



HOSPITAL
Charitable Services
AWARDS

THE IMPACT OF MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP

Project HEAL (Health, Education, Advocacy, and Law)
at Kennedy Krieger Institute:
A Case Study

February 10, 2014

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presented by **Jackson**
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MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP

- **Founded in 1993 at Boston Medical Center, the model for medical-legal partnership (MLP) was created.**
 - ⦿ One attorney and one pediatrician
 - ⦿ Advocacy and legal services were provided in a clinical setting
 - ⦿ The founding site of the national network.

- **The National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership, Washington, DC**
 - ⦿ In 2012, the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership became a project of the George Washington University School of Public Health and Public Health Services' Department of Health Policy.
 - ⦿ It is estimated that 50 million Americans need legal care to be healthy.
 - ⦿ Mission – to build a healthcare team that can identify, treat, and prevent the health-harming legal needs of patients, clinics, and populations.

MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP, continued

- **The Model**

- ◉ Unmet health-harming legal needs keep vulnerable Americans from getting and staying healthy.
 - ◉ Children live in unsafe housing.
 - ◉ Seniors are wrongly denied insurance and long-term care coverage.
 - ◉ Veterans return home without access to durable medical equipment.
- ◉ Regardless of the clinical care, legal assistance is crucial to negotiate with landlords, appeal denied insurance claims or public benefits, and expedite access to veteran benefits and services.

- **The National Center data:**

- ◉ MLPs exist in 31 of the 50 states, Canada, and Australia.
- ◉ MLPs exist in 125 hospitals, 124 health centers, 26 medical schools, and 36 residency programs across the country.



<http://www.medical-legalpartnership.org/>

PROJECT HEAL (Health, Education, Advocacy, and Law) at KKI

Innovation

- In 2005, Equal Justice Works in Washington, D.C. provided initial funding for a two-year postgraduate legal fellowship between Kennedy Krieger Institute and a nonprofit legal services organization to create Project HEAL, Maryland's only medical-legal partnership.
 - ⦿ Each year, EJW funds 50 fellowship proposals across the country, as well as provides support for other innovative legal work.
 - ⦿ The goal of the fellowships program is to implement innovative legal projects that target a population of individuals currently underserved by the justice system.

