



# USING LEGAL SERVICES AS PART OF A COMMUNITY STRATEGY TO IMPROVE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

National Center for Medical  Legal Partnership

AT THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

In collaboration with and gratitude to the medical-legal partnership teams at:

**Center for Children's Advocacy/Yale New Haven Children's Hospital and Georgetown University's  
Health Justice Alliance**

As a National Training and Technical Assistance Partner (NTTAP) to HRSA, it is our mission to provide timely and effective training and technical assistance to health centers and medical-legal partnership (MLP) teams. 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 totaling \$706,275.00 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](https://www.hrsa.gov).



## Using Legal Services As Part of a Community Strategy To Improve Maternal and Child Health

Dear Participants:

### *Welcome to our new NCMLP Learning Collaborative!*

As we know all too well, the United States has one of the highest maternal mortality rates among developed countries<sup>1</sup> and disparities in child health access and outcomes can have a cumulative impact on both health and social outcomes into adulthood<sup>2</sup>. The stakes are high and action must be taken now to improve maternal and child health. Medical-legal partnerships (MLPs) are uniquely positioned to equip communities with an evidence-based approach for integrating the expertise of lawyers to help improve the health of women, infants, and children.

With generous support from [HRSA](#), the [National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership](#) (NCMLP) is excited to offer a new learning collaborative (LC) for MLP practitioners to take action on their whole person care strategies for improving maternal and child health outcomes. In collaboration with the [Center for Children's Advocacy/Yale New Haven Children's Hospital](#) and [Georgetown University's Health Justice Alliance](#) serving as faculty and subject matter experts, NCMLP will convene a cohort of multidisciplinary staff from health centers, civil legal services organizations, MLPs at all stages of development or implementation, and other health care organizations to this four-part, interactive training opportunity. This LC is designed to help participants:

**increase their understanding of how to work together to address the social determinants of maternal and child health**

**&**

**improve their strategies and capacity to integrate legal services as part of their clinical practice to address maternal and child health social and legal needs.**

In each of the four sessions, to meet the overarching learning objectives, participants will consider specific aspects of establishing MLPs and will be given access to resources designed to increase learning about the impact of unmet legal needs on maternal and child health. The LC will bring together staff of civil legal services organizations and health centers to learn from each other and from LC faculty advisors. LC participants will be new to MLP or at varying stages of MLP implementation and will bring unique insights and varied experience with MLPs. The LC will use video-conferencing to promote peer exchange alongside teamwork. The curricula and content are designed to meet you where you are in your knowledge regarding MLP practice.

During this time of great uncertainty, it is critical that we come together across sectors to support the total health of our community members. We are thrilled to be working with you to improve maternal and child health and thank you all for participating in this collaborative learning experience.

Sincerely,  
The NCMLP Team and Learning Collaborative Faculty

***PS: Does your MLP's health care partner want to join the learning collaborative? Ask them to [REGISTER HERE](#) before Session 2. We will do our best to make space.***

<sup>1</sup> Kassebaum, N. , Bertozzi-Villa, A. , Coggeshall, M. , Shackelford, K. , Steiner, C. , Heuton, K. & Gonzalez-Medina, D. (2015). Global, Regional, and National Levels and Causes of Maternal Mortality During 1990-2013. *Obstetric Anesthesia Digest*, 35 (4), 196-197. doi: 10.1097/01.aoa.0000472714.57328.86.

<sup>2</sup> McKay, S., MD; Parente, V., MD, MPH. (2019). Health Disparities in the Hospitalized Child. *Hosp Pediatr* (2019) 9 (5): 317–325. <https://doi.org/10.1542/hpeds.2018-0223>.



## Welcome Packet

This Welcome Packet contains key information about the **structure** and **objectives** of the Learning Collaboratives, as well as some **resources** to support your learning. Information about the **faculty and coordinators** of this learning collaborative is also included for your reference.

Table of Contents:

- [Learning Collaborative Point of Contact](#)
- [Learning Objectives](#)
- [Structure of the Learning Collaborative](#)
- [Connecting with Learning Collaborative Peers](#)
- [Meet the Special Guests, Faculty, and NCMLP Team](#)
- [Resources](#)

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### Learning Collaborative Point of Contact

If you have general questions about this learning collaborative or need resources to help you better understand the MLP approach, please send an email to our point of contact:

- ★ **Danielle Rahajason**, MPH, Project Lead, National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership, [nrahajas@gwu.edu](mailto:nrahajas@gwu.edu)

### Learning Objectives

As a HRSA-funded training and technical assistance project, this Learning Collaborative seeks to help staff of health centers better understand how integration of legal services and the medical-legal partnership approach can help them address the social determinants of maternal and child health for their patients and communities. Staff of civil legal services organizations (including law schools) and other health care or community-based organizations are strongly encouraged to actively participate in this learning collaborative.

