

The Community Advocacy Program (CAP), a medical-legal partnership, improves health outcomes for low-income vulnerable individuals and families including children, pregnant women, Spanish-speakers, immigrants, the elderly, and formerly incarcerated people.

CAP pairs legal and medical professionals to improve community health. Doctors, nurses, social workers, and other providers from The MetroHealth System team with lawyers and a paralegal from The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland to overcome legal barriers to patient health.

CAP accepts referrals from Main Campus pediatrics, McCafferty, Broadway family practice, Broadway ReEntry Clinic, Buckeye pediatrics, the School Health Program, and for Medicare ACO patients. MetroHealth providers at other sites may refer patients to Legal Aid at 1-888-817-3777.

Making A Referral In EPIC

If you are at a site with a CAP attorney, make a referral by:

1. In the EPIC Order screen, search for “CAP101” or “Legal”
2. Select “Referral to the Community Advocacy Program”
3. Click on “Consultation”
4. Go to “Schedule Instructions” (you will have to scroll down to get to this box)
5. Press F2 and choose the applicable drop-downs
6. When the order prints out, please show the patient the CAP referral and circle the CAP contact phone number for the patient to call.



The
Legal Aid Society
of Cleveland
Since 1905

Jessica Baaklini, Esq.
Main Campus Pediatrics
216.778.4938

Gardner Hensill, Esq.
Broadway Family Practice
Buckeye Pediatrics
School Health Program
216.957.1816

Katie Laskey-Donovan, Esq.
McCafferty and Hispanic Clinic
216.957.4838

Karla Perry, Esq.
Medicare ACO
216.957.3865

Russell Hauser, Paralegal
Broadway ReEntry Clinic
216.861.5050

For questions about CAP, please contact
Katie Feldman, Esq. at
216.861.5142 or kfeldman@metrohealth.org.

Community Advocacy Program:

**A medical-legal
partnership**

Providing legal help
for MetroHealth patients



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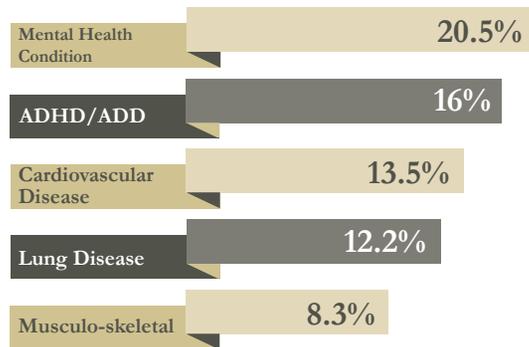


MetroHealth

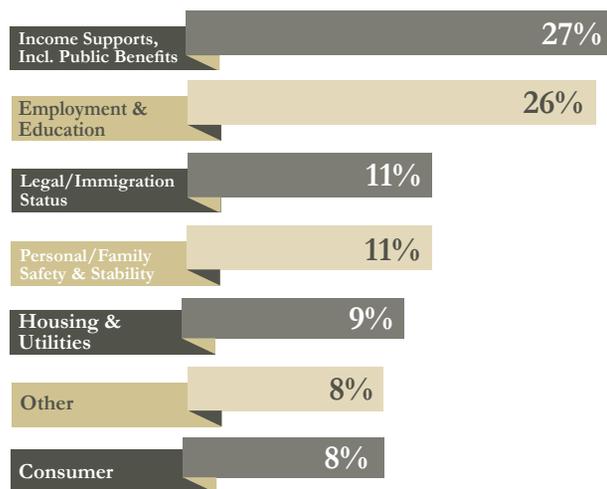
Patients Served

In 2017, CAP provided legal assistance to 788 household members through brief advice or extended legal representation.

69.1% of CAP patient-clients had one or more chronic health problems. Among those with chronic health problems, the most common problems were:



The legal assistance CAP provided to patient-clients covered a wide variety of legal issues, as detailed below:



Provider Trainings

CAP presented 32 trainings for medical providers in 2017 on topics such as housing, utilities, bullying, school discipline, immigration, and public benefits. CAP also held 39 one-on-one meetings with pediatric medical residents to train them on helping patients overcome legal barriers to health. “Curbside consults” – brief one-on-one sessions with medical providers designed to guide and empower them to effectively advocate for their patients – occurred 115 times in 2017.

CAP Team Works To Keep Kids Lead-Free

In 2017 CAP collaborated with our Legal Aid housing law colleagues and a group of other community advocates to address the prevalence of lead in Cleveland’s aging housing stock and the impact of lead poisoning on the city’s children. CAP advocated for special education services for children whose cognitive development was affected by lead poisoning, testified before an Ohio Senate subcommittee on how lead impacts a child’s educational needs, and participated in numerous community outreach events to educate families about this problem and their rights. Legal Aid currently has a lawsuit pending against the city of Cleveland for failing to enforce lead abatement laws. This work will continue in 2018.

CAP Highlights In 2017

Income and Health Coverage Restored

The CAP attorney embedded in MetroHealth’s Medicare ACO assisted a patient referred from Old Brooklyn in successfully appealing the termination of his Social Security disability income. The patient’s Medicare coverage was also stopped due to the proposed Social Security termination. After intervention by the CAP attorney, the medical benefits were restored. The attorney also assisted the patient in obtaining a Medicare premium assistance program to pay for his health insurance premium. Now the patient has stable income and health coverage.

Educational Services Modified

A nurse practitioner in Pediatrics at main campus referred a family to CAP for help with a 6 year old’s educational services. Even though the child had an IEP already, she was still constantly being suspended from school and was making only limited academic progress. The CAP attorney requested that the school create a new behavior plan for the student. The school completed an assessment, drafted a new behavior plan, and revised the student’s IEP to add supports tailored to the child’s needs, including a weighted blanket, ball, sensory zones, and social stories. The parent reports that her daughter is doing well.

Health Care Barrier Removed

After the parent of a 1 year old received a notice that the baby’s Medicaid coverage would be terminated, she was referred by a social worker to the CAP attorney at Broadway. As a Spanish speaker the mother did not understand why her son’s Medicaid was ending. The CAP attorney was able to determine the cause of the termination, supply the needed documentation to Cuyahoga County Job and Family Services, and confirm that the child’s Medicaid benefits were reinstated back to the date of the termination.