Innovative Collaboration to Improve Social Determinants of Health in Philadelphia

Date: January 21, 2020



# **National Nurse-Led Care Consortium**

The National Nurse-Led Care Consortium (NNCC) is a membership organization that supports nurse-led care and nurses at the front lines of care.

NNCC provides expertise to support comprehensive, communitybased primary care.

- Policy research and advocacy
- Technical assistance and support
- Direct, nurse-led healthcare services

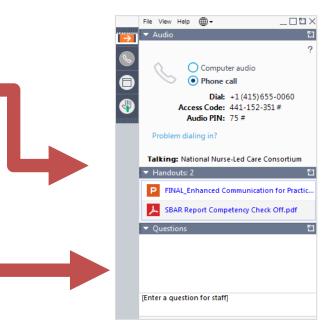


# Housekeeping Items

#### To download materials,

go to the Handouts section on your GoToWebinar control panel.

To **ask a question**, type it into the Question pane in the GoToWebinar control panel and it will be relayed to the presenter.





# **Learning Objectives**

- Describe how unmet legal needs impact the health of families participating in home visiting programs.
- Identify the key core components of the Nursing-Legal Partnership model.
- Identify opportunities to advance collaboration between home visitation models and community legal services providers to improve health.



# ELLEN LAWTON, JD CO-DIRECTOR & LEAD RESEARCH SCIENTIST – NATIONAL CENTER FOR MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP



# **MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP**

is an intervention where legal and health care professionals collaborate to help patients resolve **SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS** that contribute to **HEALTH DISPARITIES** and have a remedy in civil law.



AT THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

# Lawyers help solve SDOH problems

I-HELP™		How Lawyers Can Help
Income & Insurance	\$	Food stamps, disability benefits, cash assistance, health insurance
Housing & utilities		Eviction, housing conditions, housing vouchers, utility shut off
Education & Employment		Accommodation for disease and disability in education and employment settings
Legal status		Assistance with immigration status (e.g. asylum applications); Veteran discharge status upgrade; Criminal background expungement
Personal & family stability		Domestic violence, guardianship, child support, advanced directives, estate planning

# Strategic partnerships with federal agencies



HRSA recognizes legal services as an "enabling service," allows federal health center dollars to pay for MLP



CMS recognizes "screening for health-harming legal needs" as an Improvement Activity under Medicare's Merit-based Incentive Payment System



SAMHSA singled out MLP in recent mental health & substance use disorder treatment block grants



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs VA encourages its medical centers to provide free space for on-site legal care

# THE STATE OF THE Medical-Legal Partnership Field

AUGUST 2017

Findings from the 2016 National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership Surveys

# 2016 MLP Site Survey Report

<u>http://medical-</u> <u>legalpartnership.org/ml</u> <u>p-resources/2016-</u> <u>ncmlp-survey-report/</u>

National Center for Medical 🕦 Legal Partnership At The George Washington UNIVERSITY

# MLP as "Enabling Service"

- In 2014, HRSA, the government agency that regulates FQHCs, announced that Medical-Legal Partnerships can be considered "enabling services"
- That means HRSA 330 grants funds can be used to support civil legal services for FQHC patients
- Enabling services are not clinical in nature, but help facilitate access to care and can improve patients' health; they include things like transportation, interpretation, outreach, and case management.



# NURSING-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP: INNOVATIVE COLLABORATION TO IMPROVE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH IN PHILADELPHIA

January 21, 2020

# OVERVIEW OF PHILADELPHIA NURSING-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP



Shannon Mace, JD, MPH Public Health Law Consultant

# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Describe how unmet legal needs impact the health of families participating in home visiting programs.
- 2. Identify the key core components of the Nursing-Legal Partnership model.
- 3. Identify opportunities to advance collaboration between healthcare providers and community legal services providers to improve health.



# OVERVIEW OF THE NURSING-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP

- Established in 2016
- Collaboration between:
  - National Nurse-Led Care Consortium's Philadelphia Nurse-Family Partnership and Mabel Morris Family Home Visit Program (NFP/MM)
  - The Health Education and Legal Assistance Project: A Medical-Legal Partnership at Widener University Delaware Law School (HELP: MLP)
- Supported by:
  - Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation
  - Oak Foundation
  - Pennsylvania Children's Trust Fund
  - New Century Trust









# POLL QUESTION I

Question: Are you familiar with the medical-legal partnership or nursing-legal partnership models?

