



SACRAMENTO
STEPS FORWARD

Ending Homelessness. Starting Fresh.

Comments

Greatly expand shared housing like SSHH
does for County rehousing shelter program
to make more effective use of existing
housing stock that is underutilized.

Mike Laske, SACACT

mike.jaske@gmail.com

Please submit written comments to Sacramento Steps Forward at the check-in table or
via e-mail to bavey@sacstepsforward.org by 5 p.m. on Monday, August 27, 2018



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Comments The state specifying 5% min for youth offers a concern this population will be overlooked. Even though youth services are required in the funding, current objectives do not include any youth specific objectives. The objectives must be revisited & include youth specific objectives in order to drive proposals relevant to the funding requirements.

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Comments

Isn't Cindy and Emily sitting on
the CoC Advisory board a conflict of
interest when the CoC approves a
recommendation?!

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Comments

Once/if funding is provided, how will SSF decide who or what existing shelters will receive some of this funding?

If some of the funding will be used for diversion, will the existing ^{who practice this} agencies be available to receive more or any funding from the BTM?

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Comments

1) Can these funds be used for staff to support shelter programs

2) Can funds be used for landlord mitigation funds (repairs to apts)

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3) Incentives to landlords

Dorothy S. Landsberg
Lacey W. Muckeburgh
McGeorge School of Law

August 23, 2018



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Comments

(MLP)

(Ten talking points - May, 2018)

1. Medical Legal Partnership to address unmet civil legal needs
2. Proof of concept - MLP - McGeorge/WellSpace Health - May 2018
3. 2017-2018 Final Report of Sac Co Grand Jury p. 43 - Release from jail
4. Report of Findings, Reentry Health Policy Project
January 2018 California Health Policy Strategies - David Panush

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TEN TALKING POINTS

Medical-Legal Partnership (MLP) -- McGeorge Law and WellSpace Health

1. Health and behavioral health are central in reducing homelessness and preventing recidivism. Social determinants of health include income security, employment and housing. Civil legal barriers to health can be successfully addressed as part of an integrated, real-time MLP, reducing homelessness and recidivism.
2. Medical-legal partnerships with direct legal representation are a proven model to address unmet social determinants that impact poor health, homelessness and recidivism. The integration of staff attorneys and law students into a community health center MLP can resolve some of the most intractable social problems of vulnerable populations by providing standardized legal screenings, conducting initial consultations, and then delivering timely legal services on-site to clients. <http://medical-legalpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Health-Center-based-Medical-Legal-Partnerships.pdf>
3. Since June 2017, health employees from WellSpace Health and staff attorneys from McGeorge School of Law have established an MLP in Sacramento as "proof of concept" for the MLP model. The legal services component of the MLP was funded by a one-time grant from Sierra Health, one-time gifts to McGeorge, and in-kind services provided by faculty in the McGeorge legal clinics. There was no additional MLP funding for WellSpace Health; MLP activities by WellSpace were included as part of their regular funded services. (Attached MLP Proof of Concept report.)
4. During the initial time period, the MLP had a focused scope of legal services:
 - a. criminal record clearances (increase access to employment and housing)
 - b. elimination of current court fines and fees (reinstatement of driver licenses, etc.)
 - c. modifications of child support orders (increase income stability)
 - d. applications, post-eligibility issues, and appeals for SSI/SSDI (increase income stability)
 - e. credit counseling (increase income stability)
5. For over a year, McGeorge clinical faculty and staff attorneys have conferred extensively with other key community stakeholders in health, homelessness and reentry organizations, increasing substantive knowledge and growing relationships. An outgrowth of those collaborations is a funded Grant from the California State Bar for \$75,000 annually (beginning January 2018) for three years for a total of \$225,000. The Grant funds a partnership with Rio Consumnes Correctional Center (RCCC), Sacramento County Probation Department and WellSpace Health solely for policy advocacy and training of reentry staff. Substantial efforts to include direct legal representation of reentry population at RCCC in the Grant were unsuccessful. (Attached Funded Grant and partner letters of support.)
6. Examples of civil legal barriers, identified during the planning phase for the Grant, include the need for streamlined access to Cal ID cards pre-release for the reentry population and the

May 9, 2018

development of workable community service alternatives for the reentry population for the payment of fees and fines. As we identify civil legal barriers to successful reentry, we will develop models for change in legal, policies, practices and programs as part of the grant.

