We’re excited to release our Spring newsletter highlighting our work from August 2022 to May 2023. We’ll be sharing an overview of the referrals our network has supported, as well as updates on our other efforts to abolish unjust immigration enforcement policies and to address the human rights crisis in detention. This network is part of NYLPI’s fight to combat the human rights crisis in immigration detention, where we have documented continued and worsening mistreatment of people with medical conditions in immigration facilities.

Some of these efforts include campaigning to pass the Coverage4All Act and Dignity Not Detention Act, both of which would expand immigrant justice in New York. While the Medical Providers Network provides advocacy for immigrants that face medical neglect and abuse when detained, NYLPI is also fighting to eliminate the detention centers that give rise to those harmful conditions. Just earlier this month, current and former detained immigrants at Orange County Jail in Goshen, New York filed a lawsuit against ICE detailing harmful conditions and maltreatment at the facility. The New York based “Dignity Not Detention” coalition is fighting to pass the Dignity Not Detention Act, which would prohibit the State from entering or renewing immigration detention contracts. This would include the current contract between Orange County and ICE. The bill is currently pending in New York State legislature. NYLPI is also part of the campaign to pass the Coverage4All Act, which would ensure that all New Yorkers have access to healthcare insurance regardless of immigration status.

While we have seen a drastic decline in COVID-19 specific referrals this year, we have received an increase in asylum-related requests involving forensic and/or mental health evaluations. With this higher demand for trained licensed physicians and mental health providers available to provide expert evaluations for asylum cases, we our increasing our volunteer recruitment efforts.

We continue our search for mental health professionals and look forward to welcoming new and motivated volunteers into the work. To this end, we kindly ask for your assistance in helping us reach and recruit more providers and medical students alike; please share information about NYLPI’s Medical Providers Network (MPN) with your colleagues and institutions.

Thank you,
The NYLPI Team
NYLPI’s Medical Providers Network (MPN) has a growing number of volunteer healthcare professionals who are dedicated to raising awareness of the health crisis in immigration detention. Our network has over 240 volunteers, including licensed doctors, medical students, nurse practitioners, licensed social workers and mental health providers.

Our volunteers review medical records, develop advocacy letters, visit individuals in immigration detention facilities, conduct in-person consultations or medical interviews and provide testimony supporting individuals in immigration proceedings. The power of our volunteers’ expertise can be a force of change and is used to advocate for better care for people who are detained, supports requests for their release and contributes to strategic, systemic change.

For more than 40 years, NYLPI has been a leading civil rights advocate partnering with communities fighting a legacy of marginalization on the basis of race, immigration status, poverty, neighborhood pollution, and disabilities. NYLPI pioneered the practice of community lawyering in the five boroughs of New York City. These communities shape our priorities, and their struggles for justice demand innovative solutions. Our interdisciplinary teams of advocates use every tool available – community organizing, impact litigation and individual representation, policy advocacy, media, pro bono partnerships, and public education – to solve seemingly intractable problems, develop leaders, and build collective power to achieve justice. We strive to create equal access to health care, achieve equality of opportunity and self-determination for people with disabilities, ensure immigrant opportunity, strengthen local nonprofits, and secure environmental justice for disadvantaged communities.
**Languages Spoken by Volunteers:**
- French
- German
- Portuguese
- Russian
- English
- Spanish
- Mandarin
- Vietnamese
- Hebrew
- Hindi
- Punjabi
- Urdu
- Bengali
- Arabic
- Haitian Creole
- Igbo

**Breakdown of the Network:**
- Total Volunteers: 255
- Licensed Physicians: 110
- Medical Students & Residents: 118
- Licensed Mental Health Providers: 20
- Nurse Practitioners, Social Workers & Other Advocates: 7

**Total Cases Received in 2022:** 42

**Trends:**
- Of the 42, 22 clients were supported with a medical advocacy letter or evaluation.
- Most were general medical advocacy referrals for folks detained in OCJ, Elizabeth, and Moshannon.
- Lack of treatment for heart conditions and diabetes.