Response options: Yes or No

### HOW WE GOT HERE



Katherine Kinsey, PhD, RN, FAAN

Nurse Administrator and Principle Investigator of Philadelphia Nurse-Family Partnership and Mabel Morris Family Home Visit Program

# A HOUSE WITH NO WINDOWS

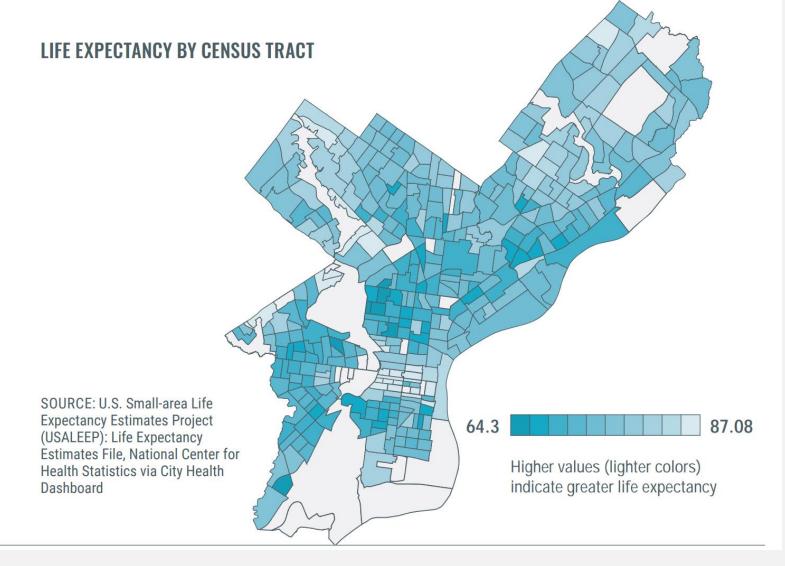
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# PHILADELPHIA

- Poverty rate in 2018 was 24.5%
- Significant disparities persist by race/ethnicity and income: (2017 data)
  - Non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic children had rates of asthma-related hospitalizations 5 to 6 times higher than White children
  - Non-Hispanic Black babies were 3 times more likely to die before their first birthday than Non-Hispanic White babies
  - Non-Hispanic Black babies were twice as likely to be born at a lowbirth weight than Non-Hispanic White babies
  - Incidence of lead poisoning is directly correlated with poverty



# Life expectancy gap = more than 22 years

### ACCESS TO JUSTICE

- In 2017, 71% of low-income households in the U.S. experienced a civil legal problem
  - 25% of low-income households experienced six or more civil-legal problems
  - 67% of households with domestic violence survivors experienced six or more
- More than 80% of the unmet legal needs of lowincome individuals go unmet
- The most common types of civil legal issues experienced by low-income households were related to health (41% of households)

Legal Services Corporation. (2017). The Justice Gap: Measuring the Unmet Civil Legal Needs of Low-income Americans. Prepared by NORC at the University of Chicago for Legal Services Corporation



# WHY IT MATTERS

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# VIDEO CLIP

• <u>https://videopress.com/v/VtunX43f</u>

### NUTS AND BOLTS OF THE NURSING-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP



Shannon Mace, JD, MPH Public Health Law Consultant

# POLL QUESTION 2

- Question: Does your organization work with a community legal services provider?
- Responses:Yes or No

### NURSING-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP OBJECTIVES

- Serve at least 100 families annually
- Improve housing conditions for families living in unsafe and substandard homes
- Ensure pregnant women and children have health insurance
- Improve the economic well-being of families served
- Decrease toxic maternal stress
- Improve community-wide health through systemic policy advocacy





Systemic Advocacy



**Program Evaluation** 





Direct Legal Representation



Nurse-Lawyer Consultations



Universal Screening for Unmet Legal Needs

NURSING-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP CORE COMPONENTS

#### NURSING-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP WORKFLOW



Clients provide informed consent to have information shared to NLP team

\* -\* \* -\* - All clients are screened for unmet legal needs and level of stress upon entering program and periodically



Nurses consult with attorneys about need



Attorney addresses matter through a consultation or a case



When legal matter is resolved, program evaluators follow up to administer stress scale and conduct satisfaction interview

