

National Center for Medical  Legal Partnership
AT THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

USING LEGAL SERVICES
AS PART OF A
COMMUNITY STRATEGY
TO IMPROVE
MATERNAL HEALTH IN HEALTH
CENTERS



March 1, 2023
1-2:30 PM ET

March 8, 2023
1-2:30 PM ET

March 15, 2023
1-2:30 PM ET

March 22, 2023
1-2:30 PM ET

Welcome Packet

National Center for Medical  Legal Partnership
AT THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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



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 \$625,000 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 Health in Health Centers

Dear MLP Practitioners:

Welcome to NCMLP's 2023 Learning Collaborative for MLPs Addressing Maternal Health!

With generous support from [HRSA](#), the [National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership](#) (NCMLP) is excited to reconvene a learning collaborative (LC) to help health centers and civil legal services staff improve how they use the medical-legal partnership (MLP) approach to improve maternal health outcomes.

This LC will provide an opportunity for participants at varying stages of MLP implementation to develop and improve their strategies and capacity to integrate legal services as part of their clinical practice to address maternal health-related social and legal needs. The curricula and content are designed to meet you where you are in your knowledge regarding MLP practice. In each of the four sessions, participants will consider specific aspects of establishing an MLP that focuses on maternal health, and are encouraged to share best practices as well as challenges along the way.

Participants will have access to resources, network with peers, and receive guidance from LC faculty with expertise in MLP and maternal health. Faculty are subject matter experts from [Texas Advocacy Project, Inc.](#), [Mental Health Advocacy Services, Inc.](#), [Legal Assistance of Western NY \(LawNY\)](#), and [Georgetown University Health Justice Alliance](#).

We are thrilled to be working with you to improve maternal health, and thank you all for participating in this collaborative learning experience.

Sincerely,

The NCMLP Team and Learning Collaborative Faculty



Welcome Packet

This Welcome Packet contains key information about the **structure** and **objectives** of the Learning Collaborative, 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](#)
-

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:

★ NCMLP team, ncmlp@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 health for their patients and communities. Health center staff and those 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 MLPs and their role in maternal health
- ★ Understand how to detect and address unmet legal needs that negatively impact maternal health outcomes

Using Legal Services as Part of a Community Strategy To Improve Maternal Health in Health Centers,
March 2023, NCMLP Learning Collaborative
Welcome Packet (022823)



- ★ Develop strategies to collaborate across health and legal settings for integrating civil legal services, e.g., such as MLP activities, with your health center's maternal priorities.

Structure of the Learning Collaborative

This is a four-session Learning Collaborative that will meet every other week on Wednesdays throughout the month of March, 2023. 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.

The schedule of sessions is as follows:

Using Legal Services As Part of a Community Strategy To Improve Maternal Health in Health Centers	
Session Descriptions	Post-Session Survey
Session 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kick-Off, Overview Maternal Health & MLP ● Discussion of MLP model: Maternal health and patients who are experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. ● Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 1-2:30 PM EST ● Join Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89421614516 	https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GRSLRNT
Session 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overview of and Discussion of MLP model: Nurse-Family Partnership serving low income people of color with mental health disabilities during and after their pregnancy ● Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 1-2:30 PM EST ● Join Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89421614516 ● MHAS report (to be shared electronically before session 2) 	https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GT23WVF



Session 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overview and Discussion of MLP model: Maternal MLP in a rural setting ● Wednesday, March 15, 2022 at 1-2:30 PM EST ● Join Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89421614516 	https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9NSXSKG
Session 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overview and Discussion of MLP model: Academic MLP ● Wednesday, March 22, 2022 at 1-2:30 PM EST ● Join Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89421614516 ● Perinatal LAW Dashboard July - Sep 2022 Report 	https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9NZ3935
★ Event Wrap-Up: Check your email for a message from the NCMLP team for final materials or resources and an event wrap-up message.	

Participant Expectations for this Learning Collaborative

Learning collaboratives use a cohort model to convene a group of people with shared interests and goals for an interactive 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
- ★ **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 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 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.



