**CRC Advisory Minutes**

12/14/17

**Advisory members’ action steps/follow-up requests:**

Share any/all of below as pertinent to your team. Highlights:

* **Coverage- General Resource Specialist Vacancy**
  + **Notary services**
    - Ellen is applying to become a notary to help cover vacancy and future absences. Process to apply, get sworn-in and order materials takes several weeks. (1/11- still awaiting approval)
    - Ambulatory patients- refer to Credit Union (Bulfinch 1). Traveling notaries available- look online (can charge travel fee). Lani in PFS is part-time; will assist for urgent cases subject to availability.
  + **Referring** 
    - **Epic referral**- remains the same- Ambulatory referral to MGH Social Work Community Resource; Patient type: General. Petrina Jacob and Ellen can access these referrals.
    - **Questions**? Call Petrina Jacob or Ellen Forman

Thanks!

***Style note****- Agenda content in black text; discussion, further information and follow-up requested in* ***purple****.*

**Selected Updates**

* **Diana has submitted her resignation. Last day is Friday 12/22.** 
  + Thanks Diana- we’ll miss you, and wish you all the best!
  + Have submitted ad for posting- inquiries to Ellen
  + **Notary** services
    - Ellen is applying to become a notary to help cover vacancy and future absences. Process to apply, get sworn-in and order materials takes several weeks.
    - Ambulatory patients- refer to Credit Union (Bulfinch 1). Traveling notaries available- look online (can charge travel fee). Lani in PFS is part-time; will assist for **urgent** cases subject to availability.
* **Sheraton Commander Holiday lodging offer**- reminder.Offers free room for up to 3 nights on the dates surrounding Christmas. Please notify Ellen if you use the program. Form, release of PHI, and instructions at [Holiday Gifts & Lodging](http://healthcare.partners.org/ss/ssframebottom/staffresources/New%20Site/SpecificPopulations/SP_Child-Fams_HolidayGifts.html).

**Feedback, questions, project ideas, resource sharing from teams?**

* **Question: Temporary Protected Status (TPS) ending for Haitians (7/19) - where might we refer?** (Note: TPS ending for Nicaraguans, Hondurans and Salvadorians in Jan through March 2018) This is appropriate referral to us or you can share the below.We’d refer to legal advocacy to see if there are any options to adjust status. Here’s updated list from our website ([Immigrants](http://healthcarestage.partners.org/ss/ssframebottom/staffresources/New%20Site/SpecificPopulations/SP_Immigrants.html) > [Legal Clinics, Advice and Referral](http://healthcarestage.partners.org/ss/ssframebottom/staffresources/New%20Site/Legal/Legal_Immigration.html#LegalReferral))
  + **Legal Advice & Referral** 
    - **FREE Immigration Clinics**
      * **Boston Residents:** the **Mayor’s Office of New Bostonians** offers **monthly FREE immigration clinics.** See website for schedule: [www.cityofboston.gov/newbostonians/programs/advice.asp](http://www.cityofboston.gov/newbostonians/programs/advice.asp) ([More information.](http://healthcare.partners.org/ss/ssframebottom/staffresources/news/2014/9-Newsletter.html#ImmigrationClinics))
      * ***New!* Cambridge Residents:** [**City of Cambridge/CLSACC**](https://www.cambridgema.gov/Services/immigrationconcernsresourcepage) - third Wednesdays of every month starting in January 2018, from 5:15-7:15 pm, Following a screening assessment, referral resources will be provided.
      * **Irish International Immigrant Center Free Immigration** [**Clinics**](http://www.iiicenter.org/what-we-do/immigration-legal-services/) (open to immigrants from any nation).
    - **Find an Attorney**
      * The **Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)** provides a list of [**legal service providers for immigrants**](http://www.miracoalition.org/legal-services).
      * The MA Chapter of the **National Lawyers Guild** offers an **Immigration Lawyer Referral Service** at 617-227-7008.
      * The **American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA)** provides an [Immigration Lawyer Search](http://www.ailalawyer.com/) including language search feature.
      * The **Massachusetts Bar Association** offers a[Lawyer Referral Service](http://www.masslawhelp.com/) at 866-627-7577.
      * [**ImmigrationLawHelp.org**](http://www.immigrationlawhelp.org/search?state=MA) - a searchable online directory of free or low-cost nonprofit immigration legal services providers in all 50 states. Only nonprofits that are BIA recognized or have attorneys on staff are included in the directory. Developed by the Immigration Advocates Network and Pro Bono Net with support from the Four Freedoms Fund.
      * **Asylum & Detention Cases**: [**PAIR Project**](http://pairproject.org/) trains pro bono attorneys from private practices to represent asylum-seekers and immigration detainees.
* **This led to question- what do we tell undocumented immigrants about DTA?** It is difficult in these times to make guarantees given current environment of stepped-up immigration enforcement. But I’ve not heard of anyone being caught due to applying for benefits yet.

