



Medical-Legal Partnership & The Patient Experience

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The problems are visible. The solutions are not.

Worried how he will pay for this.



50 million Americans need legal care to be healthy.



1 in 6 Americans
live in poverty.

And every single one has a civil legal problem that negatively affects their health.

Making the connection: Legal problems *are* health problems.

Common Legal Problem	Social Determinant of Health
Families wrongfully denied food supports or housing subsidies	Lack of basic resources
Children living in housing with mold or rodents, in violation of housing laws	Physical environment
Seniors wrongfully denied long-term care coverage	Lack of access to insurance

Medical-Legal Partnership Approach

Building a healthcare team able to identify, treat and prevent health-harming legal needs for patients, clinics and populations.

MLPs help patients with I-HELP[®] issues



Income supports &
Insurance



Legal status



Housing & utilities



Personal & family
stability



Employment & Education

The Medical-Legal Partnership Approach

**TRAIN &
IDENTIFY
NEED**

**TREAT
PATIENTS**

**TRANSFORM
CLINIC
PRACTICE**

**IMPROVE
POPULATION
HEALTH**

Developed by the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership
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Successful MLP Requires Effective Coordination

Confusion About Responsibilities May Jeopardize Success



**Administrative
Champion**



**Medical
Champion**



**Social
Workers**



Physicians



**Volunteer
Lawyers**



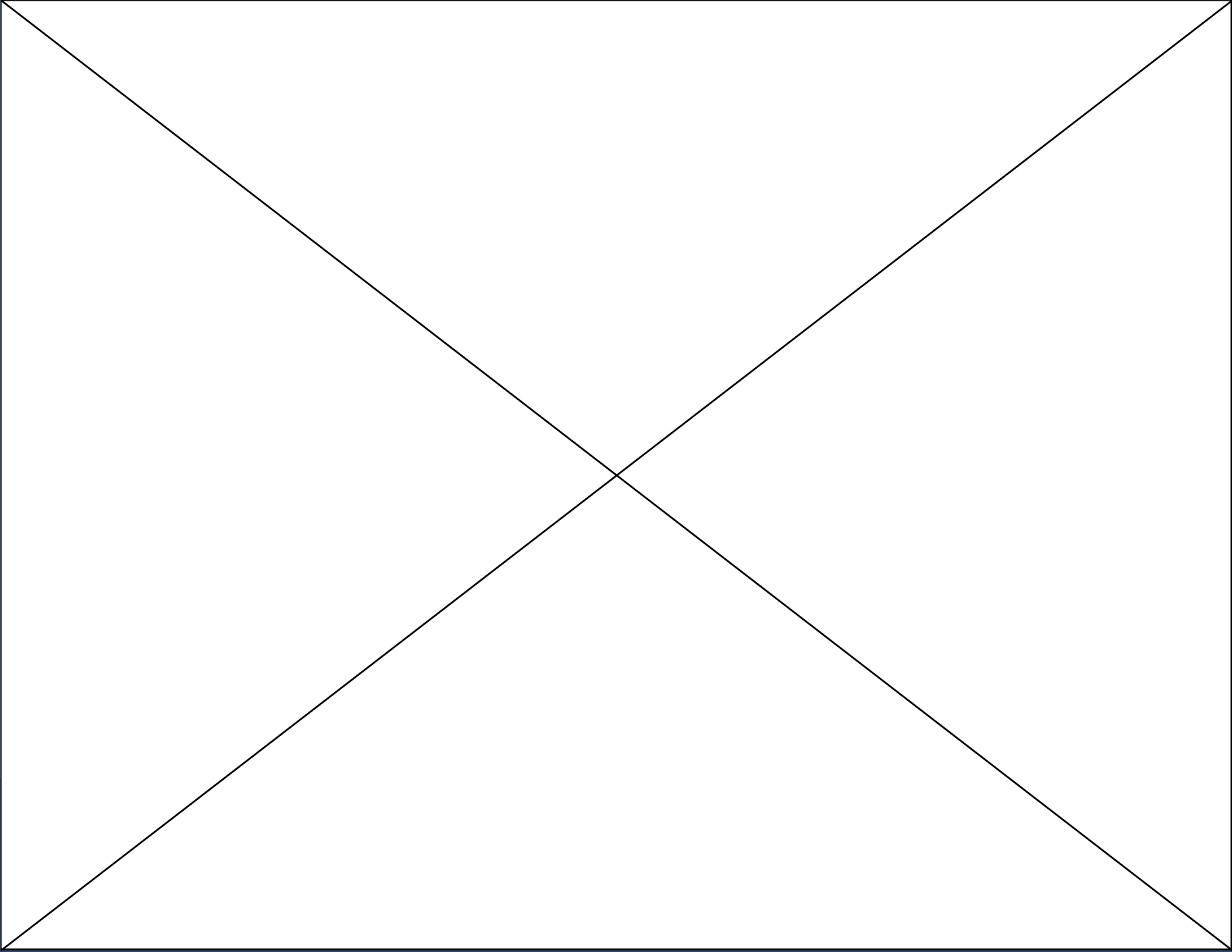
**Legal Program
Director**

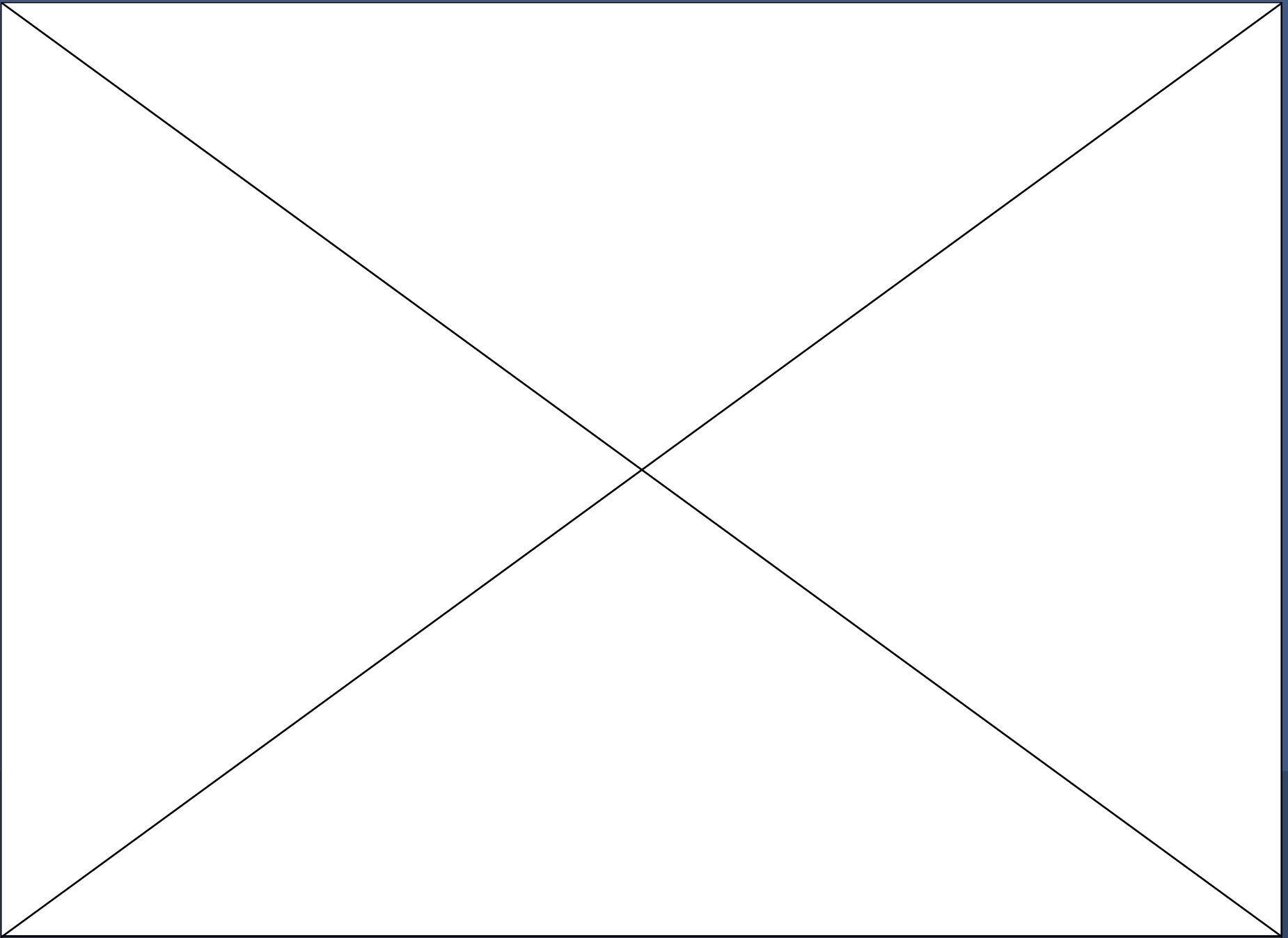


Staff Attorneys



