



# MLPB

## ADVANCING HEALTH THROUGH JUSTICE

**March 2020**



### ***New Open-Access Resource!***

### **MLPB's Digital Digest**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, MLPB has launched a new [\*\*Digital Digest\*\*](#) that curates and translates key developments at the intersection of COVID-19, meeting people's health-related social needs (HRSN), and a fast-changing law and public policy environment. Structured through the lens of developments in Massachusetts and Rhode Island (where MLPB has extensive partnership networks), much of this guidance is grounded in **federal law** and can support legally-informed problem-solving in other states as well. We will update and date-stamp this tool regularly.

Also, in case you missed it, check out this longer [\*\*message from MLPB CEO Samantha Morton\*\*](#) on the current moment in our society.

MLPB also:

- **Remains fully operational and available** to our partners through a range of virtual mechanisms
- **Will host, on the morning of Wednesday, May 13, a livestreamed virtual event** spotlighting best practices for partnering with families to *unlock access* to health-promoting benefits, services and legal protections in this new landscape. Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks!

***Stay safe and healthy!***

***READ ALL ABOUT IT***

***Interested in learning more about  
legal problem-solving resources and strategies,  
and the associated evidence base?***

- Curious whether expanding the "team" in "team-based care" might move the dial on **housing instability solutions**? Check out this Feb. 2020 **interim report** on 6-month findings from the **Health Starts at Home** (HSaH) initiative, which include **reduced acute care visits for children** and **reduced levels of anxiety and depression among caregivers** enrolled in HSaH programs.

MLPB has been honored to partner with the **Housing Prescriptions as Health Care** HSaH team, led by Children's Health Watch. Thanks so much to **The Boston Foundation** for bringing together health, housing, legal and other cross-sector partners to work differently and inventively together!

- If you're an accountable care pioneer in **Massachusetts**, take a peek at this **MassHealth DSRIP Statewide Investments report** on its Dec. 2019 convening on *Lessons from Other States: Creating Care Delivery Systems that Recognize and Respond to Member Priorities & Circumstances*.

Featuring several experts from MLPB's 2019 Spring Breakfast panel, this

"Pop-Up" offered key insights into operationalizing a person-centered culture in accountable care delivery -- including **integration of legal problem-solving**.

- If you're in **California**, check out this [new Feb. 2020 brief](#) from **The Children's Partnership** that spotlights regional legal problem-solving innovation in the early childhood domain. Nice work, Golden State innovators!
- Curious about how allies in the **banking industry** can promote housing stability and health through cross-sector collaboration? The list is long. Dive into these fascinating materials from the Mar. 4 **FDIC Boston Alliance for Economic Inclusion** Open Work Group Meeting, at which MLPB presented alongside valued colleagues from the [Public Health Institute of Western MA](#), [Green & Healthy Homes](#), and [MassHousing](#).



**. . . to our Spring 2020 intern, Elena Phethean!**

"I'm a graduating senior at Tufts University double majoring in Community Health and Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies. My focus has been primarily in LGBTQ+ health, reproductive health and rights, sexual health and education, and sexual violence prevention. In working with MLPB, I've gained exposure to cases within

those intersections and to cases in a multitude of other complex social determinant areas. I've loved my experience at MLPB so far and I'm so excited to continue learning about the connections between legal practice, public policy, and health equity."

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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