



A Dialogue with MLPB (f/k/a Medical-Legal Partnership | Boston)

BMC Pediatrics TeamUp
Year 3 Special Topics Forum

Aug. 16, 2022

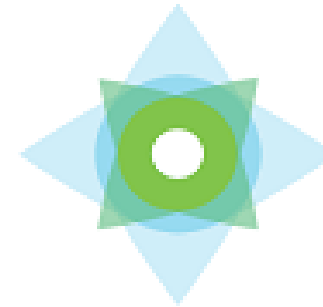
10:00-11:00am EST

Samantha J. Morton
CEO - MLPB

Care planning, delivery and financing should systematically account for people's legal rights, risks, and remedies; and empower care teams as strengths-based, role-aligned partners in problem-solving.

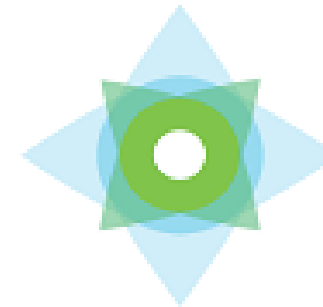
MLPB equips communities of care with legal education and problem-solving insight that foster prevention, health equity, and human-centered system change.

Through training, consultation and technical assistance, we help teams and organizations better connect people and populations to the resources and legal protections they seek.



MLPB
ADVANCING HEALTH
THROUGH JUSTICE

- Often credited as founding MLP site nationally
- Launched in 1993 as program within pediatrics dep't at large safety net hospital (**Boston Medical Center!**); now operates independent of any health or legal institution
- Lawyers partnered with health, public health and operations colleagues
- Partnerships take a broad lens on the health ecosystem
- Focus on preventive law strategies



MLPB
ADVANCING HEALTH
THROUGH JUSTICE

Unlocking Access partnerships

legal education and problem-solving insight for communities of care

Training & Tools

Unlocking Access trainings

Digital Digest

Other Reference Content

Consultation

Real-time consults:
Embedding in IDTMs
(Case Reviews) and
Office Hours

Rapid-response consults:
via telephone, videoconf, and email

Technical Assistance

System re(design) consulting that promotes:

(a) systematic accounting for people's legal rights, risks and remedies in care planning and delivery;
(b) midstream/upstream resolution as opposed to downstream crisis management; and
(c) system- and policy-level impacts in addition to household impacts

BOSTON

Boston Medical Center
Boston University School of Medicine
Boston Accountable Care Organization (BACO)

Children's Health Watch
Elders Living at Home Program (ELAHP)
Pediatrics

Brigham & Women's Hospital RSO
East Boston Social Centers / Family Engmt. Network
Smart from the Start

RHODE ISLAND

BCBSRI

Care Transformation Collaborative-RI/PCMH Kids
Community Health Worker Assoc. of RI
East Bay Community Action Program (EBCAP)
Family Service of Rhode Island (FSRI) +
Providence 02905/02906 Health Equity Zone
Integra Community Care Network (CNE)
Prospect Health System-RI/CharterCARE
Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH)
Office of Family Visiting +
RIDOH Division of Community Health & Equity
Thundermist Health Center AE

Soon: MLPB serves
as Legal Partner to
2 new RI-based
DULCE sites,
funded by **United**
Health Care!

MLPB
Partners &
Collaborators

Aug. 2022

MASSACHUSETTS

Care Alliance of Western MA
Children's Trust / Healthy Families MA
Community Care Cooperative (C3 ACO)
Community & LTSS Care Partners (BH/LTSS CP)
Fallon Health ACO
Lynn Community Health Center (LCHC)
MassHealth (DSRIP TA + Flexible Services Program)
MassGeneral Brigham MassHealth ACO
RIZE MA
Steward Medicaid Care Network (SMCN ACO)
Saint Anne's Hospital (Fall River)

REGIONAL / NATIONAL

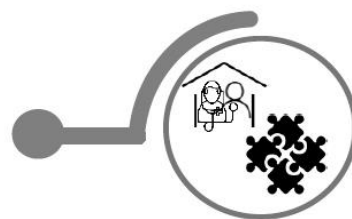
Center for the Study of Social Policy &
national DULCE Learning Network
(CA, FL, VT + 6 Explo communities)

First 5 Commission of Orange County (CA)

Temple Univ. CPH / SSW with T-PAC (PA)



