health system
- Optimize intake appointment documentation
- Closing the loop on outcome of referral
- Data analysis
 - Reaching target population?
 - Impacting target population?
 - Health outcomes

Questions & Answers



Key Resources



Health Center MLP Toolkit: "Bringing lawyers onto the health center care team to promote patient & community health"

Health Center Program Support:

<u>BPHC Contact Form</u>



Screenshot of BPHC Contact Form at https://hrsa.my.site.com/support/s/ (Accessed on Jan. 29, 2024)



HEALTH CENTER MLP PLANNING, IMPLEMENTATION & PRACTICE WEBINAR SERIES



Next Session



Crafting Effective Trainings to Strengthen the Health Center MLP Workforce



June 6, 2024 | 1-2.30 PM ET





UPCOMING SESSIONS!

 Crafting Effective Trainings to Strengthen the Health Center MLP Workforce

June 6, 2024 | 1-2.30 PM ET

Ditch the Pitch: Building Effective
 Messaging for Different Medical-Legal
 Partnership Audiences

June 13, 2024 | 1-2.30 PM ET

 Moving OUD/SUD Care Upstream through Partnership with Legal Aid

June 20, 2024 | 1-2.30 PM ET

Health Center MLP Planning, Implementation & Practice (PIP) Webinar Series | February – June 2024

By National Center for Medical Legal Partnership

Youtube Playlist

Overview

As part of its work with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership (NCMLP) is partnering with the Texas A&M University Institute for Healthcare Access (HAI) to offer a webinar series to support health center based MLP planning, implementation, and practice (PIP Webinar Series). The Health Center MLP Toolkit will serve as a resource for participants throughout the series.

For each webinar in the PIP series, NCMLP will seek input or examples from a health center and/or PCA with experience in the specific domain or topic to provide insight and commentary and respond to audience questions.

The series will address the following T/TA needs:

1. Understanding the core components of medical-legal partnerships;



The registration links for upcoming webinars and the archives of past presentations will be shared at https://medical-legalpartnership.org/mlp-resources/pipwebinarseries 2024/





Thank you!

Please help us improve future sessions by completing our short evaluation.



https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5CXRGBQ





Upcoming Resource

Look out for our upcoming publication!

Fostering Sustainability through
Performance Measurement in Health
Center Medical-Legal Partnerships: Insights
from a Diverse Learning Collaborative

Authored by
James Teufel, MPH, PhD
Consultant for the National Center for Medical-Legal
Partnership

JUNE X, 2024

Fostering Sustainability through Performance Measurement in Health Center Medical-Legal Partnerships: Insights from a Diverse Learning Collaborative

What is a health center?

HEALTH CENTERS:

- Are community-based and serve more than 30 million people, about 90% of whom have incomes less than 200% of the federal poverty level.
- Provide access to medical, dental, behavioral, and other health care services.
- Provide care for all, with special initiatives for people experiencing homelessness, agricultural workers, and residents of public housing.
- A public or nonprofit entity can become a HRSA-supported health center by applying for Health Center Program funding or receiving designation as a Health Center Program look-alike. HRSA's Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) oversees the

AUTHORED B

James Teufel, MPH, PhD Consultant for the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership

PUBLICATION DESIGN BY OPUS Design

EDITED B

Jacqueline Banos, MPH Maria Casoni, MSL, MPH Bethany Hamilton, JD of the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership

Summary

This paper underscores the vital role of sustainability in clinical settings, focusing on medical-legal partnerships (MLPs) within health centers (HCs). Drawing insights from a learning collaborative initiative facilitated by the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership (NCMLP), supported by the U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA), we introduce performance measures and metrics