#### SCREENING FOR UNMET LEGAL NEEDS: IHELP



#### **Income and insurance**



#### Housing and utilities

**Education and employment** 

 $\Delta \Delta$  Legal (immigration) status



Personal and family stability

# POLL QUESTION 3

- Question: Which social and legal needs are most prevalent in your organization?
- Answer Options:
  - Income and insurance
  - Housing and utilities
  - Education and employment
  - Legal (immigration) status
  - Personal and family stability

### TRAINING

- Regular training conducted by project attorneys, subject matter experts, nurse home visitors
- Goal is to increase advocacy capacity of nurses and collaboration
- Training topics have included:
  - Identifying issues related to legal status
  - Rights related to employment-based discrimination
  - Child welfare involvement
  - Income benefits and support
  - Medicaid
  - Non-emergency transportation



### POLICY ADVOCACY

- Lawyers and public health nurses work together to identify systemic issues
- An annual Community Action Day provides an opportunity for families to meet with elected officials and voice concerns
- An annual NLP Policy Agenda identifies priorities and action steps
- Nurses and clients have testified on issues in front of Philadelphia City Council



# **NURSING-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP** 2019-2020 POLICY AGENDA

The Nursing-Legal Partnership (NLP) is a unique collaboration between the National Nurse-Led Care Consortium (NNCC) and Health, Education and Legal Assistance Project: A Medical-Legal Partnership (HELP: MLP). A team of lawyers and public health nurses work hand-in-hand to ensure that pregnant women and new mothers have the opportunity to raise their children in safe, healthy homes, with uninterrupted health insurance coverage and other benefits. As public health nurses educate and support new parents through the evidence-based Philadelphia Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) and Mabel Morris/Parents As Teachers (PAT) home visiting programs, lawyers

# POWER OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN NURSES AND LAWYERS





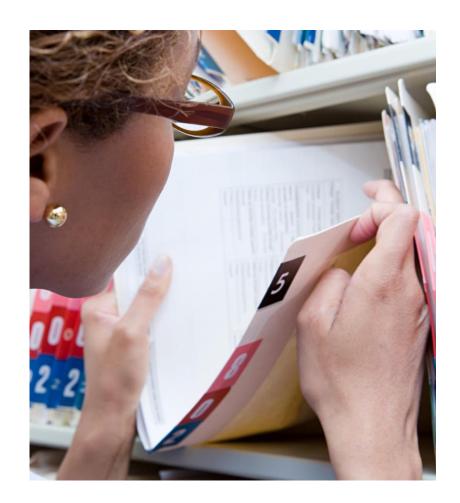
Erin Blair, RN, BSN, Nursing-Legal Partnership Nurse Liaison and Nurse Home Visitor Rachel Mark, Esq. HELP: MLP Staff Attorney



# LEAH'S STORY

# PATIENT HISTORY

- 21-year-old African American female
- G2P1 with a history of severe hyperemesis gravidarum during both pregnancies requiring bed rest and multiple hospitalizations
- History of asthma
- History of unstable, overcrowded housing
- History of interpersonal violence
- Recipient of moving costs and housing services prior to second pregnancy
- Strong employment history



# LEGAL ISSUE: ACCESS TO CHILDCARE

Childcare is necessary for Leah to seek treatment, but available only to working parents.



# CASE RESOLUTION



SUPPORT FROM PATIENT'S MEDICAL PROVIDER SUPPORT FROM PATIENT'S NURSE HOME VISITOR DIRECT LEGAL ADVOCACY TO COUNTY ASSISTANCE OFFICE



### THE POLICY TEAM

- Tasked with creating a Policy Agenda that is client centered, and informed by Nurse Home-Visitors expertise and clients' experiences
- Comprised of Nurse Home-Visitors, Administrators, Supervisors, Lawyers, Interns, NNCC staff and program partners
- Initial Policy Agenda translated into purposeful partnerships with local politicians, community leaders, and city agencies leading to tangible outcomes





### COMMUNITY ACTION DAY



### BRUNCH AND LEARNS

- A strategy to turn the volume up on issues that we are working on
- Bringing enthusiasm and knowledge of systemic issues to Home Visitors and Maternal Child Health Community providers

### Building Food Security: A Shared Vision

Tuesday, January 29, 2019 Philadelphia, PA

Presented by the National Nurse-Led Care Consortium, Nursing-Legal Partnership, and HELP:MLP



## POLICY WINS

- Fair Work Week
- Lead Free Philly
- Tenants Right to Counsel



### EVALUATION AND OUTCOMES



Shannon Mace, JD, MPH Public Health Law Consultant

### ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR FAMILIES



Improved housing

conditions.



