MEDICAL LEGAL PARTNERSHIP

The first MLP in Oregon. Established in August, 2016 the program served 170 patients in its first year.

A medical legal partnership is a patient care model that aims to improve the health and well-being of vulnerable patients and populations by integrating legal professionals into the health care setting to identify and address health-harming legal concerns. This approach involves both individual patient legal interventions and policy interventions aimed at improving population health.

MLPs exist in every state in the U.S and within 139 health centers. The MLP at OHSU Richmond was the first in the state of Oregon. Established in 2016 through a partnership with HealthShare of Oregon, the MLP served 170 patients with 234 distinct legal issues in its first year.

Two attorneys have on-site hours two days per week, a total of six hours weekly. Richmond clinic providers and staff can refer patients to the legal team for support. This MLP most commonly works to support individual and family stability, benefits denial, and housing concerns. It has also trained approximately 100 health care team members on health-harming legal issues.
FORMING PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT SURVIVORS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

With seed funding from Safer Futures, OHSU Family Medicine at Richmond established an integrated support program for survivors of intimate partner violence. Two advocates from Raphael House and Volunteers of America work full-time in the clinic. Since December 1st, 2018, 75 individuals have been served through this program. Advocates are available to meet with patients one-on-one in the clinic or in the community as needs are identified.

Advocates have provided clients with:
- Safety planning
- Preparation and filing of protective orders
- Court accompaniment
- Emergency housing
- Rent and utility assistance
- Connection and relocation assistance with IPV shelters

IPV survivors who are pregnant or postpartum and engaged in substance use treatment are able to access support groups through the OHSU Family Medicine at Richmond’s Project Nurture program in partnership with CODA. Additionally, they are able to connect patients to ongoing IPV support groups in the community. These groups are designed to better support specific populations and are culturally specific and trauma informed.

The advocates have engaged providers in lunch and learn sessions, reaching 108 staff members. An expert training from Futures Without Violence led a 3-day intensive training for staff. Additionally, the advocates have held community training sessions for nursing students and other IPV advocates,

In its first 9 months, advocates have supported 75 survivors and trained 108 clinic staff

For more information about Social Determinants of Health Programs at OHSU Family Medicine at Richmond's contact Lia Sebring Social Determinants of Health Coordinator sebring@ohsu.edu

Survivor Voices

"I'm so happy to have you here because this is so, so isolating. I can't talk to my doctor or my therapist about what's going on, because I don't know who they're going to tell."

“Honestly, I had no idea what would come of telling my doctor. But I'm just really grateful that there's help, because I can't do this alone.”

"I can never express how much it's meant that you've been here for me during this time. I just needed someone to believe in me and treat me like I can get better."

"When I saw your card that said 'Love should never hurt,' something clicked for me. I was ready to ask for help. I don't deserve to be treated this way."