

CENTER FOR HEALTH LAW
& POLICY INNOVATION
Harvard Law School

POLICY & ADVOCACY

IDENTIFYING POLICY ISSUES IN YOUR PROJECTS

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Center for Health Law
and Policy Innovation

chlpi@law.harvard.edu
www.chlpi.org

Overview

- Introductions
- Overview of Policy and Advocacy
- Case Study #1: Community Benefits
- Case Study #2: Community Health Workers
- Getting Started: Policy Roadmaps and TA

Introductions

- Name
- Organization
- Project
- What you hope to get out of today's workshop

Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation

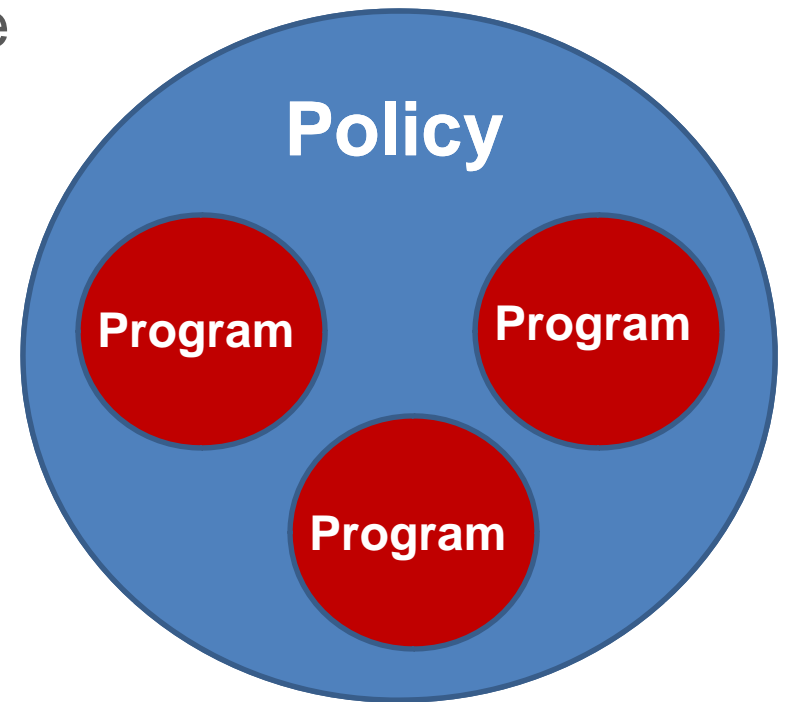
- **Our Mission**: The Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation brings together students and attorneys interested in using the legal system to improve the health of vulnerable populations
- **Working Together**: An important part of the Center's mission is to help develop local coalitions and provide them with the tools and knowledge necessary to enact meaningful change at the local, state, and federal levels
- **Our Role**: Policy roadmaps, technical assistance (TA), and issue roundtables

OVERVIEW OF POLICY & ADVOCACY

SYSTEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES

What Is Policy?

- **Definition**: A legal, regulatory, and/or organizational framework that governs our environment and behavior by outlining specific conduct, who should do it and how, and for what purpose
- **Policy vs. Program**:
 - Policies may be broader and more sustainable than programs



Levels of Policy

- U.S. health policies are governed by a combination of laws and regulations that are developed at several levels of government

Federal Government

State Government

Local Government

Legislation vs. Regulation

Legislation

- Laws created by congress or state legislatures
- Usually delegate power to an agency

Regulation

- Federal or state agencies fill in the details on these laws

- Why this distinction is important
 - Different policy-making procedures
 - Different entities making policy

Policy Examples

Federal

- **Law:** Establishing Affordable Care Act
- **Reg.:** Defining Essential Health Benefits

State

- **Law:** Establishing CHW credentialing system
- **Reg.:** Defining CHW core competencies

Local

- Local policies vary and may include things such as: zoning ordinances, county public health policies, etc.

Elements of Advocacy

- Choose a Policy **Goal**
- Identify Potential **Partners**
- Develop and Implement an Advocacy **Strategy**

Choosing a Policy Goal

- Come to a consensus regarding your long-term policy goal
 - Ensure that the policy goal is impactful and attainable

	High Impact	Very Attainable
Less Attainable	Low Impact	

Identify Potential Partners

- Identify significant agencies, government offices, and other entities that are the decision-makers
 - Consider all levels of government
 - Which levels are most important to your goal?
 - Who are the decision-makers at those levels?
- Identify individuals and organizations that have an interest in supporting your policy goal
 - How influential are these partners?
 - How supportive are they of your goals?

Develop / Implement Strategy

- **Educate yourself** regarding the policy landscape in which you operate
 - Identify and address gaps in knowledge
 - Follow new developments
- **Identify concrete next steps** that you can take to achieve your goal
 - Joining coalitions, obtaining press coverage, meeting with legislators/regulators, testifying at legislative hearings, writing regulatory comments, drafting regulations or legislation
- **Implement** your next steps!