Through this learning collaborative, participants will:

- ★ **Understand how unmet legal needs can negatively impact maternal and child health outcomes**
- ★ **Collaborate across health and legal settings to develop strategies and plans** for integrating civil legal services, e.g, such as MLP activities, with your health center's maternal and child health priorities.
- ★ **Identify a priority focus area and resources**, such as screening or a policy intervention to improve maternal and child health outcomes in your communities in a sustainable way.
- ★ **Engage in continuous learning and improvement** by sharing lessons learned, challenges and questions with other participating teams and faculty.

### Structure of the Learning Collaborative

This is a four-session Learning Collaborative that will meet every other week on Thursdays. All meetings will be held on the Zoom meeting platform. We recommend that you download the [zoom application](#) for a more seamless experience.



During each session, participants will be guided by faculty through lessons and discussions that are designed to increase knowledge and capacity. Participants will also receive resources and be encouraged to connect with peers to support continued learning between sessions and after the event.

Participants at varying stages of MLP implementation will bring unique insights to the learning collaborative. The curricula and content are designed to meet you where you are in your knowledge regarding MLP practice. The schedule of sessions is as follows:

Learning Collaborative Schedule Using Legal Services As Part of a Community Health Strategy To Improve Maternal and Child Population Health		
Session Descriptions	Materials or Resource(s) for Session	Post-Attendance Survey
<b>Session 1: Kick-Off and Overview MCH &amp; MLP</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thursday, <b>March 3, 2022 at 2-3:30 PM EST</b> (90 minutes)</li> <li>Click this <a href="#">Zoom link</a> to join the session</li> <li><a href="#">Add Session 1 to Google Calendar</a></li> </ul>	Show up ready to meet with peers and faculty!	Complete after attending Session 1: <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H72F88C">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H72F88C</a>
<p>★ <b>Homework for Discussion in Session 2:</b> Check your email for a message from the NCMLP team with information about the intersession homework and any materials or resources for the <i>next</i> session.</p>		
<b>Session 2: Maternal Health MLP Case Study &amp; Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thursday, <b>March 17, 2022 at 2-3:00 PM EST</b> (60 minutes)</li> <li>Click this <a href="#">Zoom link</a> to join the session</li> <li><a href="#">Add Session 2 to Google Calendar</a></li> </ul>	<b>For Session 2, review the following:</b>  <b>Complete the homework questions</b> → Access it at: <a href="#">SurveyMonkey</a>  <b>See the case study shared via email.</b>  <b>Perinatal LAW Quarterly Report (Oct-Dec 2021)</b> → Access it: <a href="#">Georgetown Law HJA</a> .	Complete after attending Session 2: <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZFLLJZ9">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZFLLJZ9</a>
<p>★ <b>Homework for Discussion in Session 3:</b> Check your email for a message from the NCMLP team with information about the intersession homework and any materials or resources for the <i>next</i> session.</p>		
<b>Session 3: Child Health MLP Case Study &amp; Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thursday, <b>March 31, 2022 at 2-3:00 PM EST</b> (60 minutes)</li> <li>Click this <a href="#">Zoom link</a> to join the session</li> <li><a href="#">Add Session 3 to Google Calendar</a></li> <li>See the Breakout Room Assignment List (shared via email) and, when you log in to Zoom, <b>add your room number to your display name.</b></li> </ul>	<b>For Session 3, review the following:</b>  <b>Complete the SMART Goal Worksheet shared via email.</b>  <b>“Not In Our Silos”: Yale New Haven’s Pediatric Medical-Legal Partnership</b> → Access it at: <a href="#">Yale Daily News</a>  <b>Finding a Cure Through Law</b> → Access it at: <a href="#">Yale Law School</a>	Complete after attending Session 3: <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZFWB8DR">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZFWB8DR</a>
<p>★ <b>Homework for Discussion in Session 4:</b> Check your email for a message from the NCMLP team with information about the intersession homework and any materials or resources for the <i>next</i> session.</p>		
<b>Session 4: From Patients to Policy: Updates and Opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thursday, <b>April 14, 2022 at 2-3:00 PM EST</b> (60 minutes)</li> </ul>	Check your email for the Session 3 follow-up.	Complete after attending Session 4:



