

Multi-disciplinary Models for Legal Problem Resolution: Selected Annotated Bibliography

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About this Bibliography

There is a growing body of research and scholarship on medical-legal partnerships, social work-legal services partnerships, and other models for multi-disciplinary legal problem resolution. The goal of this selected annotated bibliography is to gather in one place examples of some of these models, and the research questions that are being explored in this area. This document is not intended to be exhaustive. In some jurisdictions, multi-disciplinary models that facilitate legal problem resolution have been part of the legal landscape for several decades; in other jurisdictions they are newer, growing in number in recent years. This document provides insights into published materials and sources of further information on different models for multi-disciplinary legal problem resolution, how they developed, the challenges they face, and the benefits they offer predominantly low-income and vulnerable populations with complex problems. This selected annotated bibliography includes an overview of publications and resources on multi-disciplinary models from several jurisdictions, including Canada, Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom.

Social work-legal partnerships

Canada

Title:	Serving the Whole Person: Considerations for Social Work Student Programs in Legal Clinic Settings
Jurisdiction:	Ontario
Type of Resource:	Report
Source/Author(s):	Alicia Lam and Vanessa Emery; Scarborough Community Legal Services, West Scarborough Community Legal Services
Date (founded/published):	January 2021
Service Provider Setting:	Community Legal Clinic

This report explores opportunities and challenges of integrated legal clinic and social work services delivery. The report is the result of a joint initiative by Scarborough Community Legal Services and West Scarborough Community Legal Services which sought to:

- a) offer insight into existing holistic legal service delivery models that include social work services; and,
- b) present a framework for interdisciplinary legal clinic and social work services.

The report discusses barriers and benefits of interdisciplinary legal clinic-social work models. Benefits include holistic service delivery and increased support for legal clinic clients. Funding for these models has presented challenges. In addition, the report notes a lack of supervisory capacity, inter-professional practice considerations, and a lack of space for co-located legal clinic and social work services.

Title:	Celebrating Social Work Month: Profession of Choice
Jurisdiction:	Ontario
Type of Resource:	Article
Source/Author(s):	Joanne Hall
Date (founded/published):	16 October 2019
Service Provider Setting:	Community legal clinic; Legal Aid Ontario

This short article discusses the benefits of including social workers in frontline legal services delivery. For lawyers and clients, social workers provide support, with positive outcomes especially noticeable during early intervention when client problems are addressed “simultaneously, quickly and efficiently”. The article highlights the benefits of this interdisciplinary approach for low-income and vulnerable populations who often face complex and interconnected legal and non-legal problems.

Australia

Title:	Lawyers and Social Workers Working Together: Ethic of Care and Feminist Legal Practice in Community Law
Jurisdiction:	Australia
Type of Resource:	Journal article
Source/Author(s):	Tamara Walsh
Date (founded/published):	2012
Service Provider Setting	Community Legal Centres (CLCs)

This journal article explores the challenges and benefits of social workers and lawyers working in interdisciplinary settings in community law centres in Australia. Interviews and focus groups were used to gather provider insights into the effectiveness of the social worker-lawyer model, where there were tensions, and areas for improvement. Findings highlight how differences in professional training, focus, and responsibilities can present challenges for lawyers and social workers in community law settings. The article also discusses applications of an ‘ethic of care’ in lawyering and the ways that “feminist values [which] align very well with social work values” might apply in community lawyering.

United States

Title:	Lawyers Who Are Also Social Workers: How to Effectively Combine Two Different Disciplines to Better Serve Clients
Jurisdiction:	Washington
Type of Resource:	Article
Source/Author(s):	Brigid Coleman
Date (founded/published):	2001
Service Provider Setting:	Various

This article examines attributes that social workers and lawyers bring to problem-solving separately, as well as when individuals are trained in both disciplines. Recognizing the distinct approaches of each discipline, the article argues that social work and law are complementary and result in holistic problem resolution that considers diverse legal and non-legal determinants that may be otherwise overlooked. The growing number of joint degree programs in social work and law can ultimately benefit clients whose service provider will be better equipped to understand and pursue immediate legal remedies and short- and longer-term solutions to social, financial, family and other non-legal aspects of problems.