DULCE
An initiative
of CSSP



Evaluating Community Approaches to Preventing or Mitigating Toxic Stress

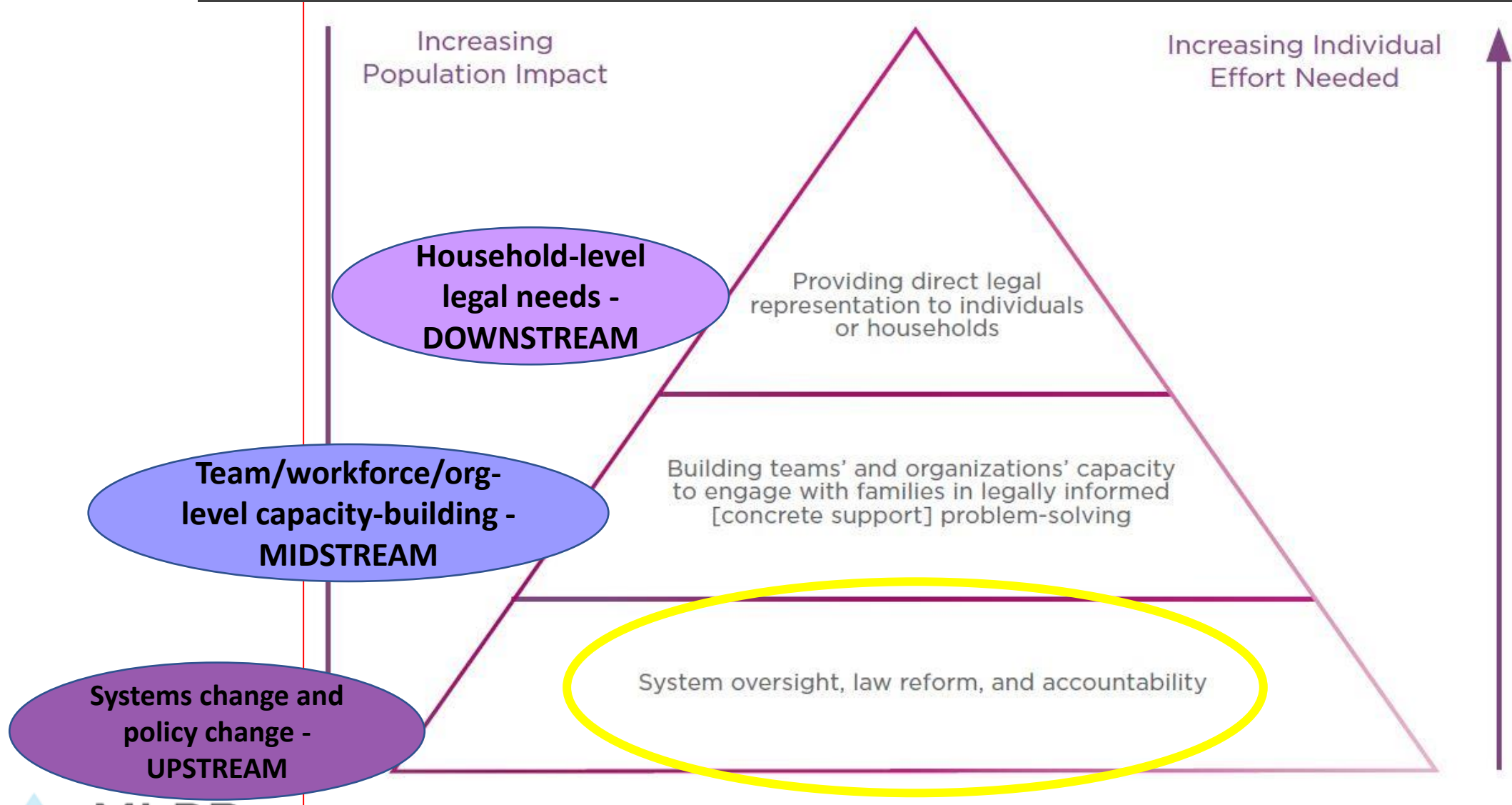
Research Brief 6

Before Crisis Hits: Embedding Legal Support in Preventive Health Care for Families with Young Children

October 2020

This brief, sixth in a series, reports on the multisite implementation of the preventive legal partnership component of Developmental Understanding and Legal Collaboration for Everyone (DULCE).