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Click this <a href="#">Zoom link</a> to join the session</li> <li><a href="#">Add Session 4 to Google Calendar</a></li> </ul>		<a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/56ZHLR">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/56ZHLR</a>
<p>★ <b>Event Wrap-Up:</b> Check your email for a message from the NCMLP team for final materials or resources and an event wrap-up message.</p>		

### Participant Expectations for this Learning Collaborative

Unlike webinars, learning collaboratives use a cohort model to convene a group of people with shared interests and goals for their learning experience. To achieve our learning objectives, all participants are expected to:



- ★ **Identify yourself** when you log into zoom. **Please use: “first name” “last name” “organization abbreviation”**
- ★ **Attend all four sessions** and **engage in the discussions** or activities
- ★ Spend about 30 minutes between sessions to **review any resources or homework for the next session**
- ★ **Share best practices, exchange resources, and disseminate lessons learned** with other participants as well as staff at your organizations or partnerships

### Connecting with Learning Collaborative Peers

The overarching goal of this Learning Collaborative is to support the ability of participants to foster strong multidisciplinary partnerships that enable the health and legal systems to better address the social and legal needs impacting maternal and child health. However, the participants in this Learning Collaborative will also gain a new cohort of peers that can provide ongoing support and partnership in tackling the complex topic of maternal and child health.

- ★ **To be added to the participant contact list, click [HERE](#).** If you have not already done so through the registration process, please let us know if you would like to share your contact information with other learning collaborative participants on a list to be shared via email by the NCMLP team after Sessions 2 and 4.

### Meet the Special Guests, Faculty, and NCMLP Team

Special Guests	
	<p><b>Kimà Joy Taylor, MD, MPH</b>  <b>Founder of Anka Consulting LLC; Urban Institute non-resident Fellow</b></p> <p><b>Background:</b> Her areas of expertise include identifying policy, programming and financing levers to: improve health and racial equity, integrate behavioral health, primary care, and social services, and support the system change necessary to embrace cost-effective holistic health care solutions.</p> <p>Connect with Kimà Joy Taylor at: <a href="mailto:kimataylor@ankaconsultingllc.com">kimataylor@ankaconsultingllc.com</a>.</p>
	<p><b>Funmi Makinde, MPH, CHES</b>  <b>Health Equity Research Analyst, AAMC</b></p> <p><b>Background:</b> Funmi is passionate about implementing programs, analyses, and policies that address barriers to equitable health for all through innovative systems change.</p>



Connect with Funmi Makinde at [omakinde@aamc.org](mailto:omakinde@aamc.org) and follow her work at: <https://www.aamchealthjustice.org/about-us/our-team/funmi-makinde-mph>

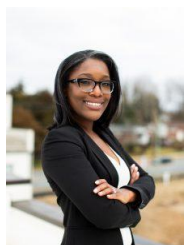
## Faculty



### Vicki Girard, JD

**Co-Director, Health Justice Alliance; Professor of Law, Legal Practice**

**Background:** Vicki Girard is the Founding Co-Director with Yael Cannon of the Georgetown University Health Justice Alliance and a Professor of Law, Legal Practice. Her interest in the intersections between law and medicine eventually led her to the medical-legal partnership model of healthcare.



### Roxana Richardson, JD

**MLP Director of the Health Justice Alliance's Perinatal Legal Assistance and Wellbeing (LAW) Project at MedStar Washington Hospital Center**

**Background:** As part of the Women's & Infants' Services (WIS) "Safe Babies Safe Moms" program, Roxy provides no-cost legal services to women facing issues that raise legal barriers to their efforts to achieve optimal health and well-being for themselves and their infants. In serving WIS patients, Roxy draws on expertise gained as an attorney serving over 300 diverse clients during her four years with the Health Law Partnership (HeLP), an MLP in Atlanta, Georgia, located in Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA) and included partnerships with local law and medical schools to address the socio-economic barriers affecting lower-income children and their families in order to improve their health and well-being. Roxy received her J.D. from Stetson University College of Law and her undergraduate degree from the Pennsylvania State University. She is currently admitted to the Georgia Bar and has a pending application with the DC Bar. She is fluent in French.






