

Strengths-Based Screening for Health-Related Social Needs: *The 'Why' that Comes Before the 'How'*

CTC-RI / PCMH Kids

Care Manager/Coordinator Best Practice Sharing Mtg.

September 21, 2021

8-9am

Facilitated by

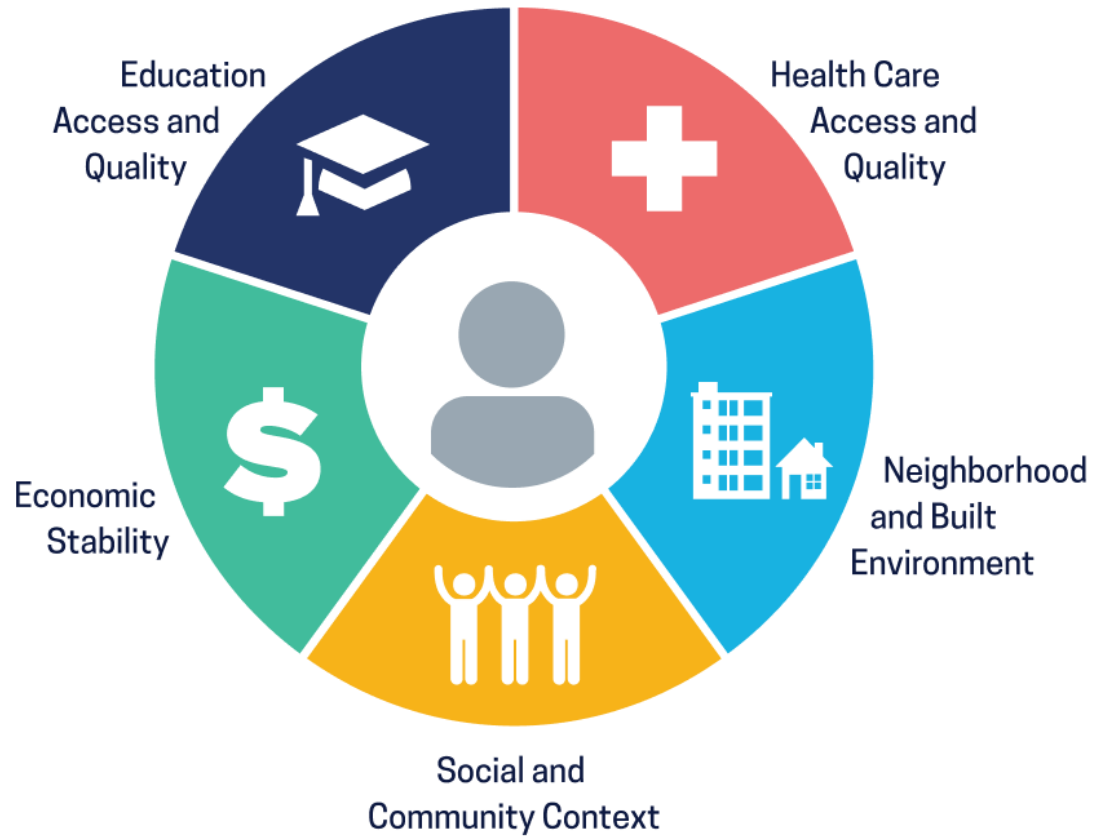
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MLPB
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THROUGH JUSTICE

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Social Determinants of Health



Social Determinants of Health

Copyright-free

 Healthy People 2030

Legal rights to special education services / reasonable accommodations as well as language access protections

Social

Rights to non-discrimination on a range of bases in housing, employment, education and public accommodations

Health

Legal rights to health insurance coverage and access to care / treatment / medication

Education Access and Quality

Health Care Access and Quality

Legal eligibility for immigration status

Pathways to safe, healthy, affordable housing like priority/preference status, housing code enforcement, lead remediation, eviction moratorium protection, and utility shut-off protection

Income supports (like SSI and SSDI) and civil rights protections (like reasonable accommodation) that promote full civic participation by, and economic security for, persons with disabilities

Economic Stability

Safe and Built Environment

Income supports like TANF, unemployment benefits, WIC, SNAP, child care subsidies, FMLA job protection and family & medical leave

Social and Community Context

Legal rights during law enforcement encounters and protests; due process rights in the criminal legal system

Legal protections (like restraining orders and family preparedness plans) that can promote personal safety and family unity

Tailored supports for older adults, veterans, and other populations

Adapted by MLPB from Healthy People 2030, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Retrieved 5/24/21, from <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objective-and-data/social-determinants-health>

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

**-James
Baldwin**



... but doesn't this complicate the already-complex?

