



MLPB

ADVANCING HEALTH THROUGH JUSTICE

April 2020

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Recently published in *Health Affairs*:

**Housing Intervention For Medically Complex Families
Associated With Improved Family Health:
Pilot Randomized Trial**

From 2016-2019, MLPB provided legal support to the [*Housing Prescriptions as Health Care*](#) innovation team, led by [Children's HealthWatch](#) at [Boston Medical Center](#). Initial results from this study were **[published this month in *Health Affairs*](#)**:

- 6-month data analysis "showed decreases in the share of children in fair or poor health and in average anxiety and depression scores among parents in the intervention group, relative to the control group."
- "Findings suggest that a population-specific model that integrates health, housing, legal, and social services can improve health-related outcomes at the household level."

More findings will follow as additional data is analyzed. In the meantime, *thank you*

to [The Boston Foundation](#) and our colleagues at [Children's HealthWatch](#), the [Boston Housing Authority](#), [Nuestra Comunidad Development Corporation](#), and [Project HOPE](#) for making this family-centered learning possible!



Hear an Echo?

Check out this excerpted "[Key Message](#)" from a [Sep. 2019 National Academy of Sciences Consensus Study Report](#) entitled *Integrating Social Care into the Delivery of Health Care: Moving Upstream to Improve the Nation's Health*. When describing "an appropriately staffed and trained workforce," the report observes:

- "Interprofessional health care teams should include experts in social care. These teams may include nurses; nurse practitioners; physicians; **social workers; community health workers; social service navigators**, aides, and assistants; trained volunteers; home health aides; personal care aides; **family caregivers; case managers**; gerontologists; **lawyers**; and others." (*emphasis added*)
- "These interprofessional team members should operate at their full scope of practice. **Federal, state, and institutional barriers limit the scope of practice and the full use** of social workers and other social care workers in caring for patients." (*emphasis added*)



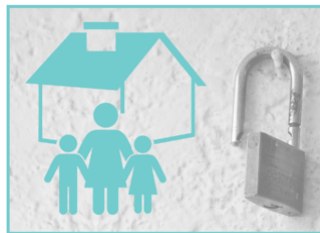
A growing evidence base supports these recommendations for transdisciplinary teams that include legal problem-solving expertise! And [Housing Prescriptions](#) offers a critical blueprint for putting this theory into practice in partnership with families with young children -- and in ways that resonate with MLPB's experience with [DULCE!](#)



Committed to *Unlocking Access*? Join us for:
Old or New, "Normal" Hasn't Cut It:
Innovative Strategies to Promote Housing Stability
Among Families with Young Children

MLPB's *Spring (BYO) Breakfast* on May 13!

Want to learn more about innovations that promote housing stability among families with young children? On **Wednesday, May 13 from 9:30-11am**, MLPB will host a virtual dialogue on this critical topic and release a new *Unlocking Access* report.



Register Now!



MLPB's Digital Digest

Newly updated [Federal](#), [MA](#), and [RI](#) pages!

On March 24, 2020, MLPB launched a [Digital Digest](#) that translates key developments at the intersection of COVID-19, meeting people's health-related social needs (HRSN), and a head-spinning law and public policy environment. Updated regularly, the Digest **now includes a new federal section** in addition to comprehensive coverage of MA and RI. Let us know what you think!

*Want to see your state reflected in this *go-to* tool
for health ecosystem workforces?*

Contact MLPB's Content Lead, Franny Zhang,
at fzhang@mlpboston.org.



... to our new Partnership Manager, Jeff Gilbert!

Jeff Gilbert is a long-time champion of sustainable food systems and health equity and will be refining and strengthening MLPB's partnership operations. To see Jeff's full bio, head to our [Team Members](#) page!



Housing Instability

- [Housing as a Prescription for Health, Now and in the Future](#) (*Health Affairs*, 4/21/2020)
- [Health and Housing Consortia: Responding to COVID-19 Through Cross-Sector Learning and Collaboration](#) (*Health Affairs*, 4/21/2020)
- [Baker signs bill blocking evictions during coronavirus crisis](#) (*The Boston Globe*, 4/20/2020)
- [COVID-19 Housing Policy Scorecard](#) (Eviction Lab, Apr. 2020)

Utility Needs

- [LIVE: Utilities that have and have not suspended disconnects amid COVID-19](#) (*Energy and Policy Institute*, 4/13/2020)
- [COVID-19 makes clear energy and water are public goods](#) (*The Hill*, 3/27/2020)

Food Insecurity

- [Food Insecurity Strains Safety Nets as Outlook Worsens](#) (*ecoRI News*, 4/11/2020)
- [Federal Emergency Food Security Measures in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (*Network for Public Health Law*, Mar. 2020)

Transportation Needs

- [Public Transit Cuts Hurt 'Essential' Workers Who Need It Most](#) (*Wired*, 3/30/2020)

Interpersonal Violence

- [Home is a perilous place for some Californians during coronavirus pandemic](#) (*CalMatters*, 4/16/2020)
- [Some cities see jumps in domestic violence during the pandemic](#) (*CNN*, 4/4/2020)
- [Coronavirus Isolation May Heighten Risk for Elder Abuse](#) (*American Bar Association*, 3/26/2020)

Immigration Status & Health

- [In The Age Of Coronavirus, Restrictive Immigration Policies Pose A Serious Public Health Threat](#) (*Health Affairs*, 4/18/2020)

Early Childhood

- [Child Care Subsidies: Supporting Work And Child Development For Healthy Families](#) (*Health Affairs*, 4/13/2020)

Health Inequities

- [How Can We Protect the Health of Justice-Involved Populations During the COVID-19 Pandemic? Decarceration and Timely Access to Medicaid are Essential](#) (*Health Affairs*, 4/20/2020)
- [The “Father of Environmental Justice” on Why He Isn’t Surprised by COVID-19 Health Disparities](#) (*TexasMonthly*, 4/17/2020)
- [Protecting Decarcerated Populations In The Era of COVID-19: Priorities For Emergency Discharge Planning](#) (*Health Affairs*, 4/13/2020)
- [Health Justice Strategies To Combat COVID-19: Protecting Vulnerable Communities During A Pandemic](#) (*Health Affairs*, 3/19/2020)

MLPB believes in the power of justice to advance health. We equip health ecosystem teams with problem-solving strategies that disrupt the evolution of a person's social, economic, or environmental need into a legal — and health — crisis.

Through robust training and technical assistance, we help workforce partners understand their unique capacities to *unlock access* to a range of health-promoting benefits, services, and legal protections — thereby advancing health equity.

MLPB is a fiscally sponsored program of [TSNE MissionWorks](#).

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