**Types of Case Referrals:**
- **Immigration Related Referral Support:** Individuals detained by ICE in need of mental health competency evaluations, forensic asylum evaluations or other health related advocacy.
- **Criminal Justice Referral Support:** Individuals in NYC jails and prisons in need of medical advocacy.

**Expertise & Specialties in the Network:**
- Internal Medicine, Family Medicine and Emergency Medicine
- Pediatrics, Pediatric Hospitalist, Pediatric Endocrinology, Neonatal Care
- Cardiology, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Dermatology
- Oncology, Radiation Oncology
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Dermatology
- Neurology
- Psychiatry, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
- Addiction Medicine
- Infectious Diseases, HIV Specialist
- Trauma Surgery, Transplant Surgery and Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary (HPB) Surgery
- Hospitalist and Palliative Care
What does being a medical provider volunteer look like?

THE REFERRAL PROCESS

1. Client's attorney reaches out to NYLPI to request medical advocacy support from the MPN
2. NYLPI receives referral email and case information
3. Client case data & medical records are collected and case request reviewed by NYLPI staff for placement
4. NYLPI reaches out to network and connects with volunteer(s).
5. Medical volunteer(s) are onboarded to the case. Most often, a medical student is paired with licensed provider. The medical duo then receive medical records and available information for review
6. Medical volunteer(s) review available medical records and or conduct consultation in-person at the detention center or via video conferencing
7. Volunteer(s) work together to develop medical advocacy letter
8. NYLPI staff reviews letter and sends the finalized medical letter to the client's attorney for review and approval
9. The client's attorney receives the final medical letter and submits it to the court

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Support media and public advocacy by
- Co-authoring op-eds and reports with NYLPI
- Speaking on panels

Engage in organizing efforts and action by:
- Protests and community outreach

Enhance your skills by attending
- Workshops
- Trainings
- Webinars

Expand your network by collaborating in complex cases with volunteers outside your institution

Deepen knowledge of immigration detention by attending
- Forums
- Conventions
- Panel discussions
OTHER ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES

Medical providers can also join in NYLPI's legislative advocacy efforts through lobbying, phone zaps, or contacting elected officials. NYLPI is currently part of two coalitions fighting to pass two related bills.

DIGNITY NOT DETENTION ACT

The New York Dignity Not Detention Act (S306 Salazar/A4354 Reyes) gets New York out of the business of immigration detention. When immigrants and communities can live in dignity and freedom, we'll create a more welcoming state for all who call New York home.

TAKING ACTION

REGISTER FOR DND PHONE ZAPS AT TUESDAYS 12PM: bit.ly/DNDZAP

FUNDRAISER: bit.ly/DNDFundraiser

SURVEY: bit.ly/DNDDetainedSurvey

COVERAGE4ALL

#Coverage4All is a campaign to expand coverage to all New Yorkers. The campaign is a coalition of community members, community organizations, health care providers, legal service providers, and labor, immigrant, and health care consumer advocates. Our objective is to create a statewide health insurance product for New Yorkers who are excluded from eligibility for coverage because of their immigration status, by enacting A3020/S2237. A campaign of Health Care for All New York (HCFANY), #Coverage4All is led by the New York Immigration Coalition and Make the Road New York.

TAKING ACTION

SIGN UP FOR UPDATES HERE

SEE UPCOMING EVENTS HERE
Members of our MPN are also invited to participate in advocacy in other aspects of our Health Justice Program, including our campaign for transplant equity.

Recently as part of this campaign, we launched our new report, “They Can Donate But They Can’t Receive” on May 11, 2023 at City Hall Park.

Read the full press release — including quotes from elected officials, health advocates and organizers — here.

Copies of the new report published by New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI), Make the Road NY, and the New York Immigration Coalition are available in English, Spanish and other languages upon request.

Read the full press release — including quotes from elected officials, health advocates and organizers — here.
JOIN US

Interested in Joining the Network?
We are always looking for motivated, passionate and dedicated volunteers to join the Network. If you are interested in joining the Network, please email our Detention team at detention@nylpi.org or scan the QR code below.

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For any questions, please feel free to reach out to Nevien or Noelle.

NOELLE PEÑAS
Health Justice Community Organizer
 npenas@nylpi.org

See here for further resources and training!