Title:	Integrating social workers into medical-legal partnerships: comprehensive problem solving for patients
Jurisdiction:	U.S.
Type of Resource:	Journal article
Source/Author(s):	Jeffrey David Colvin, Brooke Nelson and Katie Cronin
Date (founded/published):	October 2012
Service Provider Setting:	Various

This journal article provides an overview of the literature on the medical-legal partnership (MLP) movement and discusses how social workers can contribute to better and holistic problem resolution for clients with complex problems. Though there are differences in professional training, focus, and ethical and legal obligations, the article argues that there are practical and effective ways to address these distinctions without violating professional obligations. The article draws on a case study to demonstrate how partnerships with MLPs and social workers can enhance the breadth and quality of services provided to people experiencing different types of legal and non-legal problems.

Title:	Social Work Practices in California Legal Aid Organizations
Jurisdiction:	California
Type of Resource:	Report
Source/Author(s):	OneJustice, The Legal Aid Association of California
Date (founded/published):	Spring 2021
Service Provider Setting:	Membership association for statewide public interest law nonprofits that provide free civil legal services

The Legal Aid Association of California and OneJustice carried out a joint study to assess the benefits and challenges of interdisciplinary civil legal aid-social work services programs in California. The study includes findings from a survey that aimed to: (i) map legal aid programs in California that incorporate social work into their services delivery; and (ii) gather insights into the design and structure of these interdisciplinary programs. The final report also includes case studies and discussions of other important considerations for joint legal services-social work programs. The study found that matters related to housing and homelessness, education, and immigration were among the three most active practice areas in civil legal aid-social work services programs.

Title:	Beyond Advocacy Alone: Incorporating Social Work into Legal Aid Practice
Jurisdiction:	Illinois
Type of Resource:	Journal article
Source/Author(s):	Mara Tencer Block, Andrya Soprych
Date (founded/published):	Spring 2011
Service Provider Setting:	Legal aid service

There are several models that can be used to facilitate collaboration between lawyers and social workers. This journal article briefly discusses some of these models before explaining the model that was adopted by the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago (LAF), and keys to the program's success. The lawyer-social worker partnership at the LAF is exemplified through the discussion of a housing case that benefited from the expertise of a lawyer and social worker at LAF, who worked on different aspects of a housing matter to bring about the client's desired outcome.

Title:	Justice, Ethics, and Interdisciplinary Teaching and Practice - A Law and Social Work Clinical Program for the Elderly and Disabled - Past and Future Challenges
Jurisdiction:	New York
Type of Resource:	Journal article
Source/Author(s):	Toby Golick, Janet Lessem
Date: (founded/published):	2004
Service Provider Setting:	Law clinic

This article discusses challenges and learnings from the initial years of an interdisciplinary program that aimed to provide collaborative problem resolution services delivered by law students and social work students in a law clinic setting. Recognizing the complex nature of legal problems faced by many low-income earners, the goal of the interdisciplinary program was to integrate law services with social services, and community-oriented services for the elderly population served by the clinic. Several issues were identified in developing and managing the program, including differences in caseloads for law students and social work students in the law clinic setting; a limited understanding of the role that social work students could play; and difficulties completing client assessments in an interdisciplinary clinic program.

Title:	Social Work and Legal Services Integrating Disciplines: Lessons from the Field
Jurisdiction:	California
Type of Resource:	Report
Source/Author(s):	Thea Zajac, Legal Aid Association of California
Date (founded/published):	2011
Service Provider Setting:	Legal aid service provider

This report provides an overview of some of the key issues involved in lawyer-social worker services delivery. The report discusses different models that can be used to develop a partnership between lawyers and social workers, including interdisciplinary models, multidisciplinary models and consultant models. The extent of professional ethical conflicts and concerns vary with different models, with the interdisciplinary model presenting the greatest challenges. The report also emphasizes the importance of good communication between lawyers and social workers and clearly defined expectations to advance an effective, functioning, holistic service delivery model.

Title:	Social Work and Law Interdisciplinary Service Learning: Increasing Future Lawyers' Interpersonal Skills
Jurisdiction:	Indiana
Type of Resource:	Journal article
Source/Author(s):	Stephani K Boys, Stephanie Q. Quiring, Evan Harris, and Carrie A. Hagan
Date (founded/published):	2015
Service Provider Setting:	University – Law School, School of Social Work

In jointly training future lawyers and social workers on the service components of their professions, a program at a university in the Midwest explored the benefits of this type of interdisciplinary education for both groups. Findings suggest that although there are differences in professional training and ethical responsibilities of persons trained in either profession, there are also many similarities. A model that promotes a shared understanding and shared training on how the professions can serve the needs of their clients can help to bridge some of the existing gaps.