Improved access to public benefits and health insurance.

Improved health outcomes among clients.



Increased capacity of staff to address social determinants of health.

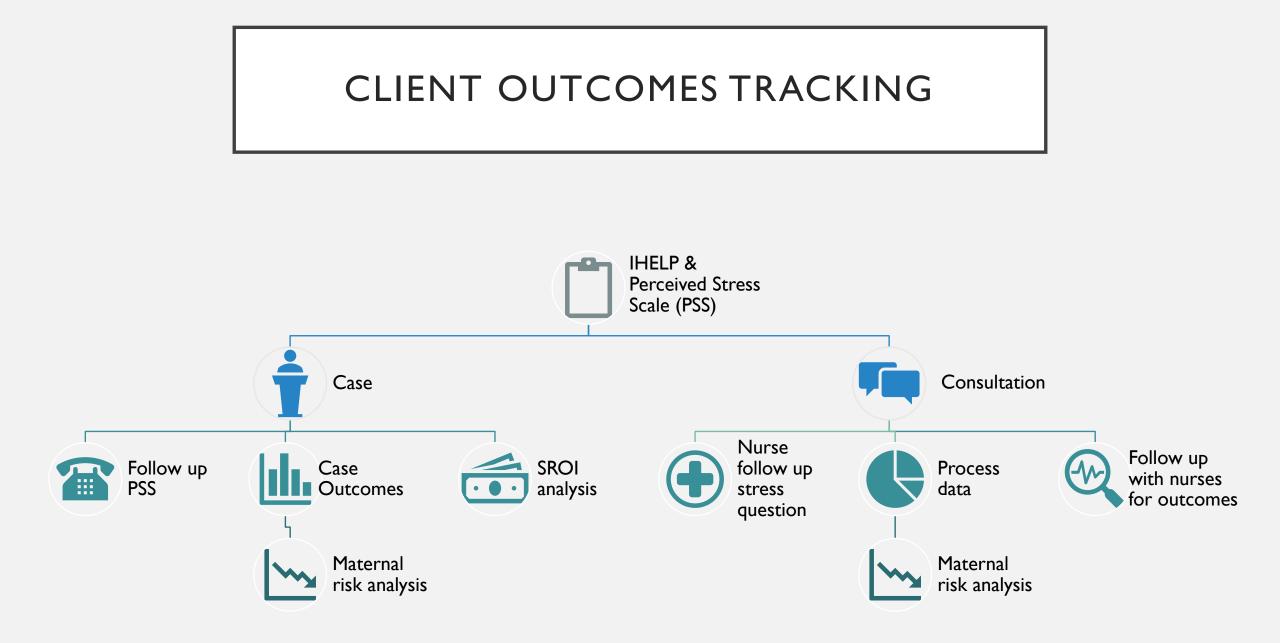


Increased staff advocacy capacity. Positive Social Return on Investment (SROI).



Acquisition of state and/or insurer funding to sustain NLP.



