

Energy Clinic

A Toolbox for Helping Families Heat and Eat

Bianca Pullen
Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow
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Congressional Hunger Center (CHC)

- + House Select Committee on Hunger
 - Mickey Leland (D-TX)
 - Tony Hall (D-OH)
- + CHC founded 1993
 - Tony Hall and Bill Emerson (R-MO)
- + Bi-partisan approach
- + “Ending Hunger by Developing Leaders”



Medical Legal Partnership for Children

- +The Medical Legal Partnership for Children (MLPC) at Boston Medical Center (BMC)
- +Within the department of Pediatrics
- +Unites clinicians and lawyers
- +Promotes child health and well being through advocacy



Heat or Eat The Dilemma



As energy expenditures increase, food expenditures decrease.*

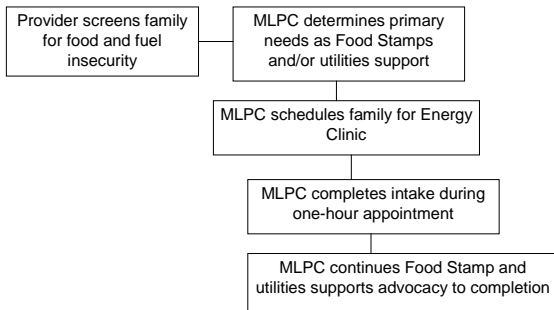
*Children's Sentinel Nutrition Assessment Program (C-SNAP) and the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies Health Policy Institute. *Balancing Acts: Energy Insecurity Among Low-Income Babies and Toddlers of Color Increases Food Insecurity and Harmful Health Effects.* March 2007.

Energy Clinic: A Toolbox History



- + 2003: First hospital-based food pantry in the country
- + 2005: MLPC institutes a weekly Food Stamp Access Clinic
- + 2006: Utilities-related advocacy integrated
- + 2007: Name changed to the Energy Clinic

Energy Clinic: A Toolbox The Model



Energy Clinic: A Toolbox

Best Practices



- + Co-location of services
- + Active clinical champions
- + Volunteers supervised by MLPC staff person
- + Open communication between food stamp administrative agencies and utility companies
- + Collaborations with other advocacy organizations

Energy Clinic: A Toolbox

Successes at Boston Medical Center



- + Helped over 100 families increase their monthly budgets
- + Food Stamp and Utility advocacy training with over 300 front-line clinical staff
- + Significant pro bono participation
- + Child Health Impact Assessment (CHIA)
- + Documented need for on-site Food Stamp eligibility workers

Benefits for Families



- + \$3,023.00 in Food Stamps
- + \$354.85 in retroactive discounts
- + Renegotiated a payment plan
- + 1 Account protected
- + 10 Low-Income Discounts