Health-Promoting Legal Partnering Impact Pyramid



Adapted from
Morton,
Samantha J.
(2019). "Legal
Partnering for
Child and
Family Health:
An
Opportunity
and Call to
Action for
Early
Childhood
Systems."
Washington,
DC: Center for
the Study of
Social Policy.
Available at:
<https://cssp.org/resource/legal-partnering/>

HEALTH AFFAIRS BLOG

RELATED TOPICS:

EDUCATION | LEGAL AND REGULATORY ISSUES | ACCESS TO CARE | HOUSING | CHILDREN'S HEALTH
| GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AND POLICIES | HEALTH LAW

Legal Information And Rights Education As An Element of Care: A Promising Health Justice Strategy

[Samantha J. Morton](#)

JUNE 7, 2021

10.1377/hblog20210603.174251



Accountability at the System Level

MLPB Response to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Children and Families Support and Stabilization Services RFI
(Bid: BD-22-1034-0009-DSS09-67937)

Responses to Section 3 of the RFI: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Section 3.1: Cultural and Linguistic Competency
1. What strategies can be used to meet the diverse language needs of families to ensure that language access is provided to families in a timely manner?

On April 6, 2021, Commissioner Spears testified before a Joint Hearing of the House and Senate Committees on Ways & Means. In this testimony, Commissioner Spears spoke about DCF's concerted effort to recruit and hire bilingual and bicultural staff, continue use of a telephonic interpretation service, and utilize FY22 funding for staff diversity training.

When recruiting and hiring, the state should be mindful of appropriate compensation benchmarks. Multilingual ability, in addition to lived experience, is a unique skillset that is integral to a high-functioning child welfare system and attracting and retaining staff with this skillset is fundamentally tied to compensation. That said, multilingualism is not the same skill as professional interpretation. Multilingual staff skills can be bolstered with professional interpret[ation] training.

Health (and
Humanity!)
in all Policies!

MITCHELL MATORIN, and
LINDA SMITH,

Plaintiffs,

v.

COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS,
and its EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HOUSING
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,

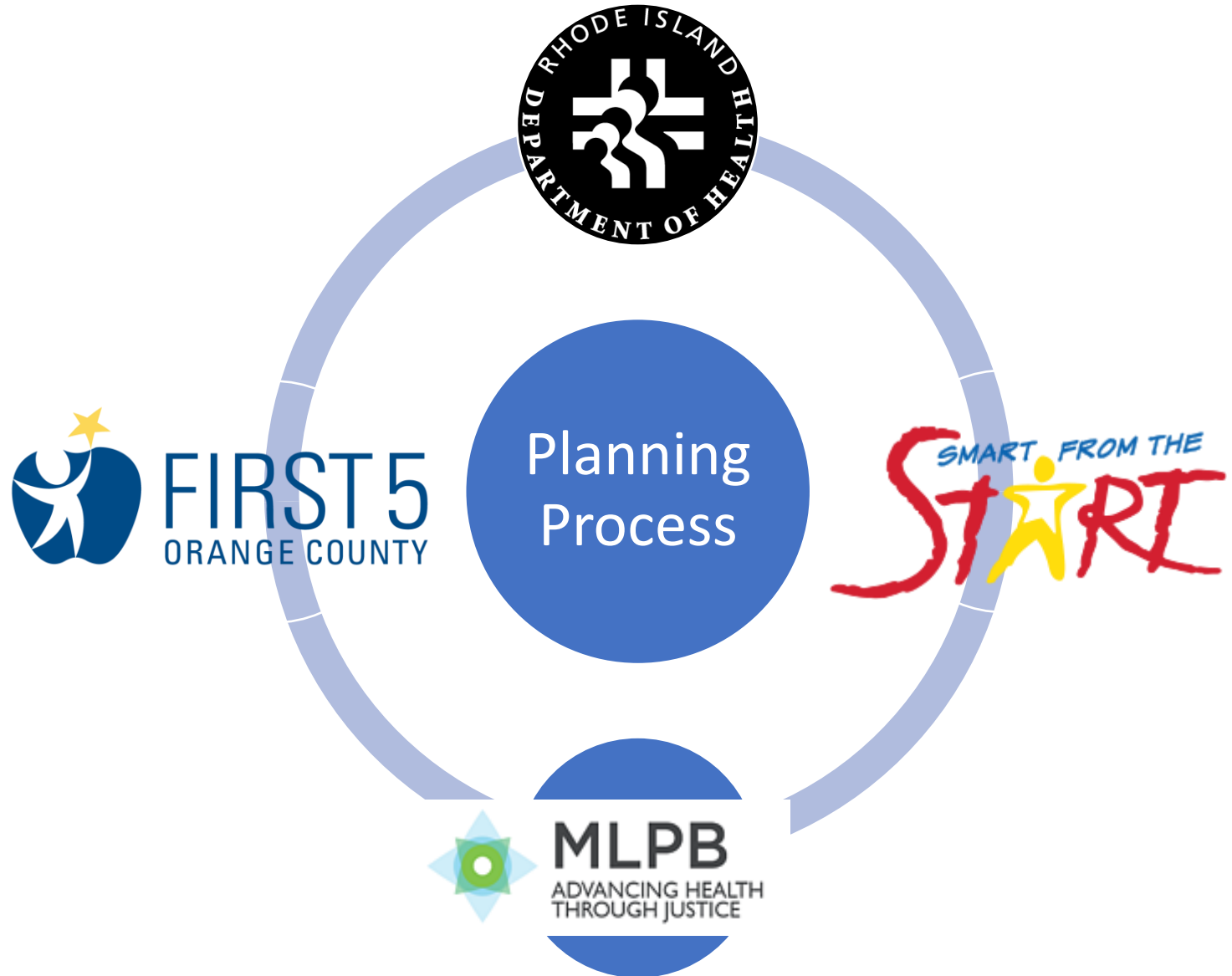
Defendants.

