



A Division of the New York Legal Assistance Group

LegalHealth[®]
Professional Partnership to Promote Well Being

For Immediate Release:
January 30, 2008

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New Funding Supports Doctor/Lawyer Collaborations for the Underserved

LegalHealth, a division of the New York Legal Assistance Group, announced that the New York State Health Foundation and the Langeloth Foundation have awarded the nonprofit organization a total of \$190,000 to support medical-legal collaborations for underserved adults with serious and chronic illness throughout New York State and across the country.

“Collaborations between the medical and legal professions have proven critical in identifying and resolving legal issues that affect patients' health and well being,” said Randye Retkin, Director of LegalHealth. “These generous grants from New York State Health Foundation and the Langeloth Foundation give LegalHealth the ability to draw from our six-and-a-half years of experience and expertise to advance medical-legal partnerships throughout the country. This is a dream opportunity to assist those most in need.”

LegalHealth works in partnership with 14 hospitals and 10 community health organizations in New York City to provide free legal care for seriously ill, low-income patients with nonmedical problems that may adversely impact their health, such as housing that exacerbates severe asthma or

benefits denied for failure to provide sufficient data. LegalHealth also trains hospital staff to recognize nonmedical issues that may be remedied by legal intervention.

The New York State Health Foundation, which seeks to improve public health and access to care, has granted LegalHealth \$115,000 over a two-year period to support the expansion of medical-legal partnerships to serve the needs of low-income New Yorkers with serious and chronic illnesses. LegalHealth will work with the existing network of free, legal-service programs, hospitals, medical clinics and other organizations in New York State interested in creating or expanding medical-legal partnerships.

The Langeloth Foundation, which promotes physical and emotional healing particularly in underserved adult populations, has awarded LegalHealth \$75,000 to develop a long-term technical assistance plan. LegalHealth's goal is to increase the number of medical-legal collaborations for underserved adult patients with serious and chronic illness. LegalHealth will share its expertise working with diverse patient populations through the provision of technical assistance.

The New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG), a not-for-profit organization founded in 1990, provides free comprehensive civil legal services to poor and near-poor individuals and families residing in the five boroughs of New York City who would otherwise be unable to access or afford legal assistance. NYLAG dedicates its services to underserved and impoverished populations through direct representation, impact and class action litigation, consultation and community education. In addition to LegalHealth, NYLAG provides specialized legal assistance for immigrants, the elderly, victims of domestic violence, children with special needs, Holocaust survivors and many other less fortunate members of society.