- **Privilege is being able to ignore the complex without personal consequence.**
- Pretending it's simple doesn't make it simple.
- Just because it is complex does not mean next steps have to be complex.
- We can only open the door to progress by facing the tough stuff.

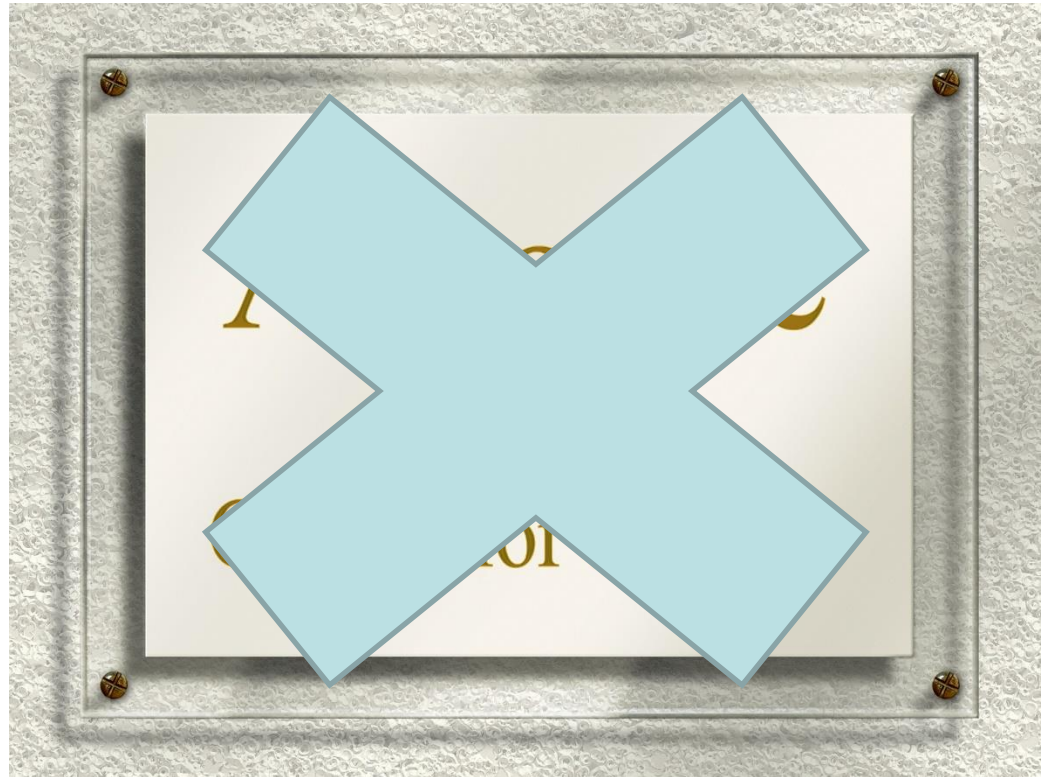
People who cannot afford a lawyer have the right to be provided one by the government.

True or False?



People who cannot afford a lawyer have the right to be provided one by the government.

**It depends.
But mainly False.**



**Legal matters
where
representation
is largely
guaranteed:**

- Criminal proceedings
- Civil commitment proceedings
- Termination of parental rights proceedings
- Juvenile delinquency proceedings
- Certain types of reproductive rights proceedings

**If it's not on that list,
it's not guaranteed!***

**varies substantially by state*

The U.S. has a supply-demand gap (gulf!) when it comes to justice, including access to basic legal information.

