

## SAVE THE DATE

 **MLPB Spring Breakfast**

Date: **Wednesday, May 2, 2018**  
Time: **8:30 – 10:00am**  
Location: **The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University  
222 Richmond Street, Room 270  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903**

*Keynote speaker:*  
**Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH**  
Director, Rhode Island Department of Health



New post by [Samantha Morton](#)

**Accountable care – accountable to whom and for what? Health**

workforces in Massachusetts and across the nation enter a new normal with SDOH in the job description. As Medicaid ACOs (accountable care organizations) [stood up in Massachusetts yesterday](#) and operate in states across the country, social determinants of health (SDOH) represent a critical frontier of care delivery innovation, workforce quality and satisfaction, cost reduction potential, and health equity progress. Recent developments show promise:



- Housing is now accepted as a "foundational" social determinant of health, with analogies to housing as a "[prescription](#)" and "[vaccine](#)" increasingly [mainstream](#). [Read more here...](#)

## SDOH TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Screening for SDOH is a high-stakes human encounter that requires specific capacity – including [structural competency](#) – in order for the interaction be helpful and not harmful. Want to learn more? Check out this January 2018 issue brief published by the [Center for the Study of Social Policy](#): [A Strengths-Based Approach to Screening Families for Health-Related Social Needs](#) – co-authored by MLPB Legal Director [JoHanna Flacks](#)!

- Talking with people about immigration status and their health is one thing, documenting those communications in the medical (or other organizational) record is quite another. [Learn more here.](#)
- Team-based care for SDOH gains traction. In November 2017, [DULCE's interdisciplinary approach to addressing SDOH in pediatrics](#) and [reducing toxic stress](#) among families was featured in a [poster](#) at the APHA Annual Meeting in Atlanta. You can read more about the poster session [here.](#)
- Rising to the challenge, together! Thank you to all who attended [MLPB's 8th Annual Conference](#) on October 30, 2017! Panelists pushed boundaries upstream on risk adjustment, [strengths-based social screening strategies](#), and best practices for health and human services workforce members tackling SDOH with individuals and families.



Plenary B panelists (from L-R):  
Baraka Floyd, Stanford School of Medicine; Rita Fernandes, Community Health Worker; Carrie Bridges-Feliz, Lifespan; Renée Boynton-Jarrett, Vital Village Community Engagement Network, Boston Medical Center/Boston University School of Medicine; JoHanna Flacks, MLPB

- Thanks to these workforce leaders and conveners for hosting MLPB and investing in SDOH skill-building for health workforce members (current and future!) in recent months:
  - [Boston University School of Medicine](#)
  - [Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers](#)
  - [Putting Care at the Center](#) / [National Center for Complex Health and Social Needs](#)
  - [Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program](#)

## BEYOND SCREENING & REFERRAL: IT TAKES TWO

A primary care provider from [Hasbro Children's Hospital](#) consulted with MLPB on behalf of her patient, a child in foster care who had been unable to attend school due to transportation challenges.\* The patient had been placed in a group home over 30 miles from his home school district and out-of-district transportation was required. While school districts battled over financial responsibility, all school transportation services for this child ceased. The student could not access essential schooling, and was missing opportunities to engage with his community, an important therapeutic element of his care.

MLPB oriented this frustrated clinician on the patient's many legal rights under federal and state law. The provider then was equipped to write a letter to the school districts explaining in compelling language her patient's need for continued school placement in the child's home community and for immediate restoration of transportation services to the school. Thanks to this clinician's thoughtful Gatekeeper effort, transportation was quickly restored and the patient was able to return to school and engage with his community!



\*details modified to preserve confidentiality

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## ON OUR MIND

### System Transformation

- [Learnings from a Large-scale Emergency Department Care Management Program in New York City](#) (NEJM Catalyst, 2/7/18)
- [NQF offers strategies for Medicaid to address social determinants of health](#) (Modern Healthcare, 1/25/18)
- [Medical schools shouldn't divorce education from politics](#) (STAT News, 1/5/18)
- [Doctors need to discuss firearm safety and gun violence with their patients](#) (STAT News, 11/13/17)
- [An Interdisciplinary Approach to Toxic Stress: Learning the Lingo](#) (Pediatrics, Nov. 2017)

### Housing and Built Environment

- [Cleveland Group Helps Tenants Fight Lead Poisoning in Housing Court](#) (Nonprofit Quarterly, 1/2/18)
- [Air Pollution Exposure Inequality Persists in Massachusetts](#) (BU School of Public Health, 11/9/17)
- [Evicted in R.I.: When there's no place like home](#) (Providence Journal, 7/14/17)

### Immigration

- [The Health of Dreamers](#) (Health Affairs Blog, 2/13/18)
- [Attorney General Healey's Guide for Families Affected by Federal Immigration Actions](#) (Boston Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service, 2/9/18)
- ["Public Charge" Would Create a Public Health Crisis for Immigrant Families](#) (Community Catalyst Health Policy Hub, 2/9/18)
- [How Mass. Providers Are Responding To A Call For 'Sanctuary Hospitals'](#) (WBUR, 10/30/17)

### Living with Sickle Cell Disease

- [Boston public schools agree to recognize sickle cell disease as disability](#) (The Boston Globe, 2/8/18)
- [Unmet legal and social advocacy needs of children with sickle cell disease: Implications for health care payer costs](#) (Children and Youth Services Review, 2018)
- [Sickle cell patients fight uphill battle for research, treatment — and compassion](#) (STAT News, 12/26/17)
- [Sickle Cell Patients Suffer Discrimination, Poor Care — And Shorter Lives](#) (Kaiser Health News, 11/6/17)

### Guardianship of Older Adults

- [How the Elderly Lose Their Rights](#) (The New Yorker, 10/9/17)
- [Who's Guarding Against the Guardians](#) (On Point - WBUR, 10/5/17)

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## NEW TEAM MEMBER

Henry McDonald recently joined MLPB to support our training program. Here, in his own words, is a little more about himself:

I'm a senior at Brandeis University studying Health: Science, Society & Policy with minors in French and Legal Studies. In my studies I have focused on health disparities and ethics and I am particularly interested in how health care and law interact at the macro/societal level. Working at MLPB has allowed me to more granularly explore this intersection and provides the opportunity to see the practical implications of my academic coursework. I am feel fortunate to work with such knowledgeable, compassionate, and skilled team members. I believe that my time at MLPB will prepare me for a joint JD-MPH program, and in a future career that allows me to further develop innovative, upstream health care solutions that empower patient populations.

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MLPB equips the healthcare and human services workforce with upstream problem-solving strategies that address health-related social needs. Leveraging our public interest law expertise, we advance health equity for individuals, families and communities. And we can't do this work without your support.

Please contribute to MLPB now!

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