Risk of duplicated efforts,
critical tasks fall through the
cracks without clear
breakdown of responsibilities





“If what patients need to be healthy is safer housing, better food and consistent utilities, how are we going to stock that dwindling pharmacy?”
– Dr. Megan Sandel



The Medical-Legal Partnership Approach



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Individual patient legal interventions are *pathways to finding the policy interventions for improving population health.*



Stocking the utility pharmacy: An MLP patients-to-policy story

No heat or electricity meant asthma attacks, sickle cell pain and the inability to refrigerate medicine for thousands of low-income families in Boston.



Stocking the housing pharmacy: An MLP patients-to-policy story

Unsafe housing brought more than a dozen children to the hospital. Health / legal hotspotting led to the remodeling of several neighborhood buildings.

There isn't enough in the legal aid pharmacy without changing how legal care is provided.



8,000 civil legal aid attorneys in U.S.



with a \$600 million budget



& help from law schools & pro bono partners



try to serve 50 million low-income people with 2-3 needs.

They are able to meet less than 20% of the need each year, and unfair systems go unchanged.

Find MLP Partnerships in your state

See which health and legal institutions in your community have developed medical-legal partnerships. Each institution links to more information about its medical-legal partnership.

STATE SELECT ▼

Reset



119 Hospitals

112 Health Centers

88 Legal Aid Agencies

28 Medical Schools

37 Law Schools

For more information:



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