What we tell people is that **DTA says that they will not report to ICE unless they are shown a final order of deportation.** Can be helpful to see this in writing: **DTA brochure** [**What Non-Citizens Need to Know**](http://www.masslegalservices.org/node/25529) - available in English, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, Spanish, Chinese, Khmer, Russian and Vietnamese. Find it: at bottom of our [DTA](http://healthcarestage.partners.org/ss/ssframebottom/staffresources/New%20Site/Basic%20Needs/BN_PB-CA_DTA.html) page.

* **And this question:** **does getting benefits impact immigration status? “Public Charge”** describes those that immigration service believes will become primarily dependent on public benefits. Depending on immigration status, USCIS and State Department consular officers abroad can refuse to let you enter the U.S., re-enter the U.S., or become a permanent resident. **NOTE: the rules about Public Charge MAY change under Trump administration; they leaked a proposed Executive Order that would dramatically change rules. Current key points:**
  + Public charge is typically a **concern for those who do not yet have Green Card/Legal Permanent Resident status**. It is generally NOT a concern for LPRs when seeking citizenship- with one exception- if they leave country for more than 180 days may have face difficulty with re-entry.
  + **The only type of benefits that should count as “public charge” are cash benefits** such as TAFDC, EAEDC **and Medicaid for Long-Term care** (SNF placement). NOT SNAP, fuel assistance, medical care, housing assist, etc.
  + **Receiving cash assist is NOT an automatic bar to getting LPR status.** You should not be denied a green card just because you used cash welfare in the past. But, you will need to show that you are not likely to need cash welfare in the future. It will be easier to show this if you used welfare a long time ago, or only briefly to get through a hard time. We advise speaking with an advocate in these situations.
  + Find it: [Public Charge](http://healthcarestage.partners.org/ss/ssframebottom/staffresources/New%20Site/SpecificPopulations/SP_Immigrants_PublicBenefits.html#publiccharge)
* **Lyft Concierge service-** patients are being told that our oncology social workers have or could have access to funds for cancer pts. **We do not as of yet**, but we are exploring this at the moment.

**Updates and Seeking Feedback**

* **Project: Transportation to Boston- NH and ME Medicaid** (requested by this group; e-mailed to group 11/17) and in last month’s newsletter.

New Hampshire Medicaid

Members of NH Medicaid’s Fee-for-Service (FFS), Premium Assistance (PAP), and Managed Care Organization (MCOs) may arrange transportation for medical appointments (not limited to cancer care) **with prior authorization**.

**More Information and contacts:**  [Guide on How to Request Transportation for NH Medicaid Recipients](https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/ombp/medicaid/transportation/documents/how-to-request-transportation.pdf)

MaineCare Services

**LogistiCare, MidCoast Connector and Penquis CAP** provide transportation to Boston for all medical appointments with **prior authorization** and at least 2-3 business days notice.

**More Information and contacts:**  <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/oms/nemt/nemt_index.html>

* + **Several members report that their teams, both social work and multidisciplinary were very happy to have this information. Thanks Petrina! Please let us know if anyone gets further info/feedback.**
* **Enhancing General Resource Specialist Model**

To improve our services for patients and staff, to broaden the applicant pool and improve staff retention, we are planning to pilot enhancing the service model to include direct patient contact once fully trained. (We discussed in 9/16 meeting.)

Discussion- clarification: In early stages of defining this. Referral will be up to discretion of SW: consultation or talk with patient. May limit to certain straightforward types of cases- utilities assistance, food pantries, etc. With new employee will likely begin as consultation only until very conversant with resources, then transition to direct contact.

**Additional Ideas/Discussion**

* **Patient Handouts- ideas for new handouts**
  + Food/nutrition resources.
  + An overall packet- cash, food, utilities
  + Programs for kids- diapers, food, car seats
* **Can we learn more about staff and resources available in health centers?** Outreach workers at health centers can be very helpful- do home visits that inform decision-making, can help advocate for shelter. Have language capacity. OB invited to breakfast a while ago. Can we learn more so that SWs know of opportunities to collaborate?
* **NOTE: name and location change for Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership – now** [**Metro Housing Boston**](http://www.metrohousingboston.org/)**.** Has moved to1411 Tremont Street- Roxbury Crossing to a building built as “part of a larger effort to re-establish Roxbury Crossing as a vibrant neighborhood center and a gateway to Mission Hill.” And “This new transit-oriented space will be easily accessible by walking, driving, or public transportation to 65 percent of the people Metro Housing|Boston serves. With more than half of the participants being elderly or in households where a member has a disability, the new office space has been designed specifically for people with mobility impairments.”

**Next meeting: Thurs March 8, 12:00 - 1:00, SS Conf room**