- “Low-income communities, communities of color, and many others across our country have long faced significant barriers to accessing justice. Lack of counsel and legal resources not only negatively affect outcomes in courtrooms, but also often lead to loss of employment, housing, family stability, consumer protections, and liberty.”
 - Office of the Attorney General Memorandum – May 18, 2021
- “In the past year, 71% of low-income households experienced at least one civil legal problem, including problems with domestic violence, veterans’ benefits, disability access, housing conditions, and health care. 86% of the civil legal problems reported by low-income Americans in the past year received inadequate or no legal help.”
 - *The Justice Gap: Measuring Unmet Civil Legal Needs of Low-Income Americans* (Executive Summary – Legal Services Corporation - June 2017)

We're going to need more messengers and problem-solving partners.

- Expanding access to lawyers is critical, especially in high-stakes court proceedings. But . . .
- Rights belong to us all, and too much legal information is unnecessarily 'locked up' in the legal profession.
- Health and justice are inextricably linked.



- Myrna is a single mother of 2 children, aged 3 and 6 months. Her 3-year-old daughter has sickle cell disease.
- Myrna migrated from the DR as a child.
- She works two jobs to make ends meet and taps family and friends for childcare, a strategy that is stressful and unpredictable.
- She is staying with her brother's family right now and doesn't always feel welcome. She wants to get her family their own place. When she's been offered a chance to see apartments for rent, each landlord says something like "it's already rented" or "I decided to sell."

Can you 'spot' any legal risks, rights, or remedies in Myrna's situation?

- Myrna finally is able to rent an apartment, though she's been warned by several friends that her new landlord can be "tricky."
- However, she gets a notice from the county that her citizen children's SNAP (food stamp) benefits are being terminated. This is shocking and confusing -- and means that her budget is not going to add up for next month's food, rent and utility bills.
- Also, after moving in, Myrna notices that the windows are so drafty that the unit is always cold – and she can't afford to run the heat high all the time. When she raises this with her new landlord, he says she's a trouble-maker and if she brings it up again, he will call ICE and have her deported.

**Can you 'spot' any legal risks, rights or remedies
in Myrna's situation?**

PAUSE.

We're on Slide 13 and you haven't heard one word about Strengths-based Screening beyond the title slide.

Escalation from a Social Need to a Legal Need: *Housing Instability*

**Opportunities
for Eviction Prevention**

**Heading to the
“Legal Emergency Room”**



Housing
stability!



Screened for
barriers to
concrete support
in strengths-
based way



Income
maximized



50%+ of
income spent
on rent &
utilities



Owes 2
months rent



Landlord
sends notice



Landlord
files court
case



Constable
appears
for forced
eviction

Immediate risk
of homelessness!

**Opportunities
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**Screened for
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based way**

Thanks to large-scale screening protocols, care teams increasingly are ‘first responders’ to people’s social health needs/goals.

These often are Difficult Conversations and there’s a lot riding on them.

It’s a privilege and a big responsibility to communicate with people in this context.

Lightning Round:

