

Patients-to-Policy Housing Learning Collaborative

Part 1: An Introduction to Health, Housing,
and the Role of MLPs



*Presented by Prof. Joel
Teitelbaum, JD, LLM
NCMLP*

Part 3: Applying the MLP approach to
Housing Issues for Children



*Moderated by Erie
Family Health and
Health Justice Project
Kate Mitchell, JD, and
Jenna Prochaska, JD*



Part 2: Applying the MLP approach to Housing:
Patients with Complex Needs



*Moderated by Ashley
Maddison, JD, Equal
Justice Works Fellow at
Camden Coalition of
Healthcare Providers*

Part 4: Applying the MLP approach to Housing:
Evictions and City Ordinances



*Moderated by
Daphne McGee, JD,
Staff Attorney at
Houston's Hope*

Applying the MLP Approach to Housing: Patients with Complex Needs

(Learning Collaborative, Part 2 of 4)

Wednesday, January 27, 2021, at 1-2 p.m. Eastern Time

Ashley Maddison, JD

Equal Justice Fellow

Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers



National Center for Medical  Legal Partnership

AT THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Part 2:

Applying the MLP Approach to Housing: Patients with Complex Needs

In this session, participants will learn about and share MLP strategies that can be adapted to their individual communities around housing and patients with complex needs, specifically in the area of fines and fees. Outstanding fines and fees and municipal matters are an often hidden barrier to finding and maintaining stable housing.

Presenter:

Ashley Maddison, JD

Equal Justice Works Fellow

Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers

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Applying the MLP Approach to Housing: Patients with Complex Needs and Hidden Fees

Ashley Maddison

Equal Justice Works Fellow

Sponsored by Covington & Burling LLP and Merck, Inc.

Rutgers Law/Camden Coalition Medical-Legal Partnership

January 27, 2021

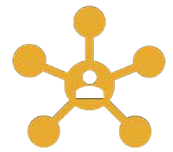


Camden Coalition
of Healthcare Providers



Our context: Complex Care

Complex needs require complex approaches



Person-centered



Equitable



Cross-sector



Team-based



Data-driven

MLP in a complex care context

Efficient Provision of Legal Services: Layered Upon Pre-Existing Complex Care Structure



“MLP without walls”

- **Person-centered principles:** e.g. COACH model, harm reduction
- **Equitable:** systemic approaches
- **Cross-sector:** multidisciplinary approach; coalition building
- **Team-based:** care teams consist of community health workers, social workers, nurses, and now lawyers
- **Data-driven:** patient selection; advocacy efforts

Common housing issues our clients face



Barriers to both finding and maintaining stable housing

- Income/credit
- Legal history
- Accessibility of units (physical unit and general location)
- Habitability concerns
- Conflict with fellow tenants or landlords
- Prior utility debt



Housing work in a complex care context

Leveraging the complex care framework to provide wraparound housing support



- Engage the entire care team to address barriers to obtaining and maintaining stable housing
- Everyone has unique expertise to contribute, especially the patient
- Cross-sector collaborations are especially helpful with housing
- Recognize that some strategies work better in some locations than others
- Note trends and opportunities for larger scale advocacy

How fines and fees harm patients' housing

Short and long-term impacts, pre- and post-housing search



- Diminished housing prospects due to certain charges
- Incarceration
- Damaged credit score
- Loss of driver's license
- Payment plans impacting budget
- Stress of outstanding matters and fines and fees



Identification of outstanding court debts and warrants: What do we encounter?



- Both open and closed matters
- Fines in various states of imposition/collection
- Outstanding warrants
- Difficulty obtaining clear picture

Identification of outstanding court debts and warrants: Why is this issue hidden?



- Legal needs survey failed to capture these legal needs
- As MLP service began, they become an abundantly clear barrier
- Perception of tickets and ordinance violations not being legal issues worth bringing up
- May have been actively using substances at the time
- Frequent moves mean difficulty receiving court mailings

A complex care approach to fines and fees

Mitigating fines and fees related housing barriers at the client level



Help clients assess, address, and prevent fines and fees issues

- Assisting clients in obtaining an accurate picture of open fines and fees and municipal matters
- Helping the client triage and schedule hearings
- Incorporating time payments into the client's budget and assessing ability to pay prior to hearings
- Supporting the client in accessing hearings, especially due to virtual court

A complex care approach to fines and fees

Mitigating fines and fees related housing barriers at the court level



Provide context to court staff, judges, and public defenders through written letters of support, documentation, or oral testimony

- Clearing outstanding warrants for failure to appear or pay without having to pay bail
- Mitigating the impact of charges on housing prospects or current housing situation prior to conviction by suggesting alternatives that do not jeopardize housing
- Explaining a client's progress and the posture of the case
- Providing creative suggestions for community service in lieu of fines and fees
- Use positive change in housing or other circumstances as evidence of unlikelihood of reoffending

A complex care approach to fines and fees

Mitigating fines and fees related housing barriers at the systemic level



Familiarize yourself with advocacy opportunities in your area/state

- Look for existing local efforts surrounding municipal court issues and fines and fees
- Raise up client voices to support existing advocacy efforts
- Build and strengthen cross-sector relationships to highlight the broad-reaching impact of fines and fees on complex patient-clients
- Look to leaders in fines and fees work for resources and support for your advocacy efforts

Thank you!

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GENERAL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



Ashley Maddison, JD