7. David Panush, an experienced health policy guru, and his team at California Health Policy Strategies (CalHPS) have recently published a full Report (including Key Findings and Policy Briefs)—“*Reentry Health Policy Project: Meeting the Health and Behavioral Health Needs of Prison & Jail Inmates Returning from Custody to their Community.*” (www.Calhps.com) The report is specifically focused on formerly incarcerated persons (FIPs) who are medically fragile and those living with serious mental illness. Based on several recent meetings with David Panush and McGeorge clinical faculty members, we believe there is substantial overlap between the initial work done by the MLP, the policy advocacy work included in the California State Bar Grant, and key recommendations of his report, especially those addressing civil legal barriers during pre-release and immediate post-release. David has agreed to be a partner for the McGeorge/WellSpace MLP. (Attached Key Findings prepared by CalHPS.)
8. One proposed MLP component, to address homelessness and successful reentry, is to provide immediate legal services for the pre-identified homeless reentry population at RCCC. The legal services will include direct representation, as well as the already funded policy advocacy and training for reentry staff. This MLP component will work closely with other community organizations including the Anti-Recidivism Coalition, Sacramento Self-Help Housing, the Probation Department, and Volunteers of America.
9. The proposed MLP would include direct legal representation by staff attorneys and supervised law students. Salary, benefits and related costs for a MLP staff attorney are \$100,000 annually. McGeorge School of Law will provide close supervision and ongoing support by our experienced legal clinic faculty, 4-6 certified law students, office space, computers, a legal case management system, insurance, and related support services. Our experience is that certified law students under careful attorney supervision can effectively and efficiently deliver legal services.
10. An essential component for the MLP is the identification of ongoing, systemic funding. Some of the recommendations in the CalHPS report dealing with maximizing federal financial participation (FFP) and Medicaid Administrative Activities (MAAs) may be productive sources of funding.

Dorothy Landsberg
Melissa Brown
McGeorge School of Law

**Proof of Concept
McGeorge School of Law Homeless Advocacy Clinic
McGeorge School of Law/WellSpace Health Medical- Legal Partnership (MLP)
May 2018**

BACKGROUND

In November 2017, a 67 year old woman was referred to the McGeorge Homeless Advocacy Clinic for assistance with her criminal record. She had been homeless in Sacramento for over three years. Although she had applied for low-income, senior housing, she was denied due to her criminal background. We worked with a neighboring county's Public Defender's Office to have her felony conviction reduced to a misdemeanor and dismissed. Following dismissal, our client's application for housing was again denied due to delay in the processing of the dismissal of her criminal record. We sent a letter to the housing provider to inform them of the dismissal and she was placed back on the waiting list for low-income housing. While waiting for her housing, client was informed by another county that she owed over \$2,000 dollars in prior illegal camping fines. We successfully obtained a dismissal for all of her prior camping tickets. After many years of struggle, she is now happily housed.

This story is the essence of effective interdisciplinary approaches to meeting community needs. As part of a medical-legal partnership (MLP), McGeorge School of Law attorneys and WellSpace Health staff have worked for over a year to identify the civil legal barriers to housing, health, employment and economic stability for the Sacramento homeless community. We have conferred extensively with other key community stakeholders. Since June 2017, MLP attorneys have been taking referrals, primarily from WellSpace Health employees, for clients who are homeless, previously homeless, or precariously housed as a "proof of concept" for the MLP model in Sacramento.

Medical-legal partnerships (MLPS) are collaborative, flexible arrangements, in which attorneys and law students address the unmet social determinants that directly impact health and housing outcomes. The integration of legal services into a community health center can resolve some of the most intractable social problems of vulnerable populations by standardized legal screening and then by delivery of timely legal services on-site.

SCOPE OF LEGAL SERVICES

The scope of legal services has included the following:

Criminal Record Clearance/Fines & Fees:

- Assist with the filing of expungement petitions, including any necessary court appearances for Prop 47, Prop 64, and Penal Code 1203.4 petitions.
- Help clients address current traffic court fines and fees through elimination and reduction of fines, as well as, community service alternatives.

Child Support Modification/Arrears:

- Identification: Many individuals are not aware of what they owe in current or past due support. If an individual believes he or she may owe support for a minor or now adult child, attorneys submit information to the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) to determine arrearages going forward.

- Modification: In order to increase income, attorneys assist in modifying current child support orders.
- Arrears: Many individuals may be aware of arrears orders but are afraid of DCSS garnishing wages. Attorneys work with clients and DCSS to create reasonable payment plans for past due support.
- License Suspension: Where a driver's license may be suspended due to unpaid child support, attorneys work with DCSS to request a temporary lift of the suspension.

SSI/SSDI (application, post-eligibility issues and appeals):

- Prepare initial applications for SSI/SSDI to include: in-depth interviews with client, follow up with medical appointments, and collection of medical, educational, and vocational history to submit to SSA.
- Assist with the appeals of benefit denials, including appearances.
- Assist with annual recertification documents.
- Assist with any claims by SSA of overpayment of benefits.

Credit Counseling:

- Pull credit reports and review for errors, fraud, or identity theft issues.
- Assist in submitting error or fraud reports to the credit agency to clear these issues.
- Draft a letter of explanation when feasible.

REFERRAL & SCREENING PROCESS

Legal Referrals:

Case managers provide MLP attorneys with a copy of the completed referral form by email correspondence. The MLP attorneys then follow up directly with the case manager or the client to promptly schedule an in-person legal screening.

