

# Healthcare Legal Partnerships: Advancing Health Equity



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# Objectives

After this session, participants will be able to:

- \* Define Healthcare Legal Partnerships (HLPs)
- \* Explain the need for HLPs
- \* List examples of Minnesota HLPs
- \* Cite HLP impact
- \* Describe early steps to start an HLP

# Outline

Overview: Eileen

UM/CUHCC & Stinson Leonard Street – National Pioneer: Colleen

How to Start an HLP: Eileen and Karen

Questions: YOU

# HLP Definition

Integrated, embedded lawyers and paralegals alongside health care teams to detect, address and prevent health harming social conditions for people and communities; different from usual referral

Train

Treat

Transform

Prevent

# Healthcare Legal Partnerships

(ELSEWHERE CALLED MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS)

## MLPs help patients with I-HELP® issues



Income supports &  
Insurance



Legal status



Housing & utilities



Personal & family  
stability



Employment & Education

# HLP Growth in U.S.: 41 States

Hospitals	Health Centers	Health Schools	Legal Aid Agencies	Law Schools	Pro Bono Partners
155	139	34	126	52	64

<http://www.medical-legalpartnership.org/partnerships/>

# Need

Why doctors are prescribing legal aid for patients in need (PBS, 2015) 8:06

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKVFHwjWih8>

Every low income person has on average 2 – 3 health-harming legal needs = 50 million people in U.S.

1 in 6 people needs legal help to be healthy.

([www.medical-legalpartnership.org](http://www.medical-legalpartnership.org))

# Medicine is often not enough

Housing is the best pill.

Jeffrey Brenner, MD, Executive Director

Camden (NJ) Coalition of Healthcare Providers

\* Hotspotting

National Center for Complex Health and Social Needs

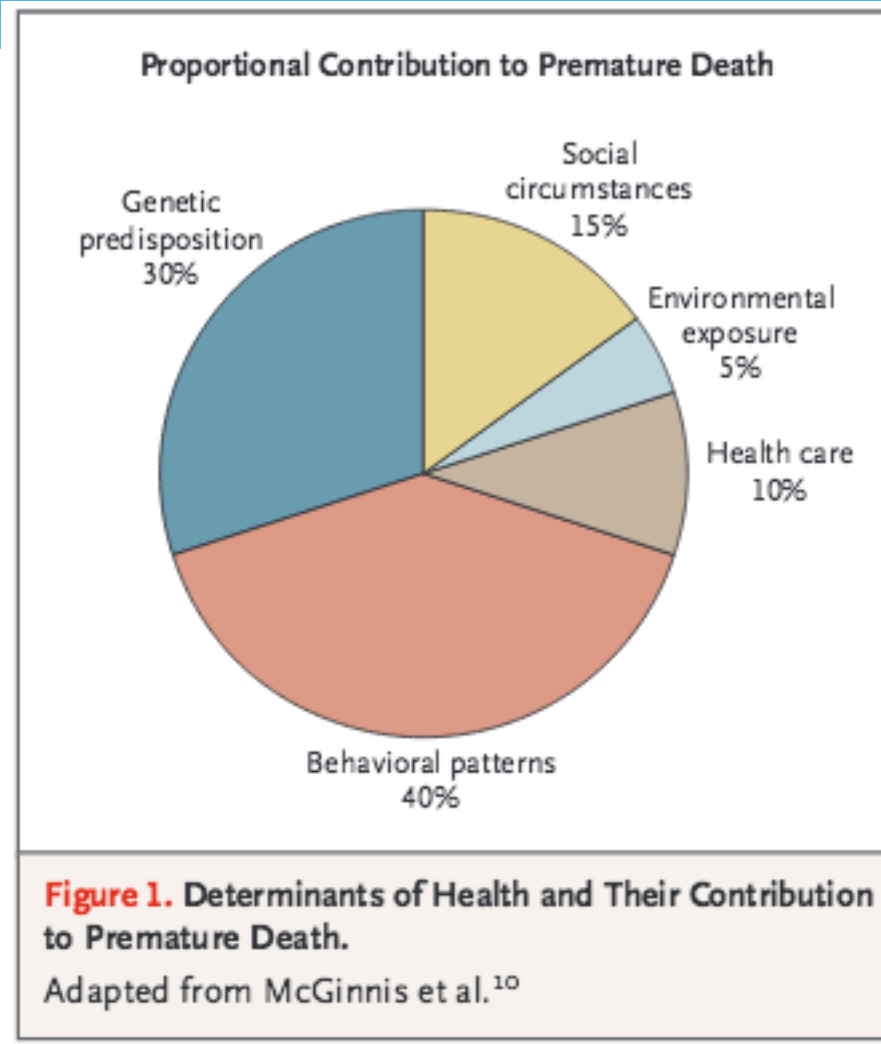
“We understand that health is created by much more than just good medical care.”