www.equaljusticeworks.org

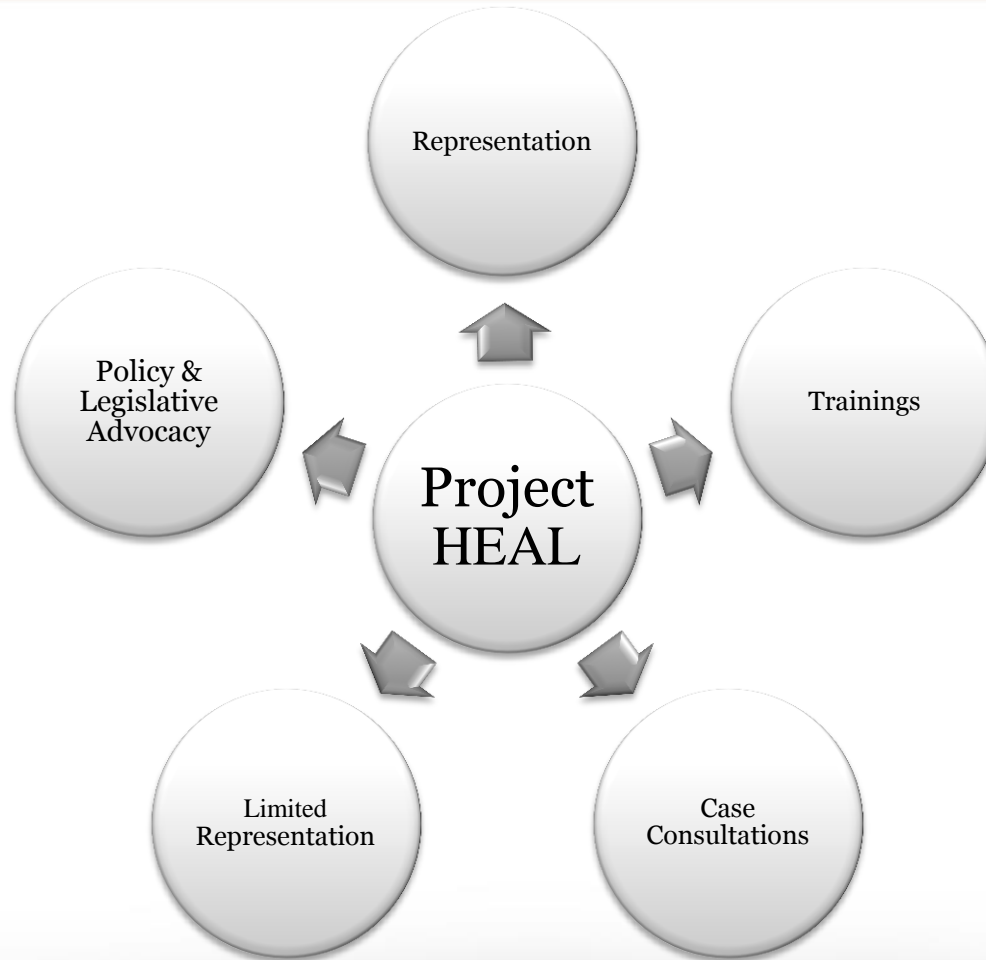
PROJECT HEAL

A case study

- **Following the expiration of the fellowship, Project HEAL found a permanent home within the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities (MCDD) at Kennedy Krieger Institute.**
- **The MCDD is Maryland's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD).**
 - ◉ There are 68 UCEDDs across the country.
 - ◉ Core federal funding is provided to sustain UCEDDs.
 - ◉ UCEDDs engage in a range of interdisciplinary activities, including:
 - Exemplary services for children, adults, and families;
 - Academic training;
 - Basic and applied research;
 - Training and technical assistance;
 - Public policy advocacy;
 - Program evaluation; and
 - Dissemination of best practices and new information.

