



MLPB

ADVANCING HEALTH
THROUGH JUSTICE

January 2021

Dear colleagues,

This month many tectonic plates shifted. [Some of those shifts](#) are creating new opportunities to promote *Whole Person, Whole Family, Whole Community* health and wellbeing. [Other events](#) reinforce how much foundational work remains to be done.

At this moment, MLPB is especially honored to partner with leading-edge [communities of care](#) who recognize that comprehensive, human-centered care must be continuously informed by families' legal rights, risks and remedies. There can be no meaningful progress on health equity absent systematic attention to the legal environments — *both visible and invisible* — that impact individuals, families and populations.

Thank you to our partners for embracing legal education and problem-solving as a core health promotion strategy — and for recognizing that access to justice transcends sectoral silos. [We all are part of the access to justice community.](#)

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Samantha Morton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Samantha Morton



In Other News: Questions about how ongoing, seismic changes in federal law and policy impact the people you serve? Visit MLPB's [Digital Digest](#) for curated information on evolving resources, benefits, and legal protections.

READ ALL ABOUT IT

- **New blog!** In a recent [CSSP](#) blog, Samantha Morton joins [DULCE Learning Network](#) colleagues from [Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County](#) and [Vermont Legal Aid](#) in sharing thoughts on how **Legal Partnering is a Dose of Prevention**. Learn more about the [growing evidence base](#) for, and conceptual roots of, [Legal Partnering for Child & Family Health!](#)
- **Connect with us!** MLPB will join colleagues from [The Children's Trust](#) at the [2021 National Home Visiting Summit](#) next month, presenting on ***A Legal Partnering Roadmap from Evaluation of Need to Successful Intervention***. Session set for Friday, 2/26/2021 from 2-2:45pm. Thanks for hosting this important dialogue, [Start Early!](#)
- **All hands on deck!** Thank you to [Roger Williams University School of Law](#) for facilitating *Alternative Winter Break* student placements with MLPB! We were delighted to host **Kamila Hussain (2L)**, **Harrison Levine (1L)**, **Brian Murphy (1L)** and **Ruth Nwauche (2L)** for an immersive [preventive law](#) experience earlier this month.



Sign of the times?

New national research, policies and recommendations that point to the power and urgency of prevention

- **CMS:** [CMS Issues New Roadmap for States to Address \[SDOH\] to Improve Outcomes, Lower Costs, Support State Value-Based Care Strategies](#) (*Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Jan. 7, 2021*)
- **NBER:** [Housing Precarity & the COVID-19 Pandemic: Impacts of Utility Disconnection and Eviction Moratoria on Infections and Deaths Across US Counties](#) (*National Bureau of Economic Research, Jan. 2021*)
- **U.S. Surgeon General:** [Community Health and Economic Prosperity: Engaging Business as Stewards and Stakeholders](#) (*Executive Summary of A Report of the Surgeon General, Jan. 2021*)



Care Delivery & Financing Transformation

- [State Must Write New Medi-Cal Contracts to Advance Health Equity](#) (*California Health Care Foundation, Jan. 20, 2021*)
- [Money Moves the Mare: The Response of Community-Based Organizations to Health Care's Embrace of Social Determinants](#) (*The Milbank Quarterly, Jan. 11, 2021*)

- [How Can State Legislation Promote Value In Health Care? Three Innovative Models](#) (*Health Affairs Blog*, Jan. 6, 2021)
- [An Ounce of Prevention Is Still Worth a Pound of Cure, Especially in the Time of COVID-19](#) (*Preventing Chronic Disease - Public Health Research, Practice, and Policy*, Vol. 18, EO3, Jan. 2021)
- [To Correct Population Health Disparities, Reinvigorate Public Health Systems: The Continuing Lessons of COVID-19](#) (*Health Affairs Blog*, Dec. 17, 2020)
- [Reflections on the Five Laws of Integrating Medical and Social Services -- 21 Years Later](#) (*The Milbank Quarterly*, Dec. 15, 2020)

Early Childhood

- [Optimizing Health and Well-Being for Women and Children](#) (*Health Affairs Commentary*, Jan. 21, 2021)
- [Infant Health Disparities Emerge After 20 Years of Improvement](#) (*Patient Care Access News*, Dec. 10, 2020)

Employment, Food & Income

- [Addressing Child Hunger When School Is Closed -- Considerations during the Pandemic and Beyond](#) (*The New England Journal of Medicine*, Jan. 20, 2021)
- [Mass. residents receiving SNAP benefits will get boost from stimulus bill. Will it be enough?](#) (*Boston Globe*, Jan. 16, 2021)
- [Workers to get a boost in 2021 as new laws take effect Jan. 1](#) (*Boston Globe*, Dec. 30, 2020)
- [An underground food pantry in Boston draws needy families, and the city's disapproval](#) (*Boston Globe*, Dec. 25, 2020)
- [#BlackTaxpayersMatter: Anti-Racist Restructuring of U.S. Tax Systems](#) (*ABA Human Rights Magazine*, Dec. 14, 2020)

Housing & Health

- [For good health outcomes, we need good housing incomes](#) (*Boston Globe*, Jan. 23, 2021)

- [She Works Two Jobs. She's Still Facing Eviction](#) (*New York Times*, Jan. 13, 2021)
- [Griffin, O'Reilly & Sosin: Housing is Health, and Vermont Needs More](#) (*Vermont Digger*, Jan. 3, 2021)
- [The Preventive Effect of Housing First on Health Care Utilization and Costs Among Chronically Homeless Individuals](#) (*The Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation*, Dec. 22, 2020)
- [Humane Housing](#) (*Thriving Together*, Jul. 2020)

Immigrant Health

- [The US Must Prioritize Vaccine Distribution to Undocumented Immigrants and Immigrants in Detention Centers](#) (*Health Affairs Blog*, Jan. 11, 2021)
- [Anticipated "Chilling Effects" of the Public-Charge Rule Are Real: Census Data Reflect Steep Decline in Benefits Use by Immigrant Families](#) (*Migration Policy Institute*, Dec. 2020)
- [Coronavirus Disease 2019 and the Case to Cover Undocumented Immigrants in California](#) (*Health Equity*, Nov. 25, 2020)

Older Adult Health

- [Actualizing Better Health and Health Care for Older Adults](#) (*Health Affairs Commentary*, Jan. 21, 2021)
- [Incorporating Health Equity Into An Initiative To Transform Care For Older Adults](#) (*Health Affairs Blog*, Jan. 14, 2021)
- [Tracking Progress on Person-Centered Care for Older Adults: How Are We Doing?](#) (*Center for Consumer Engagement in Health Innovation*, Jan. 13, 2021)
- [Healthy Aging Data Report: Highlights from Rhode Island, 2020](#) (*Rhode Island Office of Healthy Aging*, 2020)

MLPB equips communities of care with legal education and problem-solving strategies that disrupt the evolution of a person's social, economic, or environmental need into a legal — and health — crisis. Through training, consultation 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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Connect with us



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