



MLPB
ADVANCING HEALTH
THROUGH JUSTICE

January 2023

Greetings MLPB Stakeholders, Supporters, and Friends:

It is my great privilege to be able to send out MLPB's first newsletter of 2023. As many of you know, I became Executive Director of MLPB just a few weeks ago, and I am grateful that the MLPB Advisory Board selected me for the role.



MLPB's previous leader Samantha Morton has left an indelible impression on the practice of social care and the implementation of health equity. She has creatively pushed boundaries to explore how to ensure the most effective distribution of legal information and problem-solving resources to health care teams. I am excited to dig in to expand this important work.

I have much to learn about the MLPB model and its potential, but I already know two reasons about why this work is so important. First: our low-income communities face [numerous civil legal problems](#) each year largely without help. And second: those legal issues have consequences far beyond what appears on the page of any court document, and impact the physical health, safety, mental health, and relationships of those involved.

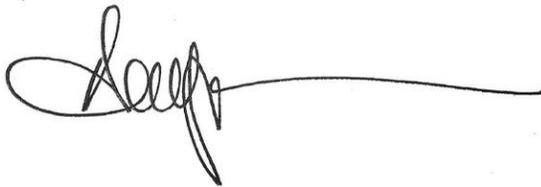
Throughout my 20 years in legal services in Massachusetts, I have worked to implement creative solutions to this access to justice crisis, and through this work I have seen that a critical component is getting legal information into the hands of non-lawyers. I believe that we need more opportunities to unlock the gates and to demystify and democratize access to legal tools. And health care

teams, which already have established relationships with their patients and members, are a vital access point for disseminating actionable legal information.

My vision for MLPB is to build upon a already strong foundation and equip communities of care with insights to foster health, equity and human-centered system change. When communities of care partner together, we can align health, social and justice needs and address not only the health of a single individual, but also work to stitch together a blueprint for vibrant communities. In that way, prevention is the key in law as much as it is in medicine.

This work is implemented on a daily basis by an incredible and skilled team of MLPB staff and in strong partnership with many medical, legal and care communities in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. I am in awe of their dedication. My focus for my first six months is to gain a deep understanding of the work that is being done day to day, to learn what care teams and their participants need most, and to build relationships among our stakeholders.

I invite you to connect with me to share your ideas for how MLPB can continue to push the needle on health, equity and justice in our communities. I can be reached at acopperman@mlpb.health.



Amy Copperman, Executive Director



DIGITAL DIGEST

With the start of a new calendar year comes many changes to state and federal policies. We encourage care teams to visit MLPB's [Digital Digest](#) for the most up-to-date information about what these changes mean.



The COVID emergency SNAP payment program has ended. [Some states](#), like Rhode Island and Massachusetts, are still offering emergency payments through February 2023.

Check the [Federal Digest](#) for more information.

Care planning, delivery and financing should systematically account for people's legal rights, risks and remedies. MLPB equips communities of care with legal education and problem-solving insight that fosters prevention, health equity and human-centered system change. Through training, consultation and technical assistance, we help teams and organizations better connect people to the resources and legal protections they seek.

At a household level, this capacity-building support disrupts the trajectory of a social, economic or environmental need into a legal – and health – crisis. At a population level, this work cultivates communities of care as partners in system and policy change.

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Mailing Address: MLPB c/o TSNE, 89 South Street, Suite 700, Boston, MA 02111

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