**AMICUS BRIEF OF MLPB (F/K/A MEDICAL LEGAL PARTNERSHIP | BOSTON), A
FISCALLY SPONSORED PROGRAM OF TSNE MISSIONWORKS IN SUPPORT OF
DEFENDANTS**

***Building Legal
Problem-Solving
Capacity in the Early
Childhood Sector***

Learning Community

Sponsored by
The JPB
Foundation



1. What structures and principles are necessary to assure family-centered, high-impact legal partnering?



“Guide” for early childhood system-builders

2. What information and tools do early childhood workforce members need to effectively partner with families confronting health-related social needs, legal risks and goals, and broader injustice?



Piloting/beta-testing new MLPB *Unlocking Access* training content geared to EC frontline staff

3. **Research** tied to key learning priorities:

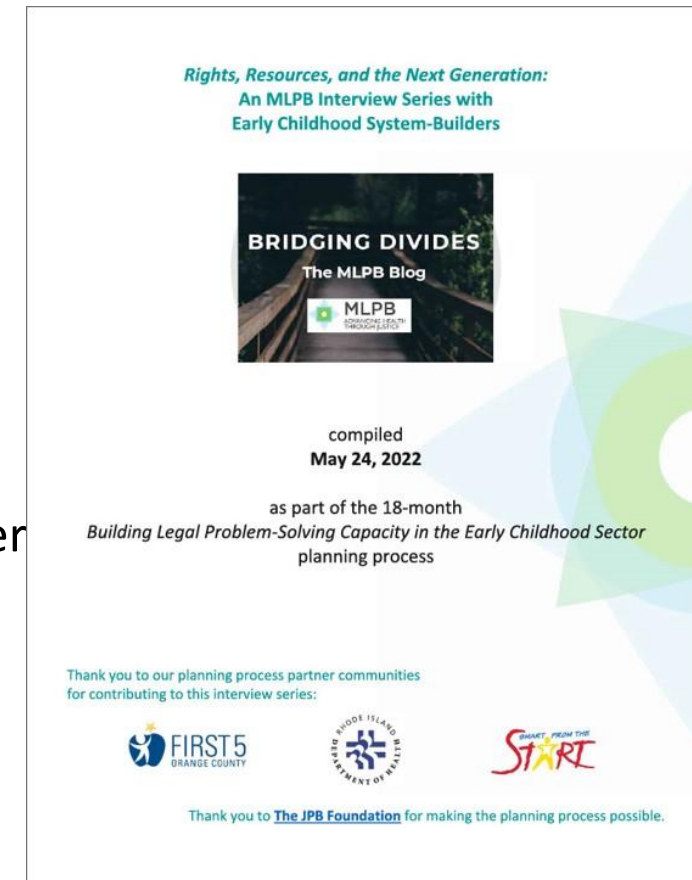
- a. Demonstrate the centrality of families’ legal rights, risks, remedies for ECS effectiveness; and
- b. Understand if, and exactly how, legal problem-solving (LPS) knowledge and skills operate to strengthen [EC] workforce member and parent-leader capacity

Assembling the Learning Community – key principles + commitments

- Program/structural diversity (state v. county v. neighborhood)
- “Early adopter” culture re: legal problem-solving
- Facilitation of parent-leader participation
 - 66% success rate (2 out of 3)
- Consistent engagement with 1-2 advisory bodies
 - Content Advisory Committee
 - Planning Advisory Committee
- 5 meetings (10 hours of meeting time) per Committee member;
some additional effort in between meetings
 - Standardized stipend = \$500 per member (\$1,000 if served on two Committees)

Implementing the Learning Community – key activities

- Virtual multi-site survey
- Zoom-enabled Committee meetings that have driven:
 - Prioritization of topics for pilot training series and companion tools
 - Development of “Guide” for system-builders
- Pilot training series in each partner community
 - Trainings were available to stakeholders well beyond Committee member
 - Pre-/post-surveys re: comfort and confidence
- Blog interview series – *Rights, Resources & The Next Generation*



Shared conviction that:

1. Barriers to legal information & rights enforcement – alongside structural inequities and injustice – are barriers to family health, wellness and flourishing!
2. Early childhood-based teams increasingly are ‘first responders’ to people’s social health needs/goals and seek a bigger toolbox.
3. There is a growing evidence base for the power of legal information and problem-solving to advance prevention.
4. Systems can take concrete steps to learn more about people’s legal rights, risks and remedies; and to integrate this knowledge within care planning, delivery, and strengths-based communication with people.