CASE STUDY #1

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Choosing a Policy Goal

➤ Problem

- Certain services that are beneficial to cancer and HIV patients are not currently funded by public / private health insurance (e.g., peer support groups, education)

➤ Potential Policy Solution

- **Community Benefit Requirement:** To maintain federal tax-exempt status, nonprofit hospitals must undertake activities that demonstrate the hospital's promotion of community health as a whole

➤ **IRS Requirements**

- Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) every 3 years
- Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

Identify Potential Partners

Decision-makers

- What non-profit hospitals operate in your service areas?
- Who at each hospital is responsible for the CHNA and CHIP?

Other Partners

- What nonprofits and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) are involved in the CHNA?
- Do any of these groups share your interests in cancer or HIV care?

Develop / Implement Strategy

- **Educate Yourself Regarding the Policy Landscape**
 - When are nonprofit hospitals in your service area next due to complete a CHNA?
 - How do these hospitals conduct the CHNA (stakeholder meetings, surveys, individual interviews)?
 - What activities have the hospitals funded in the past?
- **Identify / Implement Concrete Next Steps**
 - Offer to participate in upcoming CHNAs
 - Meet with nonprofits and CBOs to build a coalition around including HIV or cancer care in the CHNA and CHIP
 - Develop proposals around how you could partner with hospitals to promote and deliver services

CASE STUDY #2

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

Choosing a Policy Goal

➤ Problem

- Public and private insurers in your state will not pay you for beneficial HIV or cancer care services provided by lay health workers

➤ Potential Policy Solution

- Establish a state credentialing system for community health workers (CHWs) and /or encourage public and private insurers to recognize certified CHWs as reimbursable providers

Identify Potential Partners

Decision-makers

- Which legislators might be interested in supporting CHW credentialing legislation?
- Who at your state Medicaid agency could you work with to establish CHW funding?

Other Partners

- Are there any coalitions working on the issue of CHW credentialing in your state?
- Are there any other institutions or programs currently using CHWs in your state?

Develop / Implement Strategy

➤ Educate Yourself Regarding the Policy Landscape

- Is there already a CHW credentialing scheme in your state?
 - If so, could your workers meet its requirements?
 - If not, is there a scheme under development?
- Are public or private insurers in your state testing any alternative payment models that could be used to fund CHW services?
- Is your state Medicaid agency considering enacting a State Plan Amendment to allow reimbursement of preventive services provided by lay health workers?

Develop / Implement Strategy

- **Identify / Implement Concrete Next Steps**
 - Review other states' strategies and steps toward credentialing in order to identify best practices to implement in your state
 - Join existing coalitions working on the issue of CHW credentialing / funding
 - Engage in an internal discussion around how you could gather data on how CHW services impact the healthcare costs and outcomes of your patients

GETTING STARTED

POLICY ROADMAPS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITY

Policy Roadmaps

➤ Goals

- To provide each grantee with an overview of the policy landscape in which the project operates
- To identify potential policy strategies to improve the sustainability of each project

➤ Timeline

- **Spring 2016:** CHLPI meets with each grantee
- **Summer 2016:** CHLPI provides each grantee with a policy landscape document

Technical Assistance (TA)

- Structure
 - 4 rounds, 6 months each
- Request for Proposals (RFP)
 - To be circulated in May
 - Due Date: June 1, 2016
- Potential Projects
 - Trainings
 - Presentations / webinars
 - White papers



Request for Proposal for *Specialty Care for Vulnerable Populations*® and *Bridging Cancer Care*® Project Technical Assistance

The Center for Health Law & Policy Innovation at Harvard Law School (CHLPI) requests proposals to provide project technical assistance to Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation's (BMSF) *Specialty Care for Vulnerable Populations*® and *Bridging Cancer Care*® grantees. The goal of CHLPI's technical assistance is to help grantees maximize the impact of their projects through analysis of necessary legal and policy reform.

The Center welcomes specific technical assistance requests, which might include:

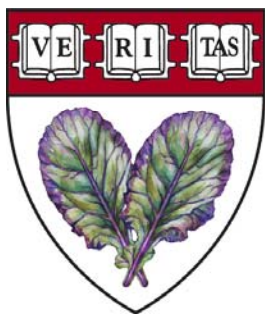
- Development and delivery of one or more trainings on the legal/policy context of various aspects of the project work.
- Development of a white paper on the legal/policy implications of project interventions.
- Development and delivery of one or more substantive presentations on the legal/policy implications of project interventions to community partners, legislative partners, and other interested parties.
- Research on one or more specific legal issues that interact with project work.

About the Center for Health Law & Policy Innovation

The Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation of Harvard Law School (CHLPI) advocates for legal, regulatory, and policy reforms to improve the health of underserved populations, with a focus on the needs of low-income people living with chronic illnesses. CHLPI works with consumers, advocates, community-based organizations, health and social services professionals, food providers and producers, government officials, and others to expand access to high-quality healthcare and nutritious, affordable food; to reduce health disparities; to develop community advocacy capacity; and to promote more equitable and effective healthcare and food systems. CHLPI is a clinical teaching program of Harvard Law School and mentors students to become

Questions?

- Sarah Downer: sdowner@law.harvard.edu
- Katie Garfield: kgarfield@law.harvard.edu



CENTER FOR HEALTH LAW & POLICY INNOVATION Harvard Law School

122 Boylston Street • Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
chlpi@law.harvard.edu

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 www.chlpi.org

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