Doctors and lawyers working together can teach students about social determinants of health.

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FEEDBACK FROM STUDENTS:
From Public Health student & professor: “One of the big takeaways for me, was the ability to meld public health, law, and medicine. I was always aware that the three intertwined, but in today’s presentation, we saw how the medical field can truly influence the law field, and vice versa.”

“As always, my students enjoyed learning about your work with the Medical-Legal Partnership and Kokua Kalihi Valley Health Center. I think a couple are even considering attending law school because of you.”

From LAW 590U (interdisciplinary course): “The clinical hours we had done for [the MLP Law Clinic course] really inspired me to apply to medical school.”

From MD7 evaluation: “Thank you for taking the time to teach us. It was so nice to see hear about how we can team up to help our patients most effectively in their law needs.”

“It’s very inspiring to hear from people who are so passionate and very enabling for us to realize with the right referral we do have the power to create change for patients.”

Resident on community pediatric rotation writing in a Japanese medical journal: “In the University of Hawai‘i Pediatric Residency Program, we have a ‘community pediatric’ rotation for several months. During this rotation, we are fortunate to have the opportunity to work with MLPC at KKV. This was a valuable experience that I could not have obtained in Japan.”

Resident on IEU: “Thanks again for a very energizing day yesterday - I just wanted to follow up with you to say thanks again, and to let you know that I think we have some real interest in pursuing the MLP here [at another health site].”

Resident in Continuity Clinic: “Having MLPC next door from our clinic has been a blessing for our families and eye-opening for me. I have learned to appreciate our lawyers’ thoroughness as well as the confidentiality they practice with. They have been open to addressing all kinds of different legal issues that I have come across.”

Residents Retreat comments: “It was a great exercise!” “That was great—good practice with social questions.” “Good exercise on how a medical concern is tied to a family’s socioeconomic needs.”

“It would be FANTASTIC if this model could be adapted to all community health centers across Hawaii.”

EVALUATION RESULTS FOR MLP EXERCISE FOR PEDS RESIDENT RETREAT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Score</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>did the MLP exercise help students to see the legal needs of patients?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>did the MLP exercise help students to understand the social needs of patients?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>did the MLP exercise help students to understand the medical needs of patients?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do you think this exercise helped residents learn?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do you think this exercise helped residents develop awareness?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do you think this exercise helped residents develop empathy?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SAMPLE CURRICULUM & EVALUATION FORMS AVAILABLE VIA QR CODE:

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Abstract #1

Medical-Legal Partnership: Opportunities for Interprofessional Education

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Context:
The Medical-Legal Partnership for Children in Hawaiʻi (MLPC) was founded in 2008 as a partnership between the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa’s William S. Richardson School of Law, the John A. Burns School of Medicine, and a federally qualified health center, Kōkua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services (KKV). Since its inception, MLPC has been a site for interprofessional education (IPE) of law fellows and pediatric residents, as well as law and medical/health students, to come together to focus on the social determinants of health in addressing whole person care with patients/clients. We encourage more IPE that utilizes MLPC values and lessons, including discrete, collaborative workshops.

Objectives:
1. To educate the next generation of health, law, and other professionals in the social determinants of health through an interdisciplinary and collaborative format.
2. To enhance student experiences by offering a unique venue for IPE and collaboration.

Key Message:
The opportunities for IPE activities are boundless but require some creativity and innovation as our students are educated far away from each other. Medical and law students are primarily focused on learning the distinct languages of our professions which isolate us into academic silos; they are also geographically separated and have misaligned academic schedules, leading to little opportunity to interact. KKV, the physical home of the MLPC, offers an avenue where law fellows and pediatric residents can fully engage and collaborate on patient care together. However, only a small number of students and residents experience this level of interprofessional collaboration.

We have developed and hosted shorter, discrete opportunities for engagement with MLPC, including individualized education units (IEU) for medical residents, MD7 lectures connected to PBL cases, and half-day site visits to KKV and the public housing complex where MLPC operates. More recently, MLPC hosted the pediatric resident annual retreat to participate in a short, problem-based, role-playing activity to address social determinants of health issues drawn from MLPC patient-client realities. With law fellows as facilitators and MLPC residents acting as “patients,” the remaining pediatric residents conducted interviews to uncover the medical and social/legal problems. This exercise allowed the law fellows to see how legal problems exacerbate health problems. Meanwhile, the pediatric residents recognize that if they fail to address the underlying social etiology of a medical problem, they will fail to provide optimal care. And together they share interviewing techniques and gain confidence in asking difficult questions about housing, income, discrimination, and other critical matters.

(see next page)

Key Words/Phrases: Medical-legal partnership Social determinants of health Interprofessional education
Conclusion:
MLPC offers unique opportunities for health and law professional students and early career lawyers (fellows) and doctors (residents) to learn about the social determinants of health and health-harming legal needs together. Through their combined wealth of knowledge, which is often siloed and lost in professional jargon, they can reach new levels of understanding and practice skills to address whole person/whole client needs. Even short-term collaborative educational projects for students and early professionals can improve their confidence and ability to address the social/legal needs of patients.

Target Audience:
Law professors, fellows, and students; medical school professors, residents, and students; residency program directors and clinical faculty; and social work, public health, health management students and professors.

References:

Key Words/Phrases: Medical-legal partnership Social determinants of health Interprofessional education