PROJECT HEAL (Health, Education, Advocacy, and Law) at KKI

Figure



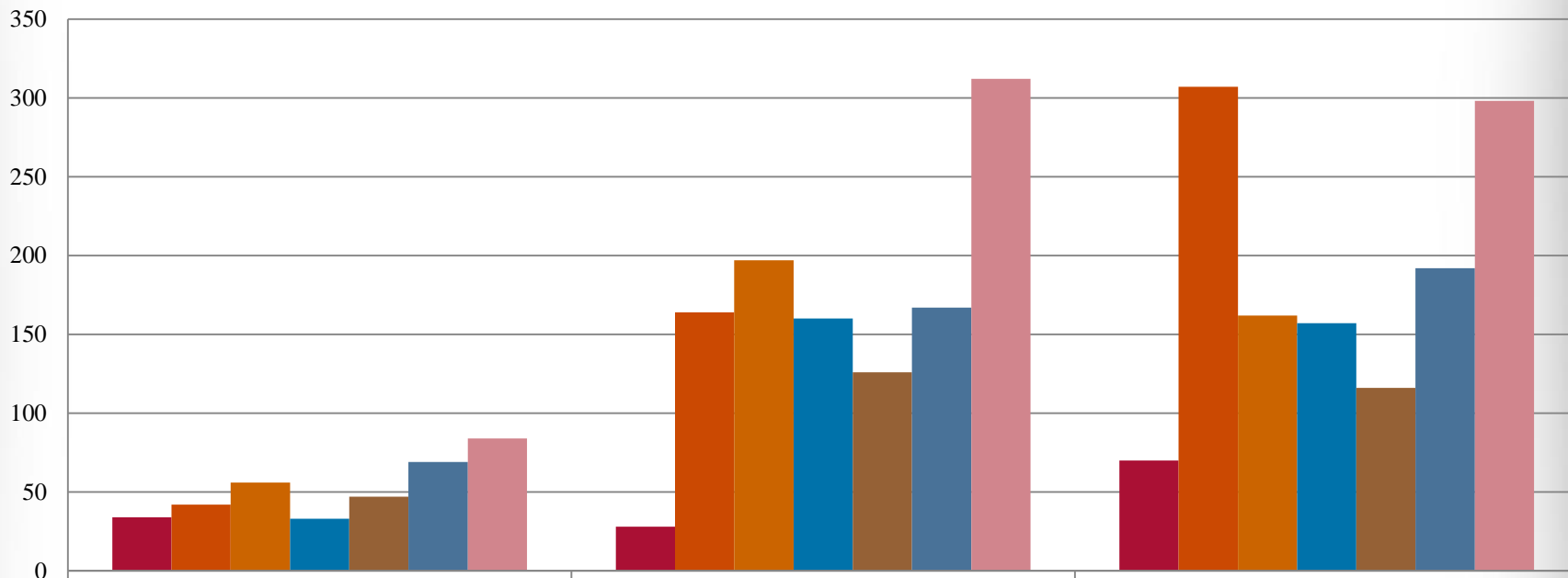
PROJECT HEAL

Types of Services

- **Project HEAL attorneys provide a range of services:**
 - Representation (attorney-client relationship)
 - Special education matters (approximately 93% of the cases)
 - Discipline appeals
 - Appeals for inappropriate denials of Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - Simple family law matters
 - Limited representation for families
 - Brief advice
 - Document review
 - Information and resources
 - Pro bono referrals
 - Case consultations with health care professionals:
 - Brief advice
 - Document review
 - Information and resources

PROJECT HEAL

Types of Services, continued



	Cases	Limited Representation (Parents)	Brief Consultations (Professionals)
FY 2006	34	28	70
FY 2007	42	164	307
FY 2008	56	197	162
FY 2009	33	160	157
FY 2010	47	126	116
FY 2011	69	167	192
FY 2012	84	312	298

PROJECT HEAL

Clients

- **Children, adolescents, or adults who receive clinical services from an inpatient pediatric unit, day treatment program, home- and community-based services or programs, or outpatient programs.**
 - ⦿ 25% of clients are diagnosed with ADHD.
 - ⦿ 24% of clients have an autism spectrum disorder.

- **Families of children with disabilities earn 50% below Maryland's median income.**
 - ⦿ Family of four has an annual income of less than \$52, 674
 - ⦿ Family resides in Maryland

- **All clients have a legal issue that requires the intervention of an attorney.**
 - ⦿ Need for an appropriate educational program or placement
 - ⦿ Inappropriate denial of public benefits.

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Best Practice: Community & Professional Trainings