### Loral Patchen, PhD, MSN, MA, CNM



**Medical Champion, Perinatal LAW Project; Associate Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology; Medical Director, MedStar OB/GYN Specialty Center; Section Director, Midwifery at MedStar Washington Hospital Center (MWHC)**

**Background:** Dr. Patchen's clinical expertise includes reproductive and sexual health of adolescents and young adults, including direct clinical service at school based health centers. She is board certified by the American College of Nurse-Midwives, and she is fluent in Spanish as well as English. Her experience prior to joining MedStar Health includes service as a Peace Corps volunteer in Honduras and as a consultant for the World Bank. Dr. Patchen earned her PhD in Public Health Sciences in the Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health at Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University, where she also earned a master's degree in International Economics (Community Health). She has an additional master's degree in Nursing for Midwifery from Yale University.



	<p><b>Ada Fenick, MD, FAAP</b>  <b>Associate Professor of Pediatrics; Medical Director, School Based Health Centers; Editor, Yale Primary Care Pediatrics Curriculum; Associate Director for Pediatrics, Medical School Clerkship in Biopsychosocial Approach to Health; Medical Director, Medical-Legal Partnership Project</b></p> <p><b>Background:</b> After receiving undergraduate and medical school degrees from the University of Michigan and undergoing a categorical pediatric residency at Weill-Cornell/NY Medical Center, Dr. Fenick was in private practice for 6 years. Her practical experience is augmented by national and local work in education and educational scholarship. Dr. Fenick has been the co-editor of the Yale Primary Care Pediatrics Curriculum since its inception, and is now the associate director for Pediatrics in the primary care component of the Biopsychosocial Approach to Health, a third-year medical student core clerkship. She is also honored to serve as Medical Director for YNHH's School Based Health Centers, and as Medical Director for the Medical-Legal Partnership Project at YNHCH.</p> <p><b>Child Health Outcomes / SBHC</b></p>
	<p><b>Alice Rosenthal, JD</b>  <b>Adjunct Professor and Senior Staff Attorney with the Center for Children's Advocacy; Coordinator of the Medical-Legal Partnership Project (MLPP) at Yale New Haven Children's Hospital and the Yale School of Medicine.</b></p> <p><b>Background:</b> Alice represents children and families on legal issues affecting their health and well-being, such as housing, public benefits, healthcare access, and education. The MLPP also provides extensive education opportunities for learners through YSM, both in class and experiential. Alice has always been committed to social justice work, since growing up in the City of New Haven. Prior to working at the Center for Children's Advocacy, she worked as an education law attorney at Advocates for Children of New York; the Center for Court Innovation; and Good Shepherd Services of New York.</p> <p><a href="#">Alice Rosenthal Archives - Center for Children's Advocacy</a></p> <p><b>Child Health Outcomes / SBHC</b></p>
<b>NCMLP Team</b>	
	<p><b>Bethany Hamilton, JD</b>  <b>Co-Director, National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership          Professorial Lecturer of Health Policy and Management at The George Washington University</b></p> <p><b>Background:</b> Bethany Hamilton is the Co-Director of NCMLP. Her focus is the intersection of health equity and social justice. Hamilton has spent her career working at the intersection of health equity and social justice. Prior to joining the NCMLP team, she served as Deputy Director, State Affairs at the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) and served as an Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Legal Fellow at Legal Assistance of Western NY. As a former member of NCMLP's Advisory Council from 2014-2019, she served as a bridge between the two sectors and was part of the team that oversaw NCMLP's transition to become a federally-funded technical assistance hub for health centers.</p>



	<p><b>Danielle Rahajason, MPH</b>  <b>Project Lead, National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership</b></p> <p><b>Background:</b> Danielle develops and delivers training and technical assistance in partnership with national health, public health and social service organizations and oversees medical-legal partnership program activities.</p>
	<p><b>Katherine Stinton, MS</b>  <b>Communications Associate, National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership</b></p> <p><b>Background:</b> Katherine Nau Stinton earned her MS in Marketing from American University and her BA in English with a minor in Art from Washington College. She has used her expertise in photography, graphic design, and writing to create content in the nonprofit and retail industries. She also has experience building comprehensive visual identities for businesses. Katherine is interested in the intersection of the arts and marketing as well as utilizing her skillset to promote positive societal change.</p>