Title:	EBCLC’s Social Work Program Deepens Impact Through Wrap-Around Care
Jurisdiction:	California
Type of Resource:	Article
Source/Author(s):	Kaye Hudson
Date (founded/published):	15 August 2019
Service Provider Setting:	Legal clinic

This short article provides a glimpse into one social worker’s experience working at a law center in California. The East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC) aims to provide holistic service delivery and uses a model for legal help that sees social work students and social workers working with their team on matters related to various legal practice areas. The article offers some specific examples of the ways that the author—a social worker at EBCLC— was able to help legal clients, including by securing medical benefits and accessing social services.

Title:	No Wonder Social Workers Feel Uncomfortable in Court
Jurisdiction:	U.S.
Type of Resource:	Journal article
Source/Author(s):	Katherine van Wormer
Date (founded/published):	1992
Service Provider Setting:	Courts

This article explores aspects of the social work profession that run contrary to the adversarial approach. The focus is on family law disputes in general, and matters involving children specifically. Family law matters being resolved through the courts are an area where the law and social work commonly intersect. In discussing social workers’ roles in these matters, the article outlines the aspects of social worker training that are inimical to lawyers’ efforts in this type of legal setting. In this way, the author views the objectives of lawyers and social workers in the adversarial setting as “mutually exclusive”. The arguments presented in this article also underscore the different ethical and professional obligations of lawyers and social workers.

Title:	The Contribution of Social Workers to Legal Services Programs
Jurisdiction:	U.S.
Type of Resource:	Journal article
Source/Author(s):	Heather B. Craige and William G. Saur
Date (founded/published):	1981
Service Provider Setting:	Legal clinics, Poverty law clinics

This journal article discusses the benefits of interdisciplinary lawyer-social worker programs. The article suggests that lawyers specializing in poverty law will often have similar goals as social workers working with low-income populations. By including social workers in legal services settings—especially those settings serving low-income populations—lawyers will benefit from new perspectives to resolve complex problems and clients will benefit from accessible, integrated service delivery that will address multiple needs. The article stresses that despite these benefits and the similar values and objectives of poverty law lawyers and social workers, there were few such interdisciplinary lawyer-social worker programs in the U.S.

Title:	What to Expect at the Intersection of Law and Social Work
Jurisdiction:	Minnesota
Type of Resource:	Paper
Source/Author(s):	Jada Fehn
Date (founded/published):	2015
Service Provider Setting:	Multiservice law firm

This paper discusses the role of social workers in medical-legal partnerships. It briefly touches on important considerations for lawyers and social workers in these settings, including ethical considerations. The paper also highlights areas where the objectives and efforts of lawyers and social workers in these multi-disciplinary settings overlap. These include a shared orientation of lawyers and social workers toward helping people in difficult and sensitive situations, and connections of both professions to problems impacting the communities they serve. The paper concludes by highlighting that there are benefits to lawyers and social workers working in multi-disciplinary spaces where they can apply their respective expertise and skills to helping clients in a holistic way.

Title:	Collaboration Between Lawyers and Social Workers: Re-examining the Nature and Potential of the Relationship
Jurisdiction:	U.S.
Type of Resource:	Journal article
Source/Author(s):	Paula Galowitz
Date (founded/published):	1999
Service Provider Setting:	Legal services clinic

This article discusses the value that social workers bring to client relationships and the resolution of complex problems in a legal services context. The article opens with an example of a challenging lawyer-client situation and highlights the benefits of recognizing those instances where lawyering should end and a mental health professional and or social worker is better suited to assist with client needs. The article also addresses some of the challenges of lawyer-social worker collaborations and why this multi-disciplinary service model is not more common. The article also offers recommendations for effective lawyer-social worker collaborations.