- **Community Training**

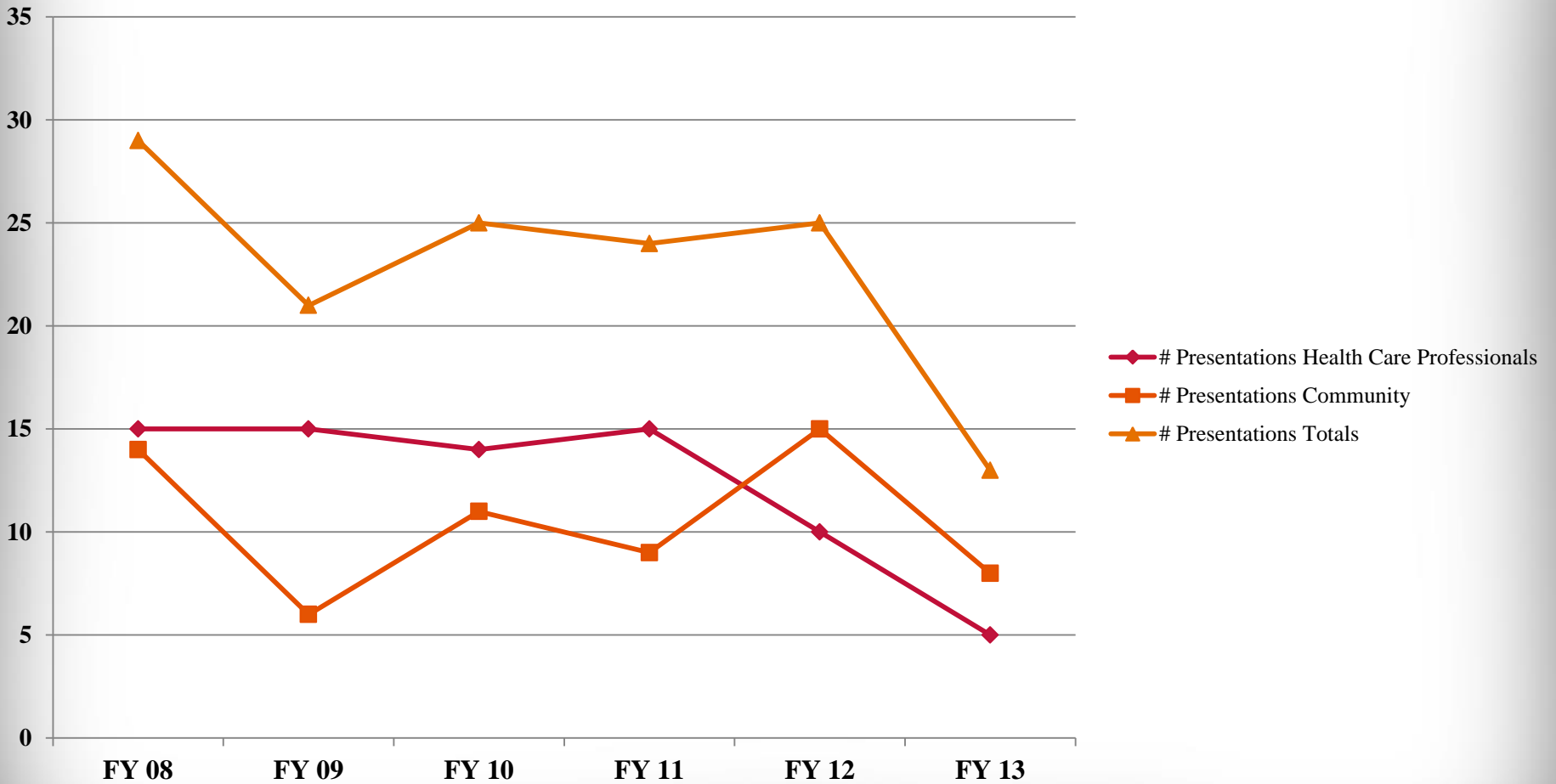
- ◉ Children, families, and service providers
 - Special Education Law
 - Disciplinary Policies and Procedures for Children with Disabilities
 - Guardianship and Less Restrictive Alternatives
 - Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation
 - Futures & Estate Planning

- **Professional Training**

- ◉ Kennedy Krieger health care professionals and trainees
 - Patient Advocacy
 - Special Education Law
 - Disciplinary Policies and Procedures for Children with Disabilities
 - Guardianship and Less Restrictive Alternatives
 - Legislative and Policy Issues Affecting Individuals with Disabilities

PROJECT HEAL

Best Practices: Community & Professional Trainings, continued



PROJECT HEAL

Impact

- **Research Questions**
 - ⦿ Who do you serve?
 - ⦿ What do you do?
 - ⦿ What does it cost?
 - ⦿ What do you hope to achieve?

