

ABA/ NLADA 2007 Equal Justice Conference

Multidisciplinary Training of Doctors and Lawyers:
Improving Children's Health Outcomes through Medical-Legal Collaboration

Pamela Tames, Esq.
Senior Staff Attorney / Director of Education and Training
The Medical-Legal Partnership for Children
Boston Medical Center
91 East Concord Street, 6th Floor
Boston, MA 02128
T: 617/414.7315
F: 617/414.3629
Pamela.Tames@bmc.org

Megan Sandel, MD, MPH
Co-Director of Education and Training
The Medical-Legal Partnership for Children
Assistant Professor
Department of Pediatrics
Boston Medical Center
91 East Concord Street, 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02128
T: 617/414.3680
F: 617/414.3679
Megan.Sandel@bmc.org

Elizabeth Tobin Tyler, Esq.
Director of Public Service and Community Partnerships
Lecturer in Public Interest Law
Feinstein Institute for Legal Service
Roger Williams University School of Law
Bristol, RI 02809
T: 401/254.4634
F: 401/254.4540
LTyler@law.rwu.edu

Patricia Flanagan, MD
Co-Director
Medical/Pediatrics Residency Training
Hasbro Children's Hospital
593 Eddy St.
Providence, RI 02903
T: 401/444.4712
pflanagan@lifespan.org

Brief Description:

Medical-legal partnerships use multidisciplinary teaching and training to help pediatricians and attorneys work together to improve children's health outcomes. Pediatricians and medical students are trained to identify medical cases where legal intervention is indicated and how to advocate on their patients' behalf. Law firm attorneys are trained to represent families as pro bono counsel and law students are taught how to practice in a collaborative relationship with physicians to provide more holistic advocacy. This presentation will show how doctors and lawyers and medical and law students are being trained to collaborate in their care and service of low-income families and children.

Topical Outline:

- I. Why Some Doctors are Prescribing Legal Remedies for their Patients, and What Lawyers Can Do to Support the Effort (20 minutes)
 - a. Pediatricians need lawyers to keep children healthy
 - b. Lawyers need doctors to reach families earlier, more effectively and before crises ensue
 - c. Medical-legal partnerships move from fledgling pilots to national model
 - d. Guidelines for successful initiatives

- II. Rhode Island MLPC
 - a. How a multi-partner collaboration addresses health issues in housing, family law and education (15 minutes)

- III. MLPC / Boston:
 - a. How a pediatrics department employs a legal team as part of patient service, pediatric training and systems reform (15 minutes)

- IV. Teaching Law Students and Medical Students Collaboration (15 minutes)
 - a. Designing a joint class for medical and law students
 - b. Collaborative problem-solving

- V. Training pediatricians (15 minutes)
 - a. Advocacy Boot Camp: Everything a pediatrician needs to know about school law in 30 minutes or less
 - b. Managing expectations is the key

VI. Ask the panelists (10 minutes)

Bibliography & Website Links:

1. Tames P, Tremblay P, Wagner T, Lawton E & Smith L. *The Lawyer is In: Why Some Doctors are Prescribing Legal Remedies for Their Patients, and How the Legal Profession Can Support This Effort*. Boston University Public Interest Law Journal, Spring/Summer 2003.
2. Zuckerman B, Sandel M, Smith L, Lawton E. *Why Pediatricians Need Lawyers to Keep Children Healthy*. Pediatrics. 2004; 114(1): 224-28.
3. Cherayil M, Oliveira D, Sandel M, Tohn E. *Lawyers and Doctors Partner for Healthy Housing*, Clearinghouse Review Journal of Poverty and Law and Policy 2005: 3.
4. Morton S & Sandel M. *Immigration 101 for the Pediatric Practice*. Contemporary Pediatrics 2005: 4:34-46.
5. Liz Tobin Tyler, *Poverty, Health and Law: The Medical/Legal Collaborative* (Course Syllabus), Roger Williams University School of Law.
6. www.MLPforchildren.org
7. www.rifap.org