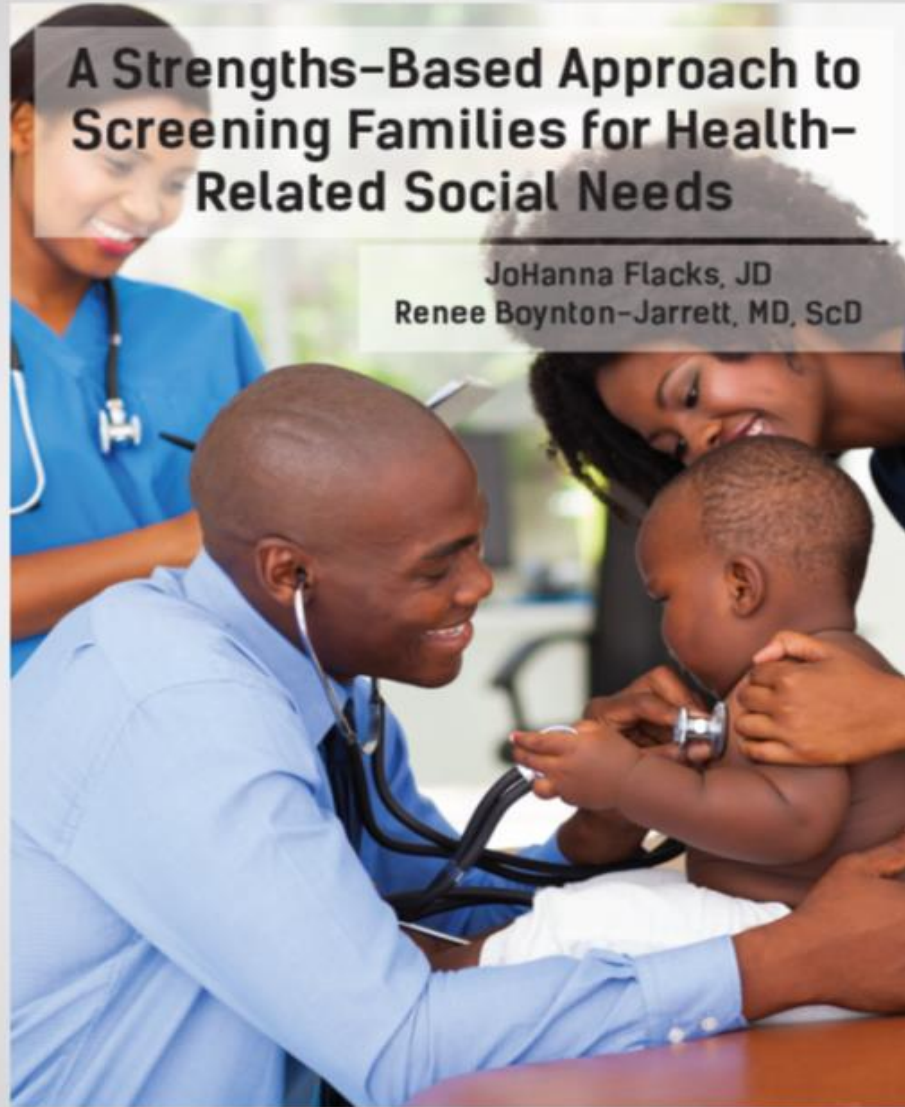
Anyone willing to share an uncomfortable conversation that took place in the healthcare setting when you were the patient?

Stakeholder interests in social screening: Competing or Complementary?

- Payor
- Clinic
- Provider / Care Team
- Patient
- Society

A Strengths-Based Approach to Screening Families for Health-Related Social Needs

JoHanna Flacks, JD
Renee Boynton-Jarrett, MD, ScD



A STRENGTHS-BASED APPROACH TO SCREENING FAMILIES FOR HEALTH-RELATED SOCIAL NEEDS



*JoHanna Flacks, JD
Renee Boynton-Jarrett, MD, ScD*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Involve families and communities in the development of screening tools and protocols.
2. Screen for both risk factors and protective factors.
3. Set person-centered screening priorities within the universe of health-related social needs.
4. Ensure that screening is conducted by care team members trained and supervised in strengths-based approaches.
5. Recognize that screening for health-related social needs is not risk-free for families, and proceed accordingly.
6. Acknowledge family-level risks and strengths in a broader historical context.

What next?

PRAPARE role play

Part 1:

Reading PRAPARE screen as if it's a strict script

Part 2:

Approaching *PRAPARE* tool with more trauma-informed, strengths-based, structural competence

Meet Alex



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Accountable Health Communities role play

Part 1:

Reading AHC screen as if it's
a strict script

Part 2:

**Approaching AHC tool with
more trauma-informed,
strengths-based, structural
competence**

Meet Columbina



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We Care role play

How can we approach the *We Care* tool with more trauma-informed, strengths-based, structural competence?

Meet Anna



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Income
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50%+ of
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Owes 2
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Landlord
sends notice



Landlord
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Constable
appears
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eviction

Immediate risk
of homelessness!

**Thank you and MLPB will see
you next month for Part 2!**

*Your partnership in problem-solving
makes a big difference!*

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