Cover letter on health disparities report to MN Legislature signed by 24 MN state commissioners.

*Advancing Health Equity, Feb. 1, 2014*



# Proportional Contribution to premature Death Graph



# HLPs: “Treat” Negative Social Determinants of Health

The conditions and circumstances in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age. These circumstances are shaped by a set of forces beyond the control of the individual: economics and the distribution of money, power, social policies, and politics at the global, national, state, and local levels.

➤ WHO and CDC (adapted)

# Minnesota HLPs

Community-University Health Care Center (CUHCC)

4 funded by Blue Cross Blue Shield of MN Foundation

- \* Open Door Health Center & So. MN Regional Legal Services
- \* Northern Dental Access Center & Legal Services of NW MN
- \* United Family Medicine & Mitchell Hamline Law School
- \* CentraCare Health System & Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid (2)

Phillips Neighborhood Clinic & UM Law School

Cancer Legal Line & UM Blood and Marrow Transplant Unit

Immigration Law Center of MN & clinics in Worthington,  
Moorhead

People's Health Center & private attorneys

HCMC/Whittier Clinic & Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid

# Deinard Legal Clinic – An HLP Pioneer

## A Partnership Between Stinson, Leonard, Street & Community-University Health Care Center

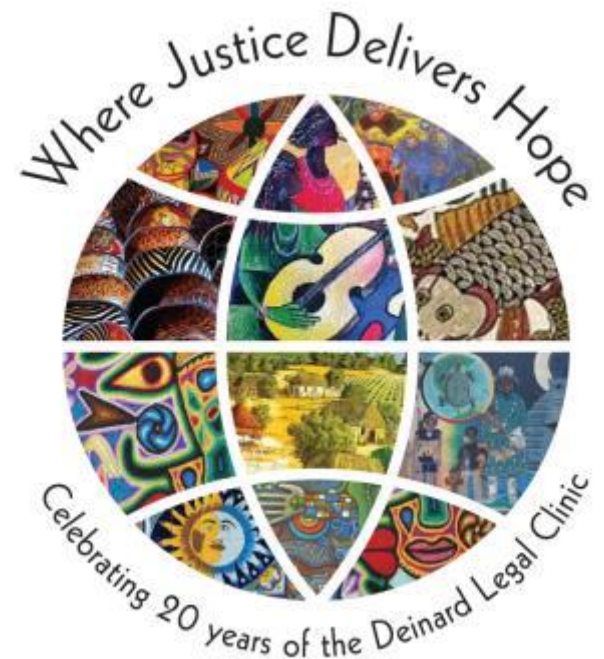
The first health law partnership in the country,  
an exemplary private legal and FQHC relationship

Served more than **3,000 clients** from more  
than **56 countries** around the world

Provided more than **102,220 hours** of service

Donated over **\$21 million** in legal services to  
the community

**ABA Pro Bono Publico Award (2013)**



# Deinard Legal Clinic

The legal clinic is embedded at CUHCC, and addresses socio-economic determinants of health that affect our patients' outcomes and quality of life.

## Services include:

- \* Family law
- \* Housing
- \* Immigration
- \* Application for government benefits such as disability



# Changing Lives

*Contacting a landlord and the City Housing Inspector on behalf of a family whose child made numerous visits to the Emergency Room for asthma exacerbated by the unabated mold in their home.*

*Representing a Hmong woman who survived domestic abuse to seek and obtain child support and legal custody of the children from her former spouse.*

*Working with a case manager to help a Somali client with major mental illness who was previously denied for disability to successfully file and receive approval for benefits.*



# HLP Impact

91% fewer adult asthma ED visits

\$2 million in Social Security benefits

Better maternal-child outcomes

Reduced child abuse

Fewer missed appointments

Improved cancer treatment adherence

Better advocates for selves, able to discuss with MDs

Beeson, T., McAllister, B.D., & Regenstein, M. (2013).

