

# The Medical-Legal Partnership of Oregon: Impacting Health through Legal Services

## Health Share of Oregon

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### Background

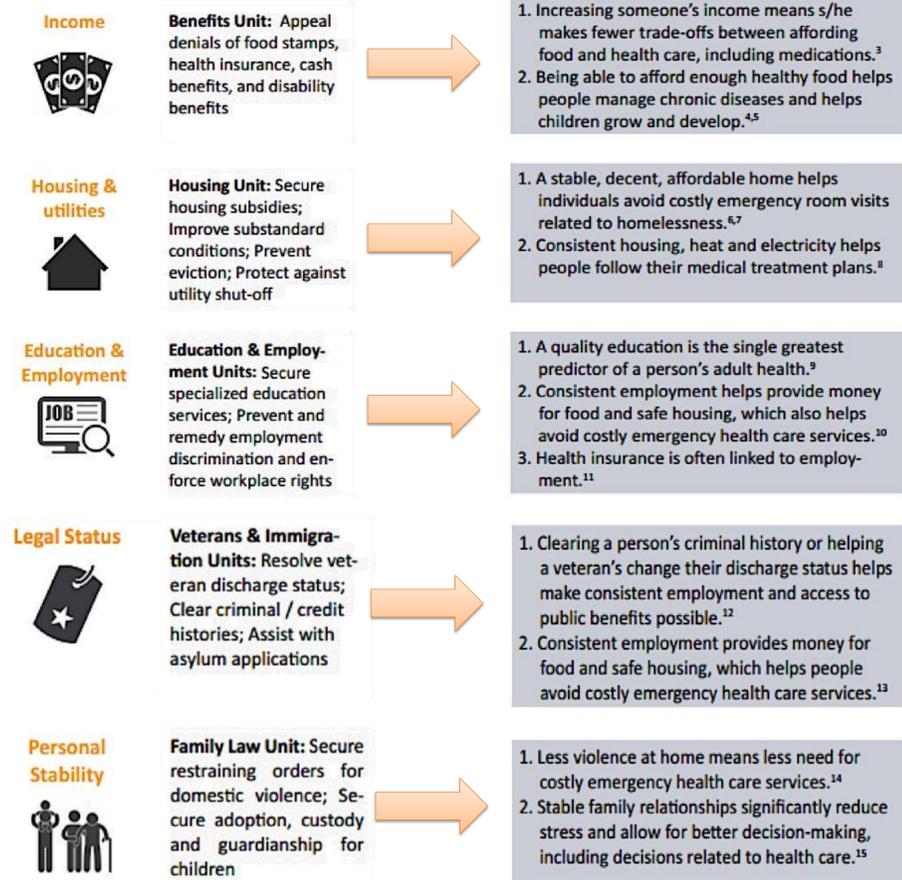
Social determinants of health have a significant impact on the health of individuals and communities. Many of those social conditions can be traced to laws that are unfairly applied or under-enforced, often leading to health-harming legal needs that cannot be treated effectively without legal care. In partnership with Health Share of Oregon, The Medical-Legal Partnership of Oregon is working to integrate legal professionals within health care teams to improve the health of low income Oregonians.



### What is a Medical-Legal Partnership?

- A patient care model that aims to improve the health and well-being of vulnerable patients and populations by integrating legal professionals into the health care setting
- Based on the premise that legal problems are health problems
- Involves individual patient legal interventions as well as policy interventions aimed at improving population health

### Connection between Legal Issues and Health

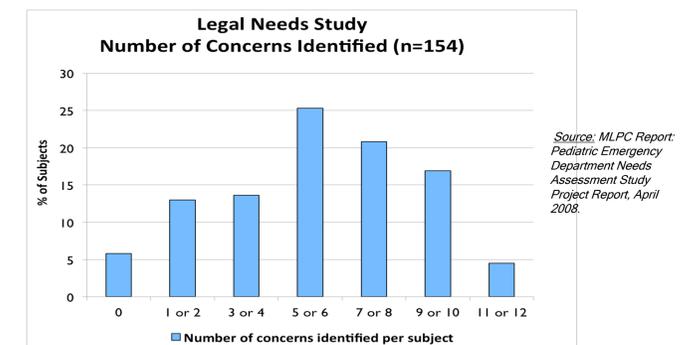


### Breaking Down Silos: Integrating Care

	Prevailing Model	MLP Model
<b>Legal Assistance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service is crisis-driven</li> <li>• Individuals are responsible for seeking legal assistance</li> <li>• Primary pursuit is justice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service is preventive, focuses on early identification of and response to legal needs</li> <li>• Healthcare team works with patients to identify legal needs and makes referrals for assistance</li> <li>• Aims include improved health and well-being</li> </ul>
<b>Healthcare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adverse social conditions affect patient health but are difficult to address</li> <li>• Healthcare team refers patients to social worker/case manager for limited assistance</li> <li>• Advocacy skills are valued, taught and deployed inconsistently</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adverse social conditions with legal remedies are identified and addressed as part of care</li> <li>• Healthcare, social work, and legal teams work together to address legal needs, improve health and change systems</li> <li>• Advocacy skills are prioritized as part of the standard of care</li> </ul>

### The Need for Medical-Legal Partnership

- Research shows that 1 in 6 people need legal care to be healthy
  - Translates to nearly 50 million Americans who need some sort of legal care to be healthy!
- Study of pediatric patient needs found:
  - 94% of patients had one or more legal problem
  - 70% did not identify that their issues were legal issues
- Superutilizers of health care services have great needs for housing, coordinated care and public benefits to ensure stability and improve primary care utilization.
  - 5% of the population that accounts for 50% of health care costs



### Medical-Legal Partnerships in Oregon

- No medical-legal partnerships currently operate in Oregon
- Planning for the first medical-legal partnership in Oregon began in 2014
  - Established advisory board comprised of 17 members including attorneys, health plans, clinics, hospitals, community service organizations, state agency
- Activities of the advisory board include:
  - Pilot project with OHSU Richmond Clinic
  - Strategic planning—the future of medical-legal partnerships in Oregon

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