Application Summary Sheet

Application Number: 09.10-13

Name of Organization: Rhode Island Medical Legal Partnership, Inc. (App 1 of 4)
The Rhode Island Medical Legal Partnership (MLP or “Partnership) is a non-profit, tax exempt organization that brings an interdisciplinary approach to affecting good health outcomes in low income patients. Doctors and lawyers team together with the lawyers addressing the social determinants that prevent positive health outcome. The lawyers’ intervention to ameliorate the social determinants better enables the doctor to resolve the patient’s health issues.

Type of Organization: non profit

Location: Warwick, RI

Project Timing: Ideally, we’d love it if most could be completed by end of calendar year 2013. Obviously that depends on availability of the students and their schedules. If it is possible/necessary because of the demands of time, if parts of the budget plan/procedures can be rolled out for use incrementally, that would be more than acceptable.

Project Title: Budget Plan Creation

Project Synopsis: The Rhode Island Medical Legal Partnership has need of a formal, well-constructed budget. The RIMLP lists income/expenses; however, a budget is plan, not a list and would be an integral part of the business plan previously described. Organizations such as the RIMLP in its nascent stage (at least this is my take) have a hard time critically and objectively looking at their income/expense ratios, sources of income and allocations of same. We’ve been able to get away with competent and transparent income/expense, but that is a long way from a budget plan that will guide us into the future.

Clearly this budget plan, and as importantly how to plan a budget, would go hand in glove with any future fund development plan. Beyond mere dollars coming in from whatever source, we need to learn how to allocate those dollars by program and by operation expenses. We need also to learn how to allocate expenses to each program (e.g. software used in other the elder services and small business services programs). And in setting up this plan, we can keep track of expenses to determine the cost-effectiveness of a plan, or the location of a plan, in order to make informed judgments as to the efficacy of one program over another. Like all our other requests, this budget plan is a tool for the management, and thus the health, of RIMLP. This plan would be the third horse of the troika of the business, marketing and budget plans necessary for RIMLP to sustain itself and therefore serve more people.

What is the Final Product Output for this Project: budget and budget plan

Designated Support from Staff/Volunteers: Geoffrey Schoos at geoff@riclapp.org, Jeannine Casselman at jcasselman@riclapp.org, Ryan McNelis at jrmcnelis@riclapp.org, and Liz Tobin Tyler at liztobintyler@gmail.com.

Does this Project have Funding? None as of yet – any expense will come from staffing devoted to this project and will be computed if/when the project commences.

How will this Project Benefit the Organization? The MLP is a young organization. While it has been in existence since 2002, it has been in a more robust operation since 2011, formally incorporated in 2012, and received its IRS tax status early in 2013. Organizationaly, we are very young. However, we have a lot of expertise to bring to low income clients in Rhode Island. We also have a model that can benefit the medical and legal communities.
A well thought out, well designed power point presentation, augmenting a more traditional presentation, would be a powerful tool for the RIMLP to communicate and collaborate with our many and varied professional partners, private and governmental agencies, and our clients. This power point will enable us to increase awareness of the RIMLP, possibly grow capacity that will lead to serving more clients, and engage greater numbers in the medical, legal, governmental and business communities in this effort.

**Why are you Seeking the CPC's Help?**

As Chair of the Rhode Island Medical Legal Partnership, I have experience with the law school’s students and have been impressed by their breadth of knowledge, academic preparation, and their energy and commitment to our tasks and organization in general. I saw the CPC as another opportunity to take advantage of a community resource and provide interns in other academic disciplines an opportunity to apply their skills and knowledge, while obviously reaping the benefits of those skills and knowledge.

**Project Type/Discipline:** Accounting

**Past CPC Participant?:** yes

**Potential RWU Involvement:** Business