Zuckerman, B. (2014).

# Legal Aid HCMC Whittier Clinic

(2015 4:07)

\* [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1tulK\\_LBJE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1tulK_LBJE)



# Provider Benefit

## Examples

\$1 million recovered in previously denied claims for cancer treatment

319% ROI > 3 years for healthcare provider of an Illinois HLP

\$4 million to pay healthcare debts

Beeson, T., McAllister, B.D., & Regenstein, M. (2013).

# Starting an HLP

## The Medical-Legal Partnership Toolkit

### Phase I: Laying the Groundwork

Updated February 2014



# Assessment

National Center for Medical  Legal Partnership

AT THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Using Health Center Needs Assessments to  
Understand and Meet Patients' Health-Harming Civil Legal Need

**How Civil Legal Needs Affect the Health  
and Health Care Utilization of Health Centers**

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# Starting Your HLP

- \* Review toolkit from national center
- \* Start with community assessment
- \* Assess your patient panels
- \* Engage partners, legal capacity and expertise
- \* Possible funding: philanthropy, equal justice works, CHNAs
- \* SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)
- \* Join the (free) HLP Learning Collaborative (email Weber)
  - \* growing regional expertise shared
- \* Participate in stakeholder analysis currently in process
- \* Participate in June 1, 2017, “From Aim to Impact” conference in St. Paul

# Community Benefit & the ACA

(2015 30:06)

- \* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3lJKi4BsZs>
- \* [At the 2015 Medical-Legal Partnership Summit, Maureen Byrnes, offers a primer on the community benefit requirements of tax-exempt hospitals and how medical-legal partnership can meet those needs. Maureen Byrnes is a lead research scientist in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the George Washington University.](#)

# Poverty is Our Cancer

(2015) (2:15)

- \* [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_OGEl3rhcgo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_OGEl3rhcgo)
- \* [Dr. Robert Needlman, a pediatrician at MetroHealth Medical Center and Professor of Pediatrics, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, explains why he prefers to practice medicine with a legal aid lawyer by his side.](#)

**"Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane." - Martin Luther King, Jr.**



# Resources (others on slides)

Beeson, T., McAllister, B.D., & Regenstein, M. (2013). Making the case for medical-legal partnerships: A review of the evidence. *National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership*. Washington, DC: George Washington University.

McGinnis, J. M., Williams-Russo, P., & Knickman, J.R. (2002). The case for more active policy attention to health promotion. *Health Affairs* 21(2), 78-93. doi: 10.1377/hlthaff.21.2.78

Morton, L., Taras, H., & Reznik, V. (2008). Encouraging physician-attorney collaboration through more explicit professional standards. *29 Hamline Journal of Public Law and Policy* 317. St. Paul, MN: Hamline University.

National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership. Toolkit, research, and many resources. <http://www.medical-legalpartnership.org>

Peterson-Hickey, M. & Ayers, J. (2014). Advancing Health Equity in Minnesota. MN Dept. of Health. [http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/healthequity/ahe\\_leg\\_report\\_020414.pdf](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/healthequity/ahe_leg_report_020414.pdf)

Tyler, E.T., Lawton, E., Conroy, K., Sandel, M. Zuckerman, B. (2011). *Poverty, Health and Law: Readings and Cases for Medical-Legal Partnership*. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press

Weber, E. & Polkey, B. (2016). Nurses' roles in healthcare legal partnerships. *International J of Partnership Studies*, 3(1) article 3. <http://pubs.lib.umn.edu/ijps/vol3/iss1/3>

Weber, E. & Polkey, B. (2015). Building a healthcare legal partnership learning collaborative. *Creative Nursing*, 21:3, 144-149. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1891/1078-4535.21.3.144>

Zuckerman, B. (2014). Provider-lawyer partnerships increase access to health-related legal services and improve well-being for low-income children and families. *AHRQ Health Care Innovations Exchange*. <http://www.innovations.ahrq.gov/content.aspx?id=2412>





**THANK YOU!!!**

# For More Information

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# Determinants of Health

factors that contribute to the social patterning of health, disease, and illness