Meet the Special Guests, Faculty, and NCMLP Team

Special Guest



John Richards

Executive Director for the National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health (NCEMCH)

Background: Mr. Richards serves as Executive Director for the National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health (NCEMCH) (<http://ncemch.org>), a national resource and training center within the Health Policy Institute of the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University and as *Lead for the Health Information Group* (<http://healthinfogroup.org>) that develops data-driven public health training sites and coordinates technology among the university's main, law, and medical campuses.

He currently serves as Principal Investigator (PI) for Strengthen the Evidence for MCH Programs (<http://mchevidence.org>) the MCH Navigator (<http://mchnavigator.org>), the HealthCheck Training and Resource Center (<http://dchealthcheck.net>), and Modernizing the Nation's Public Health Training Delivery System. He has led development of a wide range of federally-funded distance learning projects: (1) Well-Child Care: A Bright Futures Curriculum for Pediatric Providers; (2) Promoting Healthy Mental Development: An Online Curriculum; (3) Addressing Mental Health Concerns; (4) Around the Table: Addressing Healthy Weight through Culture and Food; and (5) Safe Sleep Learning Site. These online curricula form the basis of the Health Information Learning Lab website (<http://healthinfolearninglab.org>).

Connect with John Richards at jrichards@georgetown.edu

Faculty



Vicki Girard, JD

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

Background: Vicki W. Girard is the Faculty Director of the Georgetown University Health Justice Alliance and Professor of Law, Legal Practice. Professor Girard joined the Law Center after more than a decade of representing cosmetic, pharmaceutical, biotech, and tissue companies in FDA-related proceedings and other regulatory and policy matters. At Georgetown, her interest in the intersection of health and law led her to embrace medical-legal partnership as a model for addressing the health-harming legal needs of vulnerable populations. Recognizing the opportunity to expand the Law Center's direct legal services in D.C. and to provide a transformative educational experience for medical, nursing, and law students, she Co-Founded the Health Justice Alliance in the Fall of 2016. In her current role, she works across the University and with MedStar Health to expand and support MLPs aimed at reducing health disparities.

Professor Girard is a Council member of the National Board of Medical Examiners, a Member of the Community Advisory Council for Lombardi Cancer Center/Georgetown Office of Minority Health, and serves on the Steering Committee for MedStar Health Safe Babies Safe Moms.



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 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.



	<p>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)</p> <p>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>
	<p>Amanda Elkanick Oder Vice President of Outreach and Advocacy at Texas Advocacy Project, Inc.</p> <p>Background: Amanda Elkanick Oder is currently the Vice President of Advocacy and Outreach with Texas Advocacy Project, a statewide non-profit offering free legal and social services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, human trafficking, and child abuse. Mrs. Oder is a qualified expert and provides expert testimony in domestic violence, strangulation, stalking, and human trafficking cases. She has been working with survivors for the past 16 years in varying roles; such as advocate, program director, and policy analyst. These varying positions have brought an invaluable perspective to her statewide and national work. She has served on statewide and national task forces, community planning groups, and committees that are centered on ending intimate partner violence, sexual assault University, and human trafficking. Ms. Oder graduated from Sam Houston State with a B.S. in Psychology and Criminal Justice in 2010.</p>



Bronwyn Blake

Chief Legal Officer at Texas Advocacy Project, Inc.

Background: Bronwyn Blake, UT Law '05, is the Chief Legal Officer of the Texas Advocacy Project and the Founder of their Teen Justice Initiative, a program that advocates for teen victims of dating violence. Blake was awarded the first UT Faculty Fellowship in Public Interest Law from the William Wayne Justice Center to start this valuable work. In 2016, Blake was awarded the Texas Access to Justice Commission's James B. Sales Boots on the Ground Award for her legal services work. She is also a graduate of Leadership Austin's Emerge Program for young leaders and the former President of the Young Women's Alliance, a professional organization in Austin, Texas. She has served as an officer on the board of Girlstart, an organization that empowers girls in science, technology, engineering, and math and as the President of the Balcones Hills Women's Club, the oldest neighborhood association in Austin. She is an adjunct professor at UT Law teaching "Domestic Violence and the Law."