Title:	Ethics Among Social Workers and Attorneys: The Value of a Referral Relationship
Jurisdiction:	U.S.
Type of Resource:	Article
Source/Author(s):	Amy Boulware, Sally Brewer, and Dana Perry
Date (founded/published):	2020
Service Provider Setting:	Multiservice law firm

This article discusses the value of a network of trusted professionals, including lawyers and professional consultants, to whom social workers can refer clients for help with legal and other problems that are beyond the scope of a social worker's knowledge or expertise. This premise is exemplified through cases involving elder care matters, highlighting the oftentimes complex problem experiences of clients and drawing specific reference to the ethical and legal implications of social workers providing advice that could be considered to be legal advice. The article suggests that "social worker-attorney relationships are the wave of the future" and, further, that the intersectionality of law and social work necessitates cross disciplinary partnerships between these professionals.

Medical-legal partnerships

Canada

Title:	Expanding Engagement: Creating Connections Between Delivery of Justice & Health Services
Jurisdiction:	Saskatchewan
Type of Resource:	Report
Source/Author(s):	Evan Hutchison, Aly Sparks and Kellie Wuttunnee
Date (founded/published):	March 2017
Service Provider Setting:	Various

This report explores interdisciplinary initiatives for health and justice services delivery and knowledge exchange with a view to understanding the types of justice and health collaborations that could be implemented in Saskatchewan. The report discusses potential and existing initiatives, with additional consideration given to the needs of rural, remote and northern populations. The report also includes insights from interviewees on how to measure the success of collaborative justice-health initiatives.

Title:	Innovating, Intervening, & Transforming: Justice & Health Partnerships in Ontario
Jurisdiction:	Ontario
Type of Resource:	PowerPoint Presentation
Source/Author(s):	Michele Leering
Date (founded/published):	2019
Service Provider Setting:	Various justice-health partnership settings

This document offers a visual representation of some of key issues related to justice and health partnerships in Ontario. It highlights the importance of justice and health partnerships to the access to justice conversation; the ecosystem of trusted intermediaries who are critical to justice-health services delivery; types of justice and health partnerships in Ontario; the impacts and benefits of justice and health partnerships; and, future research and projects centered on justice and health partnerships. The document was part of a 2019 presentation to the International Legal Aid Group.

Title:	Improving Housing Conditions, Improving Health: Final Report of a Community Engagement Project for Low-Income Tenants to Identify Joint Strategies to Improve Tenant Health from a Medical-Legal Partnership Perspective
Jurisdiction:	Ontario
Type of Resource:	Report
Source/Author(s):	Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto, ARCH Disability Law Centre, HALCO HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario, St. Michael's Hospital
Date (founded/published):	March 2020
Service Provider Setting:	Medical-Legal Partnership, Legal Clinic, Pediatric Department

This report explores an initiative by the Health Justice Program to investigate and address gaps in service delivery for overlapping medical health and non-eviction housing matters. The initiative examined barriers that tenants face in accessing legal help as well as difficulties that service providers face in connecting with tenants to provide legal help when it is needed. The final report on this initiative presents the methodology that was used for this initiative, a discussion of the findings, a review of related literature, and recommendations for improvements as identified through discussions with medical professionals and legal professionals involved in this initiative. The report also highlights the need for adequate funding for legal clinics, social services, and medical services that engage in multi-disciplinary problem resolution.

Title:	Hospital-Legal Partnership at Toronto Hospital for Sick Children: The First Canadian Experience
Jurisdiction:	Ontario
Type of Resource:	Journal article
Source/Author(s):	Suzanne F. Jackson, Wendy Miller, Lee Ann Chapman, Elizabeth L. Ford-Jones, Emily Ghent and Nikhil Pai
Date (founded/published):	2012
Service Provider Setting:	Primary care clinical setting

This article offers an evaluation of a medical-legal collaboration between Pro Bono Law Ontario (PBLO) and The Hospital for SickKids in Toronto, the first medical-legal partnership in Canada. Launched in 2009, this medical-legal partnership was aimed at facilitating legal interventions for low-income families receiving medical services at The Hospital for SickKids. Healthcare providers at SickKids consult the PBLO triage lawyer about non-medical issues impacting patients and families and communicate the triage lawyer's advice to the family or refer the family to the triage lawyer. Following an assessment and screening process, the triage lawyer then advises the family on potential actions and assists the family to address their legal matter(s), as needed. The success of the program was evaluated through case files, semi-structured interviews with clients, and interviews with healthcare providers who provided referrals. Among 17 legal problem types being experienced by clients receiving legal help through the medical-legal partnership, the following were the most common: family (including divorce and domestic violence), immigration/refugee, education, income security and housing.