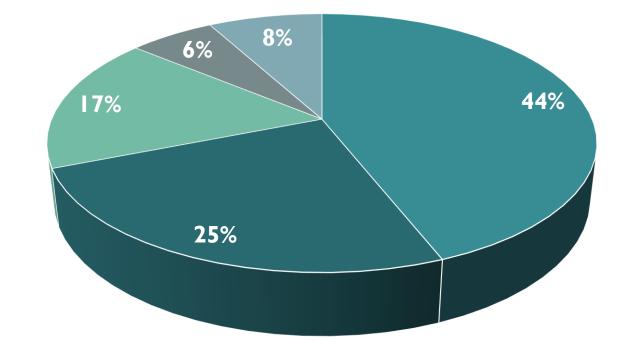


### EVALUATION OUTCOMES

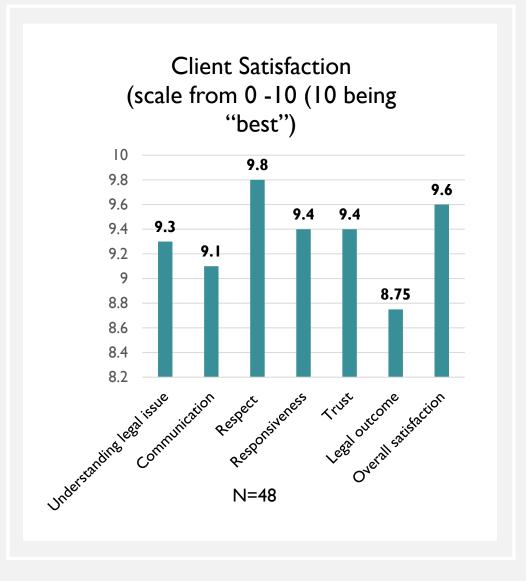
- Between January 1, 2016 and August 31, 2018, the NLP:
  - Addressed 1078 legal matters for 417 clients
  - Increased nurses' advocacy capacity and satisfaction
  - Decreased clients' stress
  - Yielded high social return on investment



### TYPES OF LEGAL ISSUES ADDRESSED



- Income and insurance
- Personal and family stability
- Education and employment
- Housing and utilities
- Legal (immigration status)



# IMPACT ON CLIENTS

- As of September 2018, 71% of clients showed a reduction in stress (n=30) measured using the Perceived Stress Scale (PSS)
- Clients who participate in follow up interviews show very high levels of satisfaction
- NLP services are correlated with lower rates of maternal risk in certain domains

### CLIENT QUOTES

- Thank you so much for helping me and my family. It has been a blessing. You brought so much of my stress off my shoulders. Ya'll are the bomb. They were so helpful. All of the services provided were excellent.
- The legal provider I have is awesome. She understands me and my child's needs. She listens and tries to help the best way she knows how to. She provides every bit of information she thinks I would be interested in. I always look forward to our visits.
- I wish there was something I can do to show her how much I appreciate her. She was amazing. She went a bit above duty in helping me. Not just with the legal issue but with the emotional aspect as well.



### IMPACT ON STAFF

### Impact on Public Health Nurses:

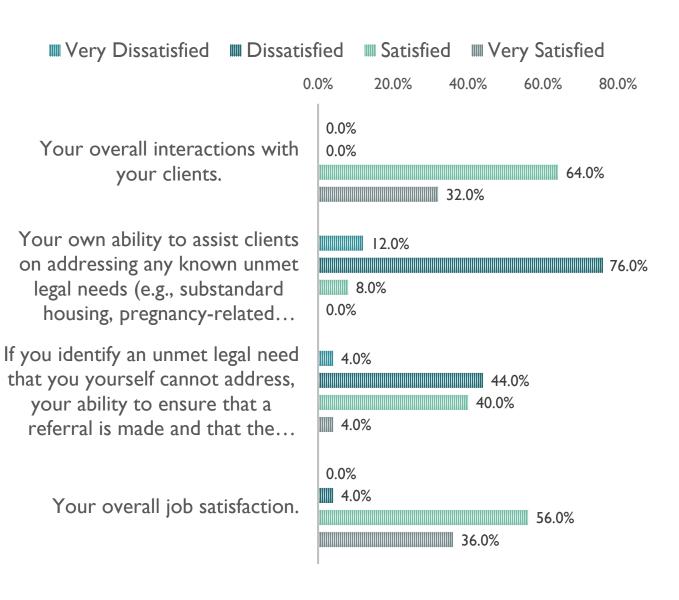
- Increased knowledge and capacity to address social determinants of health.
- Increased satisfaction with work/relationships with clients.

