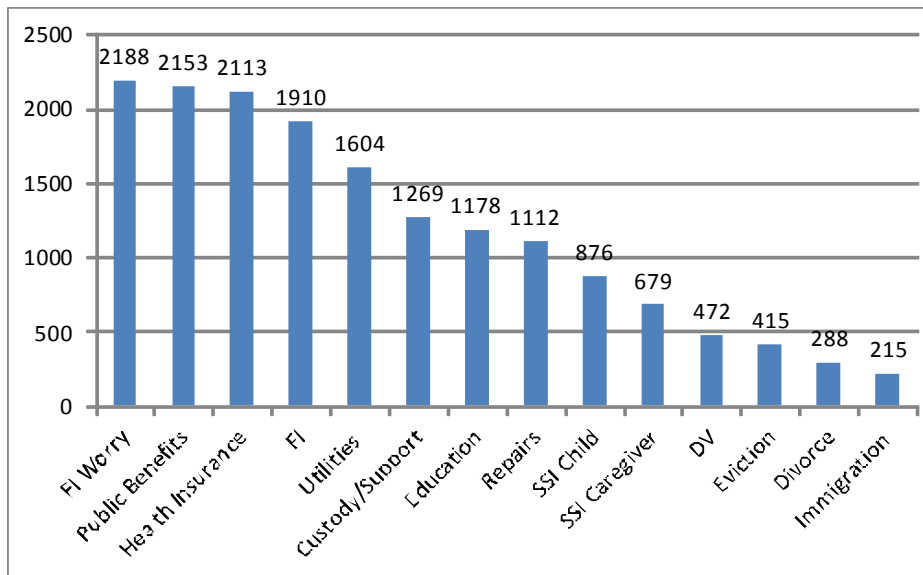


PHILAKIDS MLP | PHILADELPHIA
A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN LEGAL CLINIC FOR THE DISABLED
& ST. CHRISTOPHER'S HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN

- The PhilaKids Medical Legal Partnership (MLP) places one staff attorney from the Legal Clinic for the Disabled (LCD) at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children's Center for the Urban Child (CUC) each day to address the unmet legal needs and social determinants of health that negatively impact patient health.
- The MLP screens every family in CUC's Ambulatory Clinic for unmet legal needs. To date, over 25,000 families have been screened. In 2017, 1651 (25%) families self-reported at least one unmet need.
- The most common self-reported legal needs are: Food Insecurity Worry (2188), Public Benefits (2153), Health Insurance (2113), and Food Insecurity (1910).



- The MLP began taking referrals from the Center for Children with Special Health Care Needs in 2013. In addition to addressing the legal needs mentioned above, the attorney works closely with the care team to handle guardianship and advance planning for children with special needs transitioning to adulthood. Local law firms offer pro bono support in handling the guardianship matters.
- The MLP expanded into the CUC Asthma Clinic in February 2015. Over 2600 families have been screened for unmet legal needs most often associated with asthma: food insecurity, housing and habitability concerns, SSI, public benefits, and utilities. 45% of families report at least one unmet legal need.
- LCD attorneys have provided over 3,400 families with free legal advice and counsel, referral, advocacy with state and local agencies, and direct representation in court hearings in a range of matters including child custody and support, habitability and landlord-tenant disputes, public benefits, children's SSI, and special education.
- The MLP has trained 120 pediatric residents on how to address legal issues impacting their patients health.



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2017 At A Glance

What does an MLP attorney do for the partnership each year?

Legal Services

- On-site attorney 4 days per week to provide free and immediate legal services patients.
- An MLP attorney met with nearly 400 families to conduct intake, give legal advice and, when necessary, provide full representation. 2017 highlights include:
 - Successfully appealed 5 Medical Assistance denials or suspensions, including securing reimbursement for the hospital for a child's two week stay in the NICU.
 - Obtained guardianship for 23 young adults with special health care needs transitioning to adulthood, thus preventing any interruption of care.
 - Secured an \$950 money settlement for a client that her former landlord wrongfully held.
 - Helped 8 families maintain or reinstate the child's SSI benefits in the amount of \$735 per month.
 - Obtained over \$18,000 in back SSI benefits for a child who was wrongfully denied benefits.
 - Reinstated, maintained, or increased SNAP benefits for families by as much as \$600 per month.
 - Litigated 13 child custody cases.
 - Sent numerous repair demand letters to landlords who were failing to keep the property up to the city's habitability code, which resulted in significantly improved living conditions for families without requiring any court involvement.
 - Referred 9 families for free confidential consultations with a private immigration lawyer.

Education

- The LCD attorney:
 - Provides one hour of one-on-one training for all first year residents on the social determinants of health and the MLP model.
 - Participates in daily provider huddles to relay information about legal issues patients may be facing.
 - Hosts workshops and Noon Advocacy Lectures for the hospital community on legal issues commonly affecting low income patients in the community.

Institutional change

- The MLP creates and updates materials for health care providers to share with patients on common legal issues such as Utility Insecurity, Food Insecurity, and Health Insurance issues.
 - The documented rate of provider-given food insecurity resources has grown exponentially over the years. In 2017, providers documented giving food resources to 82% of families who screened positive for food insecurity, compared to 54% in 2016 and only 14% in 2015.
- The MLP team combined their knowledge of law and medicine to develop practice-wide protocols to provide an appropriate and uniform response to certain patient requests, including utility medical certifications and exemptions for certain cash assistance requirements.

Advocacy

- MLP team members testified at a recent Philadelphia City Council hearing regarding the health-harming impact of eviction and substandard housing conditions. After the hearing, City Council allocated \$500,000 to increase legal aid for low-income tenants.

The MLP is made possible by the generous support and pro bono services of
Duffy+Partners Law Firm and Audrey Allen Immigration Law.

Legal Clinic for the Disabled

Making legal services accessible to low income persons with physical disabilities



**St. Christopher's
Hospital for Children**