

**Title.** Service Co-location in Addressing Complex Care Needs: A Medical Legal Partnership (MLP) in Camden, NJ

**Background.** This project highlights a collaboration between the Camden Coalition, a Camden, NJ nonprofit; Cooper University Healthcare's Cooper Center for Healing (CCH), and the Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs (WRI) at Rutgers University - Camden.

**Objective.** This research aimed to understand MLP operations, provide insights into how MLP services (the intervention) are related to patient/client recovery capital/ assets, and to generate sustainability and replication considerations for MLPs among new locations and among specific populations (perinatal, etc.).

**Methods.** Through a convergent design mixed methods study, this research conducted 39 qualitative interviews with CCH patients, 13 interviews with CCH and MLP staff and leadership, and conducted a quantitative survey of 70 CCH patients to understand:

1. What are the patterns across use of MLP services, engagements across the health care and legal system(s), and progress in recovery and/or recovery capital?
2. How is the MLP meeting/serving patient needs?
3. How is the MLP operating?

Methods also highlight important conversations around data collection coordination and outreach attempts with MLP staff and WRI research staff.

**Results.** Findings highlighted the importance of co-location of services in serving clients with complex care needs and identified key tenants for operations: an interdisciplinary team, flexibility in service provision, and robust support services. Additionally, findings from the survey with CCH clients revealed the role of MLP services in support of their recovery and social assets. Findings emphasized the importance of a dedicated care team - specifically the role of patient navigators and legal assistance in addictions medicine and recovery.

**Conclusion.** The MLP represents a multidisciplinary intervention resting on complex collaboration between organizations. The co-location of services provides critical insights into service delivery for patients with complex care needs, specifically with regards to coordinating services and reducing access barriers among patients seeking substance use and/or pain management treatment.