

Telehealth Equity 3

Third in a series of virtual forums on October 7, 2021



Partnership for a Connected Illinois
broadbandillinois.org

The Illinois Telehealth Initiative (ITI) is a project of the nonprofit Partnership for a Connected Illinois (PCI). Over the last five years, ITI organized Law and Policy Forums examining the telehealth landscape in Illinois and the broader Midwest. The Forums feature interactive panel discussions on the current legal and regulatory environment for telehealth, reimbursement trends and opportunities, and telemedicine delivery and business models. <http://www.broadbandillinois.org/index.html>

Telehealth is being introduced to a healthcare system that suffers from inequities. Disparities in healthcare for underserved and rural communities were well documented prior to the pandemic. COVID-19 significantly exacerbated many of these underlying inequities and shone a much-needed light on barriers to equitable healthcare. Proactive steps must be taken to assure telehealth equity and that telehealth can become a great equalizer.

Forum 3 • How Technology Can Help Medical-Legal Partnerships Address Social Determinants of Health

While the COVID-19 pandemic certainly exacerbated health issues for many, it also worsened what many refer to as “health-harming legal needs,” or a “social problem that adversely affects a person’s health or access to healthcare, and that is better remedied through joint legal care and healthcare than through healthcare services alone. It is a type of social determinant of health.”

Due to the nature of the pandemic, the use of technology to address these needs also grew. As reimbursement policies for telehealth loosened, more vulnerable and underserved communities were accessing health care services. This provided an opportunity to utilize this technology to also address social determinants of health—such as safe and affordable housing, unemployment benefits, and immigration status—through the use of Medical-Legal Partnerships (MLPs).

Speakers:

Nicole J. Mirocha, DO

Nicole is is an Associate Professor and Associated Residency Program Director of Clinic Family & Community Medicine with Southern Illinois School of Medicine. She works at the SIU Center for Family Medicine, an FQHC and patient-centered medical home serving the Springfield and surrounding communities.



Shelly Skinner

Shelly is focused on increasing access to justice through technology. She serves as a judge for a local Teen Court that implements restorative justice principles for youth who have been arrested for committing certain criminal offenses. In addition, she is working on establishing a pediatric medical-legal partnership in San Diego.



Keegan Warren-Clem, JD, LLM

Keegan is a Practice Area Manager at Texas Legal Services Center. She is also an adjunct professor with appointments at The University of Texas School of Law, McCombs School of Business, and School of Design and Creative Technologies, where she challenges students and residents to explore connections between health and law.



Sara Agate, JD, MPH



Candice Stearns, JD

Candice is the Medical Legal Partnership Staff Attorney at Land of Lincoln Legal Aid's Northern Regional Office located in Springfield, Illinois. She is a graduate of Southern Illinois School of Law. Prior to law school, Candice served as a domestic violence legal advocate with the Macoupin County Public Health Department assisting domestic violence survivors.



Date:

Thursday, October 7, 2021 • 12:00 pm CST

Online

Co-Sponsor:



Digital Health Equity Summit

Addressing Inequities & Building a
Modern Healthcare System

November 3rd-4th



[Register for Forum 3 Here](#)