Next Steps . . .

- **Sep. 29 – 2-3pm EST/11am-12n PST**

- **Live ‘Guide’ release event** via Zoom
- Featuring panel of Learning Community members



- **Oct. 1 and beyond**

- Continued dialogue with partner communities and national stakeholders re: future collaborations
- Assessment of optimal dissemination platforms for emergent learning revealed through research and data analysis
- Learning dissemination!

Getting the Word Out Nationally *after September 30!*

- **The Root Cause Coalition's Annual Summit**

- *Oct. 2-4 – Minneapolis, MN*
- Poster presentation



- **View from All Sides Conference** sponsored by The Children's Trust

- *Nov. 3 – Framingham, MA*
- Livestreamed presentation

- **American Public Health Association (APHA) 2022 Expo & Conference**

- *Nov. 6 – Boston, MA*
- Panel presentation

Trust matters.

- In any “support” relationship with a **family**.
- On any **team** composed of staff attempting to build and sustain relationships of trust with families.
- In any **organization** or **system** that hosts such teams and serves families.

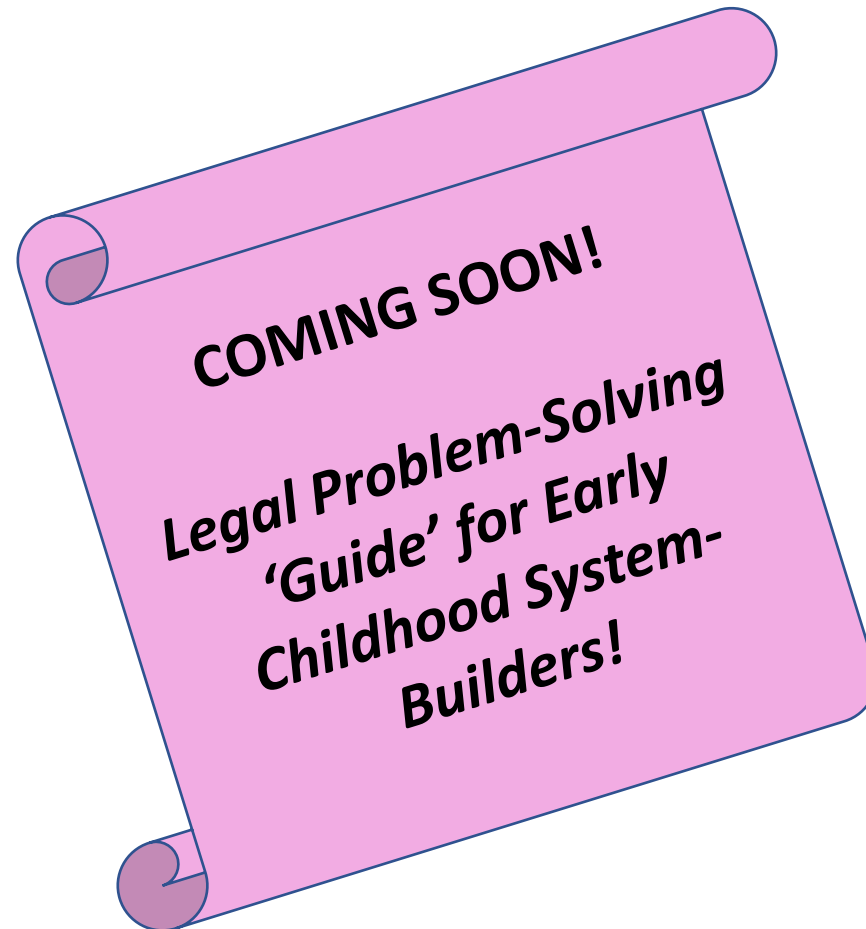
**Not
everything
that is faced
can be
changed.
But nothing
can be
changed
until it is
faced.**

**-James
Baldwin**



Questions? Please reach out!

Samantha Morton, CEO – MLPB smorton@mlpb.health



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