The following are among the key takeaways in the article: (i) a triage lawyer who is accessible at a hospital can offer critically important services in the introductory stages of the medical-legal partnership as well throughout the program; (ii) it is important to be able to provide legal services pro bono or via legal aid; (iii) healthcare providers in medical-legal partnerships play an important role in identifying social determinants that may lend themselves to legal remedies; (iv) medical-legal partnerships lead to positive impacts and outcomes for low-income families; and, (v) funding is one of the biggest challenges to medical-legal partnerships in the Canadian context.

Australia

Title:	Multi-Disciplinary Practice Health Justice Partnerships - Working Ethically to Ensure Reach to Those Most in Need
Jurisdiction:	Victoria
Type of Resource:	Journal article
Source/Author(s):	Elizabeth Curran
Date (founded/published):	2017
Service Provider Setting:	Community Health Service

The focus of this article is on professional ethical considerations for lawyers and non-lawyer professionals working in collaborative service delivery models. The article discusses “ethical work-arounds,” which are considerations within the boundaries of professional ethical responsibilities that allow for collaboration that is in the best interests of clients. Understanding and addressing ethical considerations are important to ensure that professionals can collaborate effectively in multi-disciplinary practices and address the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged populations and populations facing social exclusion. Discussions in the article are informed in part by evaluations of health justice partnerships and advice provided in support of health justice partnerships in multiple jurisdictions, including Australia and Canada. Key findings stem from the author’s research on a health justice partnership case study from 2014-2016.

Title:	Health Justice Partnerships: A Promising Model for Increasing Access to Justice in Health Services
Jurisdiction:	Melbourne
Type of Resource:	Journal article
Source/Author(s):	Virginia Lewis, Lauren Adamson, Faith Hawthorne
Date (founded/published):	2018
Service Provider Setting:	Primary care clinical setting

This article argues that the intersection of medical issues and legal problems make health-justice partnerships an important (and apt) tool among the continuum of legal information and service delivery tools available to promote access to justice. The article discusses social determinants of health and their connections to legal problems as well as some of the reasons that people may not seek legal help for health-related legal problems. Health justice partnerships are noted as being especially suited to addressing overlapping medical health and legal needs of vulnerable and underserved populations. The article explores the benefits of health justice partnerships, the value of collaboration for this service delivery model, and the aspects of health justice partnerships that aid their successful integration in clinical settings. The article also discusses some of the challenges that health justice partnerships face.

Title:	Conceptualizing Interprofessional Working – When a Lawyer Joins the Healthcare Mix
Jurisdiction:	Australia
Type of Resource:	Journal article
Source/Author(s):	Nola M Ries
Date (founded/published):	November 2021
Service Provider Setting:	Primary care clinical setting

This journal article proposes a conceptual framework from which to examine and understand interprofessional models involving lawyers, healthcare professionals, and social services professionals, with a focus on lawyer involvement in interprofessional arrangements. The article notes the spread of medical-legal partnerships in several jurisdictions, including Australia, the US, England and Wales and Canada. Applying learnings from medical-legal partnerships in these jurisdictions, the author contemplates factors that help and hinder medical-legal partnership models. The author goes on to propose a systematic way to consider structuring, implementing, assessing and researching medical-legal services. As part of the discussion of a conceptual framework for medical-legal partnerships, the article outlines features of medical-legal partnerships that are common to models in the U.S. and in Australia. The article also notes potential learnings from other types of interprofessional models. There is a discussion of policy and funding considerations, organization-level issues, and individual professional and patient considerations that factor into the medical-legal partnership framework.