Courtney Mendoza

Staff Attorney at Mental Health Advocacy Services, Inc.

Background: Courtney Mendoza (USC Gould School of Law '20) is a former Equal Justice Works Fellow and current staff attorney at Mental Health Advocacy Services in Los Angeles, CA. Her maternal mental health medical-legal partnership (created through an Equal Justice Works Fellowship funded from 2020-2022) empowers low-income pregnant and postpartum people with mental health disabilities through direct legal services, know-your-rights trainings, and policy advocacy to foster health, housing, and family stability. The project helps ameliorate the social determinants of health that contribute to the racial disparities of infant and maternal mortality, pre-term births, and mental health disabilities experienced by low-income people of color across Los Angeles County. The project's outcomes and successes have helped secure funding to continue the project beyond the fellowship term, and MHAS hopes it will become one of their core service programs.



Nola Booth

Skadden Fellow at Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc. (LawNY)

Background: Nola Booth is a Skadden Fellow at Legal Assistance of Western New York (LawNY)'s Ithaca office. Nola's fellowship project expands LawNY's existing Medical Legal Partnership (MLP) project, Finger Lakes Legal Care (FLLC), to develop a perinatal MLP in upstate New York. As the Ithaca MLP advocate, Nola works with Cayuga Medical Center, local healthcare workers, and area social services providers to offer free civil legal services to new parents, expecting parents, and parents of children under the age of five.

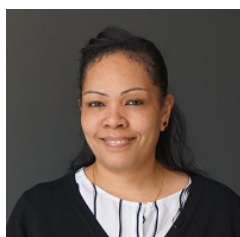
Nola graduated *summa cum laude* from Cornell Law School in 2022 and is pending bar admission in New York. In her time at Cornell she received the Ari J. Diaconis Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Civil Procedure, the Boardman Prize for the Class of 2022, and the Freeman Award for Civil-Human Rights. She also worked for Cornell's Labor Law Clinic, and for LawNY as an extern in eviction prevention, legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, and public benefits. She is passionate about perinatal health and access to justice, and supports the provision of preventative legal services to families. In her spare time, Nola is mom to a one-year-old, four-year-old, and a fourteen-year-old.

NCMLP Team

Email: ncmlp@gwu.edu



Bethany Hamilton, JD
Co-Director



Danielle Rahajason, MPH
Project Lead



Rehapriadarsini Manikandasamy, MS
Senior Research Assistant



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:

[*Social disadvantage and its effect on maternal and newborn health*](#) 2021 Seminars in Perinatology

[*Using Legal Services as Part of a Community Strategy to Improve Maternal and Child Health*](#) 2022 Learning Collaborative, NCMLP

[*Addressing Social Determinants of Health Through Medical-Legal Partnerships*](#) 2018, Health Affairs

[*Toolkit: A planning, implementation, and practice guide for building and sustaining a health center-based MLP*](#) 2020, NCMLP

[*Fact sheet: Using health center needs assessments to address legal needs*](#) 2016, NCMLP

[*Brief: Screening for health-harming legal needs*](#) 2016, NCMLP

[*Policy Opportunities To Improve Prevention, Diagnosis, And Treatment Of Perinatal Mental Health Conditions*](#) 2021, Health Affairs

[*Medical-Legal Partnerships: Supporting the Legal Needs of Women in Their Perinatal Care*](#) 2020, ACOG (subscription or purchase required)

[*Reducing the Justice Gap and Improving Health through Medical-Legal Partnerships*](#) 2020, Journal of Legal Medicine (subscription or purchase required)

[*Racial Disparities in Maternal and Infant Health: Current Status and Efforts to Address Them*](#) 2022, Kaiser Family Foundation

What can P-LAW Help With - Screening Chart Georgetown University Health Justice Alliance (To be shared in-session)

[*Healthy Women, Health Pregnancies, Healthy Futures: Summary of the U.S> Department of Health and Human Services' Action Plan to Improve Maternal Health in America*](#) 2022, HHS

Using Legal Services as Part of a Community Strategy To Improve Maternal Health in Health Centers,
March 2023, NCMLP Learning Collaborative

Welcome Packet (022823)



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 health.