## Resources

This Learning Collaborative is primarily designed for staff of health centers, MLPs and legal aid organizations who are seeking to improve maternal and child health outcomes in their communities. To gain a deeper understanding of the topics covered, we invite you to review the following reading materials at your convenience:



### **Addressing Social Determinants of Health Through Medical-Legal Partnerships**

Authors: Regensteine, Trott, Williamson, and Theiss

2018, Health Affairs (free access)

URL: <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/pdf/10.1377/hlthaff.2017.1264>



### **Toolkit: A planning, implementation, and practice guide for building and sustaining a health center-based MLP**

October 2020, NCMLP (free resource)

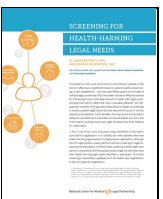
URL: <https://medical-legalpartnership.org/mlp-resources/health-center-toolkit/>



### **Fact sheet: Using health center needs assessments to address legal needs**

2016, NCMLP (free resource)

URL: <https://medical-legalpartnership.org/mlp-resources/needs-assessments/>



### **Brief: Screening for health-harming legal needs**

2016, NCMLP (free resource)

URL: <https://medical-legalpartnership.org/mlp-resources/screening-brief/>





### **Policy Opportunities To Improve Prevention, Diagnosis, And Treatment Of Perinatal Mental Health Conditions**

Authors: Moore, McLemore, Glenn, and Zivin

October 2021, Health Affairs (free access)

Found at: <https://doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2021.00779>



### **Medical-Legal Partnerships: Supporting the Legal Needs of Women in Their Perinatal Care**

Authors: Gutierrez, Saleeby, Celaya, Clouse, Hoffman, and Kornberg

May 2020, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (subscription or purchase required)

Found at: <https://oce.ovid.com/article/00006250-202005001-00223/HTML>



### **Reducing the Justice Gap and Improving Health through Medical-Legal Partnerships**

Authors: Keene, Murillo, Benfer, Rosenthal & Fenick

November 2020, Journal of Legal Medicine (subscription or purchase required)

Found at: <https://doi.org/10.1080/01947648.2020.1816233>



### **The Impact of a Pediatric Medical-Legal Partnership on Pediatric Providers.**

Authors: Murillo, Rosenthal, Fenick, Keene

TAcad Pediatrics. 2021.

Found at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acap.2021.06.015>



### **What can P-LAW Help With - Screening Chart**

Author: Georgetown University Health Justice Alliance  
Shared via Email



### **Reductions In Hospitalizations Among Children Referred To A Primary Care-Based Medical-Legal Partnership**

Authors: Beck, Henize, Qiu, Huang, Zhang, Klein, Parrish, Fink, Kahn

2022, Health Affairs

Found at: <https://doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2021.00905>



5 questions with Dr. Eric Elbogen about the links between social determinants and suicide attempts

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2021

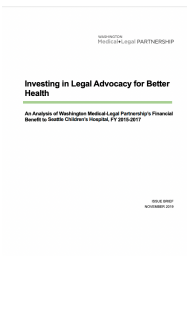
Eric Elbogen, PhD is a Professor in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Duke University School of Medicine whose research looks at the connections between social determinants and mental health problems and suicide risk. In this 5 questions interview, he discusses his latest study examining the links between financial well-being and suicide attempts (E&M). After you watch, scroll down for links to some of Dr. Elbogen's research.



5 questions with Dr. Eric Elbogen about the links between social determinants and suicide attempts

2021, NCMLP

Found at: <https://medical-legalpartnership.org/5-questions-with-eric-elbogen/>

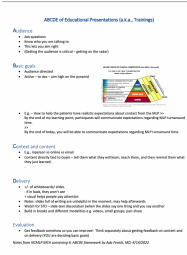


Investing in Legal Advocacy for Better Health: An Analysis of Washington Medical-Legal Partnership's Financial Benefit to Seattle Children's Hospital, FY 2015-2017

Washington Medical-Legal Partnership

Found at:

<https://washingtonmlp.org/our-impact/resources-for-legal-information-and-help/>



ABCDE of Educational Presentations (a.k.a. Trainings)

Author: Fenick

Shared via Email

Thank you to HRSA/BPHC, our special guests, faculty, and learning collaborative participants from around the country for taking part in this important initiative to improve maternal and child health.



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