Title:	Collaboration through the COVID 19 Crisis: Lessons for Systemic Change
Jurisdiction:	Australia
Type of Resource:	Report
Source/Author(s):	Tessa Boyd-Caine (Health Justice Australia)
Date (founded/published):	January 2021
Service Provider Setting:	Primary care clinical setting

In the face of major crises in 2020 - a terrible bushfire season and the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic - health justice partnerships were an effective service delivery mechanism for affected populations who were living in situations of social and economic adversity. The intersecting health and legal impacts of these crises were determined to be especially challenging for vulnerable populations to address through single service systems. The report notes that “2020 highlighted the deep, structural inequities that drive complex need and shape people’s experiences of and resilience to crisis”, which the report suggests is one of the reasons that lessons learned from health justice collaborations during this time are especially insightful. Three main lessons emerged about the collaborations during the crises: (i) health-justice services are able to quickly adapt to the changing circumstances of the communities being served to respond to their needs; (ii) the government did not always adapt at the same pace as health-justice services; and (iii) improvements can be made by identifying emerging issues and facilitating the exchange of information about issues within communities and whether they are best addressed by health services, legal services, and other services.

Title:	Partners in Care: The Benefits of Community Lawyers Working in a Hospital Setting - Report on the Cross-Site Evaluation of Health Justice Partnerships Between Three Metropolitan Melbourne Hospitals with Inner Melbourne Community Legal
Jurisdiction:	Melbourne
Type of Resource:	Report
Source/Author(s):	Inner Melbourne Community Legal
Date (founded/published):	2018
Service Provider Setting:	Primary care clinical settings

Inner Melbourne Community Legal (IMCL) was the first community legal service in Australia to set up Health Justice Partnerships (HJPs). This report by IMCL discusses factors that contribute to successful collaborations between local legal services such as Community Legal Centres and hospitals located in urban settings. The report discusses the importance of integrating legal and medical health services as a way to advance access to justice for vulnerable populations, and notes the cost savings to hospitals of integrating legal services that facilitate “an earlier and safer” discharge of patients whose family or civil legal issues have been addressed. The report offers research insights into onsite legal services being offered as part of three Health Justice Partnerships. Among 599 patients seen, advice was provided for 617 separate issues, and 283 legal cases were opened. Among a majority of patients surveyed, IMCL represented their first connection to a legal service provider. Ninety-four percent of patients who were surveyed indicated that it was easier to see a lawyer at the hospital (due to the time and day of appointments, location, and parking). Following the legal consultation, 92% of patients surveyed indicated that they thought that the legal advice that they received was helpful. Social workers also played an important role in these consultations, usually as the first point of contact for patients and by providing help to patients with other aspects of their problems. The report offers an in-depth evaluation, including recommendations, case studies and a discussion of the need for Health Justice Partnerships.

United States

Title:	Using Structured and Unstructured Data to Identify Patients' Needs for Services that Address the Social Determinants of Health
Jurisdiction:	Indiana
Type of Resource:	Journal article
Source/Author(s):	Joshua R. Vesta, Shaun J. Grannis, Dawn P. Haut, Paul K. Halversona, Nir Menachemia
Date (founded/published):	2017
Service Provider Setting:	Public hospital

This article discusses shifts in the landscape of medical health services in the U.S. that have led to increased focus on preventative care, including understanding and addressing social determinants of health (SDH). The main findings in the article are from a multi-year study (2012-2016) involving over 73,000 adults accessing primary care services in a setting also offering co-located non-medical services. Social determinants of health service needs are measured in this report through a range of social determinant of health services, including social work services, financial planning, medical-health partnerships, and behavioural health. The study relied on structured and unstructured data to determine the extent of SDH needs and the populations facing the most significant needs.

Title:	Unmet Legal and Social Advocacy Needs of Children with Sickle Cell Disease: Implications for Health Care Payer Costs
Jurisdiction:	U.S.
Type of Resource:	Journal article
Source/Author(s):	Rajan A. Sonik, Sarah Teasdale, Susan L. Parish, Maria Champigny, Philippa G. Sprinz
Date (founded/published):	2018
Service Provider Setting:	Medical Centers

This article explores cost differences in medical cases where there are legal advocacy needs, social advocacy needs and health needs and cases where there are only health needs. To inform the discussion, the article examines data on children with sickle cell disease. This population was chosen because of the prevalence of overlapping legal, social and health needs. Data shows that there are significant cost differences between families with legal, social and health needs and families with only health needs. Families with at least one legal advocacy problem spent on average approximately \$12,000 more to address their health care needs than families with just health care needs. The study also notes a high level of unmet advocacy needs, in particular as relates to housing and food. The article proposes further study to determine whether addressing social determinants of health leads to lower health care costs among other patients.