### **Impact on Attorneys:**

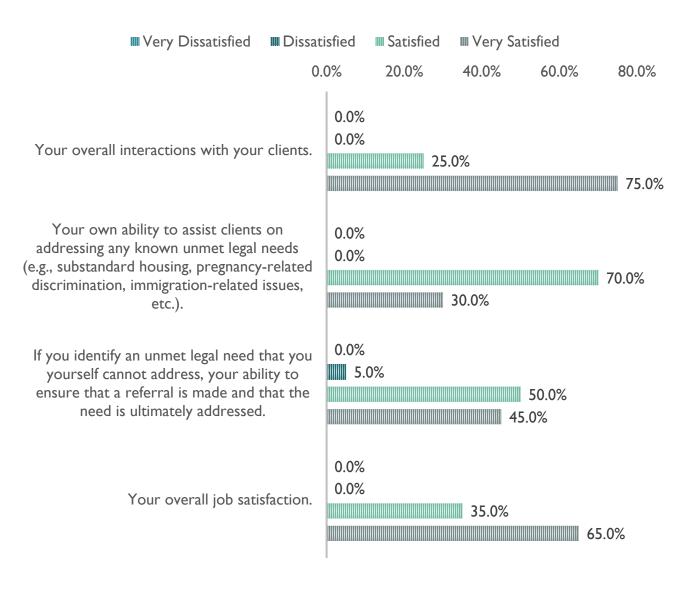
- Increased their ability to advocate on behalf of clients.
- Increased knowledge about health or health care from working alongside nurses and case managers.
- Higher levels of satisfaction working in the NLP setting compared to other legal environments.



#### NURSE SATISFACTION OF ASPECTS OF JOB, APRIL 201<u>6</u> (N = 25)



#### NURSE SATISFACTION OF ASPECTS OF JOB, APRIL 201<u>8</u> (N = 25)



#### **Nursing-Legal Partnership**

Nurses Are More Comfortable Addressing Family Needs



Percentage of home visiting nurses reporting they are "comfortable" or "very comfortable" addressing:

Issues related to immigration/legal status

Employment discrimination issues

Education needs of children with learning disabilities

Housing issues

Public benefits, including health insurance

Domestic violence and family safety issues

### FINANCIAL IMPACT

- The overall monetized economic impact of successful cases is estimated to be \$1,469,470
- I96% SROI to date (almost \$2 returned to community for every \$1 invested)
- Significant case wins include:
  - Obtaining a retroactive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payment for a client in the amount of \$24,963
  - Other retroactive SSI payments awarded to clients have been in the amounts of \$4100 and \$6686. On average, clients who are awarded SSI receive monthly income of \$750 that supports critical basic needs.
  - In 14 housing cases, clients avoided having to pay judgments or were awarded judgments in amounts of up to \$11,850.



### LESSONS LEARNED AND NEXT STEPS





Katherine Kinsey, PhD, RN, FAAN Nurse Administrator and Principle Investigator Philadelphia Nurse-Family Partnership and Mabel Morris Family Home Visit Program Daniel Atkins, Esq., Director of HELP: MLP

# LESSONS LEARNED

- The "right" partner matters.
- Investing in planning before implementation is critical.
- Project "translators" are keys to success
  - Nurse Liaison position
  - Project glossary
- Program evaluation requires dedicated resources and time.
- Need to always plan ahead.



# FUNDING AND SUSTAINABILITY





Initial funding acted as a catalyst for subsequent funding



### Finding the right funder is key



Increased focus on addressing social determinants of health



### NEXT STEPS

Disseminating the model

Improving the rigor of the evaluation

Expanding partnerships and collaboration

• Pediatricians, pediatric hospitals, legal clinics

Continuing to influence systemic advocacy



# Save the Dates – Upcoming Learning Collaborative

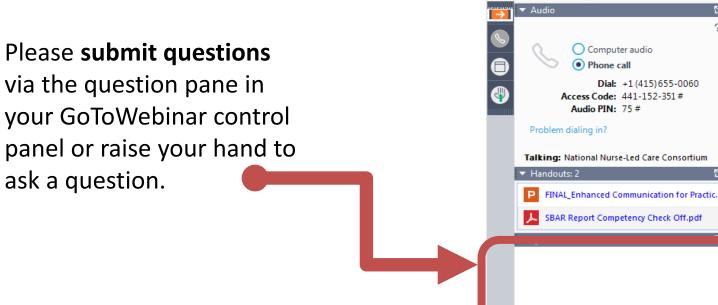
- April 2, 2020
- April 16, 2020
- April 30, 2020
- May 14, 2020

Each session is from 2-3 ET. Registration coming soon!



# **QUESTIONS?**

# Any Questions??



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### THANK YOU!

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# **Thank You!**

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The National Nurse-Led Care Consortium (NNCC) supports the growth and development of over 250+ nurse-managed health centers serving millions of vulnerable people across the nation.