The main referral sources for clients are as follows:

- Interim Care Program (ICP)- Volunteers of America (34 referrals)
- Interim Care Program (ICP) Plus- Salvation Army (17 referrals)
- WellSpace Health Treat, Triage, and Transport (T3) Program (32 referrals)
- Sacramento Self-Help Housing-Elk Grove (SSHH) (11 referrals)
- Sacramento Self-Help Housing- Citrus Heights (4 referrals)
- WellSpace Health Street Nurse (1 referral)
- Sacramento Steps Forward (SSF) Navigators (1 referral)
- WellSpace Health Sacramento Violence Intervention Program (SVIP) (7 referrals)
- St. John's Program for Real Change (1 referral)

Anticipated further referral sources involving the reentry population:

- Sacramento County Adult Day Reporting Centers (South and Central locations, staffed by WellSpace Health)
- WellSpace Health Alcohol and Drug Residential Treatment Program
- Anti-Recidivism Coalition

Legal Screenings:

The legal screenings are conducted by the MLP attorneys in initial meetings with clients, using the attached legal referral form. All screenings are conducted at a convenient location for the client so as to meet clients where they are.

ICP Locations: As clients cycle in and out of ICP at an accelerated rate, once a client is referred to the MLP, a legal screening appointment is scheduled as soon as possible. On average, appointments have been scheduled at least once a week and often more frequently.

T3 Programs: The MLP has office hours at Boulevard Court or Martin Luther King (permanent supportive housing locations) every Wednesday from 1:00 pm- 4:00 pm for new clients or meetings with existing clients.

SSHH-Elk Grove United Methodist Church: The MLP has office hours every Thursday from 9:00 am- 12:00 pm to meet with SSHH referred clients.

SSHH- Citrus Heights: The MLP has office hours every Tuesday from 10:00am-12:00pm to meet with SSHH referred clients.

SSF Navigators/Street Nurse: Screenings as referred by SSF or the street nurse have occurred on a case by case basis.

SVIP: Screenings as referred by Intervention specialists and scheduled at client's convenience on a case by case basis.

CASE NARRATIVES

- **Public Benefit Advocacy by MLP Attorneys:**
 - We represented a client at her Disability Hearing to advocate for the continuance of her benefits. The case was complex and required substantive fact development and legal analysis. Client was deemed disabled and will continue to receive her disability income.
 - Our client was referred through her case manager due to the termination of his Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) payments. We represented client in his SSDI appeal process and successfully reinstated benefits prior to the hearing stage. By legal advocacy, Client received over \$8,000 in retroactive payment for the termination of benefits during the appeal process. Client reports a substantial impact on his mental health as a result of our lawyering.
 - We represented a client in his Supplemental Security Income (SSI) appeal. Client was awarded \$13, 416.84 in back due SSI payments for non-payment during his appeal and \$910 dollars a month in SSI payments moving forward.
 - We have counseled numerous other clients on their Social Security options and whether or not they are good candidates to apply for benefits.
 - We have assisted several clients in obtaining medical records, answering social security related questions, and assisting with initial applications as needed.
 - We are currently assisting several clients in their own applications for social security benefits, by assisting them in filling out the required paperwork to move their cases forward.

- **Criminal Record Issues Resolved by MLP Attorneys:**
 - Our client had warrants in San Francisco and Sacramento Counties, but could not attend her San Francisco case due to the long distance travel. We worked with the San Francisco County Public Defender's office to appear on her matter. As a result, the matter was dismissed. We continue to monitor client's Sacramento case, as she will likely be eligible for criminal record clearances on several of her previous cases.
 - Our client had an out of state sentencing appearance that she did not appear for. By working with her previous criminal attorney and the District Attorney's office, her conviction was vacated.
 - Our client had an out of county warrant. We worked with her to find an attorney to represent her at a low cost. Her case was successfully adjudicated.
- **Child Support Issues Addressed by MLP Attorneys:**
 - Our client received approximately \$1,000 a month through Social Security Disability Insurance. However, client's disability benefits were garnished at \$500 dollars a month for past due child support. All of client's children, except for his youngest who is in his care, had aged out of the system. We worked with the client and the Department of Child Support Services to have his garnishment lowered to \$50 a month, thus substantially increasing his household income.
- **Traffic Fines and Fees Remedied by MLP Attorneys:**
 - We represented a client in traffic court. As a result of our representation, five out of six of client's failure to pay light rail tickets, totaling over \$2,000, were dismissed. Client will complete community service hours for the remaining ticket.
 - We assisted clients in obtaining community service orders for past due tickets in several cases.

TRAINING AND COLLABORATION

Sacramento Reentry Community Redevelopment Project:

The Sacramento Reentry Community Redevelopment Project is an innovative, collaborative partnership with Rio Consumnes Correctional Facility (RCCC), WellSpace Health, and the Probation Department. To address the civil legal needs of Sacramento County's reentry population to reduce homelessness and recidivism the Project includes: legal trainings and legal workshops for community partners as well as, policy advocacy and implementation as policy changes are achieved. The Project goals are to help reduce and prevent homelessness and recidivism among the reentry population, by providing additional tools necessary for successful reintegration into the community.

The Reentry Coalition:

Since its inception in 2017, MLP attorneys have participated in Sacramento's reentry coalition. The Coalition's mission is to resource reentry organizations through networking and monthly meetings, empower them organizationally with proven methodologies and restore formerly incarcerated people by working together on sustainable solutions. The MLP will be providing training to reentry organization staff to assist with reentry legal needs.