Title:	The Law School Clinic as a Partner in a Medical-Legal Partnership
Jurisdiction:	U.S.
Type of Resource:	Journal article
Source/Author(s):	Jane R. Wettach
Date (founded/published):	2008
Service Provider Setting:	Children's law clinic

Lawyers often engage with professionals from other fields while representing clients. As such, a lawyer's skills and knowledge often extend to other disciplines where, in order to effectively represent a client, a lawyer might be required to understand topics in other fields and, to an extent, engage in problem-solving across multiple disciplines. This article explores multi-disciplinary problem-solving through the medical-legal partnership model and discusses its applications, challenges and benefits for holistic problem resolution in a law school clinic-children's hospital/pediatric department setting. The article also notes the specific benefits of law school clinics as participants in medical-legal partnerships because of the learning opportunities for law school students and the benefits for families with children experiencing medical problems and overlapping legal problems.

Title:	Framing Legal Care as Health Care: A Guide to Help Civil Legal Aid Practitioners Message their Work to Health Care Audiences
Jurisdiction:	U.S.
Type of Resource:	Guide
Source/Author(s):	National Center for Medical Legal Partnership
Date (founded/published):	January 2015
Service Provider Setting:	Health care settings, civil legal aid clinics

This guide highlights the importance of framing in discussing the intersections of legal problems and medical health problems. The guide distinguishes between treating an illness and treating the source of the illness and identifies how policies and programs that do not protect against poor housing conditions, hunger, poor education and dangerous circumstances contribute to making people sick. The focus in this guide is on the role of civil legal aid specifically in medical-legal partnerships and how civil legal aid practitioners can package information on social determinants of health to advance support, buy-in and investment in medical-legal partnerships.

Title:	The State of the Medical-Legal Partnership Field
Jurisdiction:	U.S.
Type of Resource:	Report
Source/Author(s):	Marsha Regenstein, Jennifer Trott, Alanna Williamson
Date (founded/published):	August 2017
Service Provider Setting:	Medical-Legal Partnerships

In 2016, the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership (NCMLP) at George Washington University conducted a survey of medical-legal partnerships (MLPs) across the U.S. to gather insight into: common features of MLPs; populations being served by MLPs; best practices and challenges of coordinating between health care and legal organizations; and, benefits of MLPs for health and well-being. Findings from this national survey are published in a report, which also includes three recommendations to develop accessible and impactful MLPs. The report suggests that effective MLPs will need to put in place standard processes to identify and address health-related civil legal matters; develop a process to assess the impacts of the MLP for individuals and on health care organizations; and work to ensure that MLPs put in place infrastructure with modern technology supports and that offer room for growth and investment.

Title:	Pilot Study of Medical-Legal Partnership to Address Social and Legal Needs of Patients
Jurisdiction:	California
Type of Resource:	Journal article
Source/Author(s):	Dana Weintraub, Melissa A Rodgers, Luba Botcheva, Anna Loeb, Rachael Knight, et al.
Date (founded/published):	2010
Service Provider Setting:	Health care settings, civil legal aid clinics

As part of a 3-year pilot project aimed at assessing the impacts of access of clinic- and hospital-based legal services in a pediatric setting, medical professionals were trained to identify social and legal problems among families under their care and provide referrals for legal assistance. All participants in the California-based study met the requirements for legal aid. Participants in the study who received legal help were contacted for a telephone interview six months after their legal case had closed. The study found that significantly more families accessed government supports following assistance with their legal matters; fewer uninsured families avoided health care services over fears of the cost to access those services; and generally, integrating access to legal help through the medical care setting resulted in greater awareness of access to both legal services and social services. Data from the study was collected from services provided between December 2004 and June 2007.

Title:	The Law As Healer: How Paying for Medical-Legal Partnerships Saves Lives and Money
Jurisdiction:	U.S.
Type of Resource:	Report
Source/Author(s):	Dayna Bowen Matthew
Date (founded/published):	January 2017
Service Provider Setting:	Primary care clinical setting

Low-income, marginalized, and vulnerable populations with serious social and economic needs often face barriers to access legal assistance to address their needs. Bowen Matthew notes in this report that, “for these populations, lawyers, working together with health professionals, are healers”. This report discusses the role of medical-legal partnerships in advancing better healthcare outcomes for low- and moderate income earners, including through preventative measures, and the potential of medical-legal partnerships to reduce costs of healthcare. The report makes policy recommendations aimed at offering a means to financially support medical-legal partnerships in the long term.

