



New Analysis Highlights Income Maintenance and Housing As Most Urgent Legal Needs Among Brooklyn Medicaid Patients

Assessment Conducted by Community Care of Brooklyn Highlights in Partnership with New York Legal Assistance Group

Part of Ongoing Efforts to Address Health Equity Concerns in Brooklyn, Assist Medicaid Patients

Link to Findings [Here](#)

BROOKLYN, NY –Community Care of Brooklyn (CCB) today announced new findings that income maintenance and housing are the most frequent legal needs among Medicaid patients in Brooklyn, followed by family law, health, and immigration. Using consented data from CCB’s ongoing partnership with the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) LegalHealth division, the findings highlight ways to address ongoing health equity concerns in the borough, and how to best offer help to more than 600,000 of Brooklyn’s Medicaid patients navigating the complex legal system.

The analyzed data was collected from 195 unique consented clients out of 333 total CCB-NYLAG clients with Medicaid ID numbers from neighborhoods with the highest Medicaid utilization rates, including Cypress Hills/East New York (9%), Ocean Hill-Brownsville (8%), Sunset Park (8%), Midwood (6%), and Borough Park (5%). Overall, the needs varied for clients based on gender and zip codes across the borough.

“The long standing CCB-NYLAG LegalHealth Clinic partnership has been a unique and effective solution to meeting the legal needs of Medicaid patients living in Brooklyn,” **said Kishor Malavade, MD, Chief Medical Officer of Community Care of Brooklyn.** “This is about providing comprehensive care that extends past the four walls of a hospital, and that’s exactly what this partnership will continue to accomplish.”

“Medicaid patients in Brooklyn often face legal needs that deeply impact their health, wellbeing, and livelihoods,” said **Randy Retkin, director of LegalHealth, a division of NYLAG.**

“LegalHealth meets with patients directly in healthcare settings to ensure their legal issues are not overlooked during medical crises. The partnership between LegalHealth and Community Care of Brooklyn enables hundreds of Brooklynites to receive both the medical and legal support they need to live safely and assert the rights to which they are entitled. By providing insight into the community’s most pressing legal needs, this data will strengthen the work of our partnership and enable us to more impactfully serve Brooklyn’s Medicaid recipients.”

The data identifies specific demographic information containing the gender, neighborhoods/zip codes, age, and need area(s) of each unique consented client in the cohort. NYLAG includes the type(s) of resolutions that are provided by the attorney within their reporting, allowing the



LegalHealth Clinic to help allocate resources and appropriately address the issues relating to the social determinants of health within specific neighborhoods and zip codes.

The following areas of need are identified:

- **Income Maintenance**, i.e. SSI/SSD, unemployment, and welfare;
- **Insurance Disputes**, i.e. Medicaid/Essential Plan denial, trouble meeting Medicare co-pays, commercial insurance denial;
- **Fair Hearings**;
- **Family Law**, i.e. custody/visitation, orders of protection, child support, situations involving abuse or neglect of children;
- **Consumer Finance**, i.e. obtained or preserved credit, stopped/reduced debt collection activity, averted repossession;
- **Immigration**, i.e. screen for immigration remedies/ benefits eligibility, advise on public charge rule;
- **Debtor/Creditor**, i.e. issues benefits, bankruptcy considerations;
- **Workplace Accommodations**, i.e. disability accommodations, leaves, financial options;
- **Advance Planning**, i.e. will, health care proxy, living will, power of attorney, permanency planning for minors;
- **Safety**, i.e. feeling unsafe with a partner or in the home, vulnerable elderly person;
- **Health**, i.e. Medicare/Medicaid, benefits, stopped/obtained redress for harmful medical treatment;
- **And general**, i.e. difficulty paying rent, food, utilities, health insurance costs.

The CCB-NYLAG LegalHealth Clinic launched in 2018 and works to improve health outcomes and potentially avoidable hospital utilization among Medicaid patients. By assisting patients in navigating the complex legal system, the LegalHealth Clinic is supporting Medicaid beneficiaries to address a multitude of social issues at no cost to patients.

About Community Care of Brooklyn

Community Care of Brooklyn (CCB) is a network of over 1,000 health and social service organizations working to improve the health and well-being of Brooklyn residents. Originally formed in 2015 to achieve the goals set out by New York State under the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment Program (DSRIP), CCB remains a convener and driver of efforts to eliminate health disparities in Brooklyn, and has expanded to include three partner entities: Brooklyn Communities Collaborative, the Brooklyn Health Home, and CCB Independent Practice Association. CCB receives administrative support from the Maimonides Department of Population Health. For more information visit www.ccbrooklyn.org.

About New York Legal Assistance Group

Founded in 1990, New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) is a leading civil legal services organization combatting economic, racial, and social injustice by advocating for people



experiencing poverty or in crisis. Our services include comprehensive, free civil legal services, financial empowerment, impact litigation, policy advocacy, and community partnerships. NYLAG exists because wealth should not determine who achieves justice. We aim to disrupt systemic racism by serving individuals and families whose legal and financial crises are often rooted in racial inequality. NYLAG goes to where the need is, providing services in more than 150 community sites (e.g. courts, hospitals, libraries) and on our Mobile Legal Help Center. NYLAG's staff of 350 impacted the lives of 113,000 people last year. www.nylag.org

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