- **Data Collection System**
 - ⦿ Excel
 - ⦿ Web-based system
 - ⦿ Formal reporting system

- **Research & Evaluation Tools**
 - **Share you story**
 - ⦿ Client Testimonials
 - ⦿ Vignettes
 - ⦿ Publicize accomplishments

PROJECT HEAL

Collaboration

- **Internal Support**

- ◉ Hospital Administrator (community benefit or charitable service)
- ◉ Medical Champion (describe the impact)
- ◉ Legal Champion (describe the impact)
- ◉ Development Department (identify foundations & donors)
- ◉ Marketing/Public Relations Department (create brochures, materials, & articles)
- ◉ Finance Department (create a budget)

- **External Support**

- ◉ Law firms (legal services)
- ◉ Corporations (financial support)
- ◉ Higher Education (increase capacity)
- ◉ Community (letters of support, demonstrate the need, & share the story)

PROJECT HEAL PARTNERS

Collaboration: Law firms

- **Ober|Kaler – signature pro bono partnership**
 - ⊙ In 2010, the Baltimore-based law firm of Ober|Kaler partnered with Project HEAL to provide pro bono legal services to Kennedy Krieger families and children with disabilities on a variety of legal issues.
 - ⊙ Ober|Kaler provides a variety of support to Project HEAL, including:
 - Pro bono presentation in complex matters
 - Publication of resources (e.g., Estate Planning brochure)
 - Letters of support for grant proposals
 - Nominations for recognition within the legal community
 - Sponsorship at conferences and events

- **Ballard Spahr, LLP**
 - ⊙ In 2014, the national law firm of Ballard Spahr partnered with Project HEAL to provide pro bono legal services to Kennedy Krieger families and children with disabilities on a variety of legal issues.

PROJECT HEAL MENTORSHIP

Collaboration: Higher Education

- **Law Schools: University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, University of Baltimore School of Law, and Penn State Dickinson School of Law**
 - ⦿ Fellowships (credit or stipend)
 - ⦿ Externships (credit)
 - ⦿ Internships (stipend)
 - ⦿ Volunteers (experience)

- **Graduate programs: The Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, The University of Maryland School of Social Work, Morgan State University School of Social Work, & Sojourner Douglass College**
 - ⦿ Course credit (Capstone projects or field placement)
 - ⦿ Stipends

PROJECT HEAL

Transferability: Research & Evaluation

- **Kennedy Krieger Institute’s mission is to help children and adolescents with disorders of the brain, spinal cord, and musculoskeletal system achieve their potential and participate as fully as possible in family, school, and community life.**
- **Project HEAL attorneys research the legal issues that affect the patients and families and present those studies at local, state, and national conferences.**
 - ◉ Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) Annual Conference
 - ◉ National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership Summit
 - ◉ Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates Annual Conference
 - ◉ TASH
 - ◉ National Down Syndrome Congress Annual Convention
 - ◉ Jackson Healthcare Charitable Services Awards Conference

PROJECT HEAL

Transferability: Research & Evaluation, continued

- **Legal Research Topics:**

- ◉ Disability Awareness Training for School Resource Officers and Law Enforcement
- ◉ Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation of Students with Disabilities: Prevention & Intervention Strategies
- ◉ Legal Issues Affecting Military Families Raising Children with Disabilities
- ◉ Transition Services for Students with Disabilities
- ◉ Legal and Ethical Decision-Making for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities
- ◉ The Medical-Legal Partnership Model

PROJECT HEAL

Diverse Funding

- **Hospital / health care center / medical institution**
 - ⊙ Annual contribution
- **Federal, state, and local funding**
 - ⊙ Grants
- **Foundations**
 - ⊙ Grants
- **Corporations**
 - ⊙ Donations, fund raising events, sponsorship
- **Donors**
- **Partners**
 - ⊙ Law firms and institutions of higher education
- **Fees**
 - ⊙ Services and training
- **In-kind support**

PROJECT HEAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities
at Kennedy Krieger Institute

Maximizing Potential. Creating Change.



O B E R

K A L E R

Attorneys at Law

Ballard Spahr
LLP

REFLECTION

Do not be afraid to modify your program to meet the changing needs of your patients, families, and hospital administrators.

Contact me for additional information or resources:

Maureen van Stone, Esq., M.S.

(443) 923-4416

vanstone@kennedykrieger.org

<http://www.kennedykrieger.org/community/community-programs/project-heal>

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