Title:	‘Extra Oomph:’ Addressing Housing Disparities through Medical Legal Partnership Interventions
Jurisdiction:	Massachusetts
Type of Resource:	Journal article
Source/Author(s):	Diana Hernández
Date (founded/published):	2016
Service Provider Setting:	Primary care clinical setting

This journal article examines intersections of housing, health, and legal problems and the potential of medical-legal partnerships to facilitate problem resolution for low-income populations in each of these areas. The discussion in this article is informed by a comparative study that examines outcomes for study participants with access to services available through a medical-legal partnership and participants who did not receive help through a medical-legal partnership. For study participants who did not receive help through a medical-legal partnership, many indicated that they had not considered the possibility of a legal remedy for their housing problems. The findings from this study suggest that lawyers working in medical-legal partnerships contribute to fewer health disparities related to poor housing conditions. The article also includes excerpts from interviews carried out with study participants which reveal, in their own words, their perceptions of the process to address the legal aspects of their problems through a medical-legal partnership.

Title:	The Roots and Branches of the Medical-Legal Partnership Approach to Health: From Collegiality to Civil Rights to Health Equity
Jurisdiction:	U.S.
Type of Resource:	Journal article
Source/Author(s):	Joel Teitelbaum and Ellen Lawton
Date (founded/published):	2017
Service Provider Setting:	Clinical settings

This article takes the view that medical-legal partnerships can be an effective way to address downstream health and socio-economic disparities rooted in upstream societal, institutional, structural, and racial contexts. The article details the historical roots of medical-legal partnerships, highlights some ways in which lawyers and medical professionals have collaborated through medical-legal partnerships and separate from them; discusses the return on investment that medical-legal partnerships generate for health care services; and concludes with a forward-looking consideration of the ways that addressing health inequities through medical-legal partnerships represents a promising and modern approach to health care. As part of a study discussed in this article, patients who were determined to have legal needs were offered an appointment and matched with a lawyer if they chose to pursue a legal remedy. The study found significant levels of unmet legal need among patients, with almost 85 percent of patients screened found to have at least one health-harming legal problem and approximately 3 legal needs on average per patient screened. Legal problem types identified through the study include: family, income, housing employment, and health. The article also notes that patients with legal needs were more likely to have higher rates of housing, food, and income insecurity.

United Kingdom

Title:	Social Prescribing in the U.S. and England: Emerging Interventions to Address Patients' Social Needs
Jurisdiction:	U.S., UK
Type of Resource:	Journal article
Source/Author(s):	Hugh A.J. Alderwick, Laura M. Gottlieb, Caroline M. Fichtenberg, Nancy E. Adler,
Date (founded/published):	2018
Service Provider Setting:	Primary care clinical settings

This journal article discusses “social prescribing”, a term originating in England which refers to the process of “connecting patients with non-medical services to improve their health and well-being”. The article offers corresponding examples of primary care organizations in the U.S. and UK that connect patients with non-medical services for assistance as part of an effort to help those patients address the social aspects of their problem(s). The article also highlights encouraging U.S.-based findings on the benefits of integrating legal services in primary healthcare settings. Community based services where people can address their social needs are further identified as an integral part of this effort.

Title:	Medical–legal partnerships: 11 years' experience of providing acute legal advice for critically ill patients and their families
Jurisdiction:	England
Type of Resource:	Journal article
Source/Author(s):	C. Andrew Eynon, Lucy J. Robinson, and Kara M. Smith
Date (founded/published):	February 2020
Service Provider Setting:	Primary care clinical setting (trauma centre)

This article discusses medical-legal partnerships in the UK as a means to address the demand for early legal services interventions for patients with critical medical health needs. The article presents findings from a study of retrospective data of patients who were referred for legal advice by the University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust, one of 12 major trauma centres in England for adults and children. Free legal advice was provided in-person and over the phone, with assistance for non-compensation matters mostly offered by supervised paralegals. During the reference period of the study, 551 patients received legal help and 275 patients were found to have potential claims against a third party. The legal service helped to secure interim payments totaling £13 million and, in the 51 cases that were settled, the service helped to secure compensation totaling £128 million.