



MLPB
ADVANCING HEALTH
THROUGH JUSTICE

March 2021



Check out our [new Blog post](#)
on MLPB's telementoring partnership with
[CTC-RI's Community Health Teams!](#)

Telehealth is here to stay, and if we can accelerate and assure **Digital Equity**, it may be a powerful tool for individual, family, and population health. But extending telehealth to meet people's social, economic, and environmental needs is a new frontier — so supports and guardrails for the community health workforce are critical. MLPB is honored to deploy this capacity-building strategy with a number of communities of care — including the [Care Transformation Collaborative / PCMH Kids - Rhode Island](#).

READ ALL ABOUT IT



**Making sense of paid leave rights for caregivers is hard —
is there an overview?**

Yes! Check out this new article, [***State Paid Family and Medical Leave Laws: Growth and Gaps in Coverage***](#), co-authored by MLPB's **Samantha Morton** with valued colleagues from the **Brown Schools of [Medicine](#) and [Public Health](#)** and the **[Center for WorkLife Law](#)**.

- This new publication is currently only accessible with a journal subscription; another helpful resource can be found [here](#).
- Want more information about family and medical leave options? Check out the *Employment* section of MLPB's **Digital Digest** [here](#) (for **federal law**), [here](#) (for **Massachusetts**) and [here](#) (for **Rhode Island**).



Thank you, [Start Early](#), for welcoming us at the [2021 National Home Visiting Summit](#) last week!

MLPB team member **Kate Gannon** joined valued colleagues from [The Children's Trust](#) in presenting on ***A Legal Partnering Roadmap from Evaluation of Need to Successful Intervention***. We look forward to continuing this conversation with early

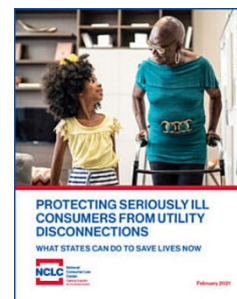
childhood innovators who want to explore the power of [Legal Partnering for Child and Family Health!](#)



***In the Spotlight:
Preventing Utility Shut-offs for Seriously Ill People***

Last week, our colleagues at the [National Consumer Law Center](#) released a [comprehensive report](#) on state-based laws that protect individuals and families from utility service shut-off when a household member is seriously ill. The upshot? Many of these state-based protections are:

- unnecessarily narrow;
- under-communicated to people and communities;
- difficult for eligible households to navigate and secure; and
- too short-term given the nature of serious and chronic illness.



If we care about [energy security as a structural driver of health](#), there is a lot of policy work to be done across the country. [Are you part of a community of care that is:](#)

- Prioritizing screening for utility needs, perhaps among other for health-related social needs (HRSN)?
- Tracking the [many barriers](#) to continuous, stable gas, electricity and water that people served by your community of care face?

If you want to move from *people-to-policy* in your state:

1. Check out NCLC's specific policy recommendations at [pp. 19-20](#)
2. Orient your org's/system's Government Relations team; and

3. Get in touch with MLPB's Legal Director [Jeannine Casselman](#) to learn about potential synergies with NCLC, the [national DULCE Learning Network](#), and more!



Questions about (1) law and policy changes impact the people you serve, and (2) role-aligned problem-solving strategies you can offer? Visit MLPB's [Digital Digest](#) for curated information on evolving resources, benefits, and legal protections — currently covering key federal law as well as state laws in MA and RI.

Care Delivery & Financing Transformation

- [How Are Payment Reforms Addressing Social Determinants of Health? Policy Implications and Next Steps](#) (*The Milbank Quarterly*, Feb. 4, 2021)

Caregiver Protections

- [Family Caregiver Priorities and Recommendations: Results from a Request for Information](#) (*National Academy for State Health Policy*, Feb. 16, 2021)
- [The Role of Paid Leave During COVID-19: What Has been the Impact and How Do We Move Forward](#) (*The Milbank Quarterly*, Feb. 12, 2021)

Early Childhood

- [Our Children Are In Trouble if We Don't Pass Biden's Child Allowance](#) (*The Hill*, Feb. 23, 2021)
- ['There's No Natural Dignity in Work: . . . A generous child allowance might \[be the answer\]'](#) (*The New York Times*, Feb. 18, 2021)
- [The Radically Simple New Approach to Helping Families: Send Parents Money](#) (*The New York Times*, Feb. 9, 2021)

Employment, Food & Income

- [Podcast: What a \\$15 Minimum Wage Could Mean for Population Health](#) (*Health Affairs This Week Podcast*, Feb. 19, 2021)
- [Expanded COVID-19 Unemployment Benefits Support Physical and Mental Health](#) (*Health Affairs Blog*, Feb. 18, 2021)
- [Unmet Social Needs and Worse Mental Health After Expiration of COVID-19 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation](#) (*Health Affairs*, Feb. 18, 2021) (*subscription required*)
- [Going to Bed Hungry](#) (*The Washington Post*, Jan. 27, 2021)

Housing & Health

- [As Evictions Loom, One City Shows how to Save Homes and Families](#) (*Boston Globe*, Feb. 20, 2021)
- [Pandemic's Toll on Housing: Falling Behind, Doubling Up](#) (*The New York Times*, Feb. 6, 2021)
- [Low-Income Older Adults Face Unaffordable Rents, Driving Housing Instability and Homelessness](#) (*Justice in Aging*, February 2021)
- [The Black Hole at the Heart of the Eviction Crisis](#) (*The New York Times*, Jan. 28, 2021)
- [Tiered Supports Offer Landlords a Cost-Effective Way to Help Vulnerable Tenants during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (*Housing Matters*, Jan. 27, 2021)
- [Biden Calls on HUD to Address Racial Equity](#) (*Housing Wire*, Jan. 26, 2021)
- [Preventing Eviction for New Yorkers Amid COVID-19](#) (*Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.*, 2021)

LGBTQ+ Rights & Health

- [LGBTQ People Now Protected Under the Fair Housing Act](#) (*Marketplace*, Feb. 15, 2021)
- [Lawmakers in 14 States have Proposed Anti-LGBTQ Bills, Many of Which Target Trans Youth](#) (*CNN*, Jan. 27, 2021)

- [Beyond Bostock: The Future of LGBTQ Civil Rights](#) (*Center for American Progress*, Aug. 26, 2020)

Transportation & Equity

- [How Transit-Oriented Development Can Promote Equitable, Healthy Communities](#) (*Housing Matters*, Feb. 24, 2021)

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](#).

Information contained in this newsletter is for educational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice or establish an attorney-client relationship.
