



NCAB Newsletter

Vol. 2 Issue 1

March 2009

NCAB is the National Consumer Advisory Board, an organization of persons who are now or have been homeless. NCAB elects its own leadership, participates in consensus decision-making of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, and works to increase the consumer role at every level of health care and to improve access to health care for everyone.

NCAB Membership is free—see how to join at the end of this newsletter.

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2009 National HCH Conference & Policy Symposium

Working Together for Health, Housing, and Human Rights Washington, DC June 24-27

The National Health Care for the Homeless Council and the National Consumer Advisory Board would like to invite you to participate the 2009 National Health Care for the Homeless Conference and Policy Symposium, themed *Working Together for Health, Housing, and Human Rights*. This year's conference will be at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Washington, DC. Activities and workshops will begin on Wednesday, June 24 and run through Saturday, June 27. Highlights or this year's Conference and Policy Symposium include, a Congressional Briefing on health and homelessness on Capitol Hill, various policy-oriented workshops and consumer specific workshops, a NCAB meeting, and much more!

Join us in the nation's Capitol!

Register for the NHCHC Conference and Policy Symposium at
http://www.nhchc.org/2009conference/reg_travel.html

Mentorship Program

The National Consumer Advisory Board has developed a Mentorship Program for the 2009 National HCH Conference. This Program pairs seasoned NCAB conference attendees with first-time consumer attendees to assist activities like:

- Navigating registration
- Interpreting the conference brochure
- Choosing and attending workshops
- Networking with others in the hotel
- Visiting the resource room
- Attending the Annual Meeting
- And more!

To sign up to be a mentor or have a mentor with you at the conference, complete a conference registration form.

Consumer Travel Subsidy

The National Health Care for the Homeless Council will provide subsidies to support consumer participation in the National HCH Conference. The maximum travel reimbursement is \$1,000 per project. These funds may only be used to support travel costs (including transportation, lodging, and meals) of consumers. HCH projects may apply for travel subsidies for more than one consumer, within the total \$1,000 maximum per project; however, a separate application must be submitted for each consumer. For information about Consumer Travel Subsidies go to the following website, <http://www.nhchc.org/2009conference/consumertravelscholarships.html>.

Applications are due by April 1, 2009



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Ellen Dailey Consumer Advocate Award

2009 Nominations

The National Consumer Advisory Board of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council developed the Ellen Dailey Award to honor a woman who was a consumer, advocate, friend, and respected colleague. She welcomed consumer involvement and recognized and prepared people to use their strengths. She was a loud voice for people experiencing homelessness and fought against the issues that allow homelessness to exist. She loved Ellen died on June 18, 2006. We hope this award will commemorate her strength and spirit.

The Ellen Dailey Award will be presented at the 2009 National Health Care for the Homeless Conference and Policy Symposium in Washington, DC.

Criteria:

- Must be a consumer or former consumer of Health Care for the Homeless
- Must be committed to improving the health and well-being of homeless persons through advocacy, outreach, and/or other work
- Must have done extraordinary work to improve the access to health care services for people experiencing homelessness
- Members of NCAB Executive Committee are not eligible for this award

Preferred Characteristics for Nominee:

- Exhibits leadership in their community
- Mentors other consumers
- Mobilizes other homeless persons in their community to become involved with advocacy
- Has participated in a consumer advisory group or the board of a Health Care for the Homeless project

Nomination Procedure:

- **Nominations must be submitted by March 21, 2009**
- Anyone can nominate someone else
- Nomination forms can be filled out and submitted online or e-mailed to ncab@nhchc.org
- Nominations must include a statement about the person explaining why they should be nominated in **no less than** 100 words

Selection Procedure:

- The Ellen Dailey Award selection committee will review nominations and select the individual that best personifies the spirit of Ellen Dailey
- The committee may interview nominees prior to making their final decision

***Ellen Dailey Consumer Advocate Award
Nomination Form – Due March 21, 2009***

Please read the Call for Nominations prior to filling this nomination form. This form needs to be completely filled out so the committee will have all of the information it needs to select the recipient who best exemplifies the characteristics celebrated by this award. Nominations can also be made on-line at www.nhchc.org/2097DaileyAward

Nominee Information

Name

Address

City State ZIP

Phone Number:

Other Contact Information or Notes

1. Is this person or was this person a consumer of services at a health care for the homeless project? Yes No Don't Know

If yes, which one?

2. Will this person be able to attend the 2009 National Health Care for the Homeless Conference & Policy Symposium in Washington DC June 24-27 if chosen?

Yes No Don't Know

Note: If money is an issue, we will provide funds for travel and accommodations for the recipient of this award.

3. Describe the qualities you feel make this person deserving of this award in 100 words or more:

4. Please list at least 2 references who can tell us about the nominee's work in the community, including the person nominating the candidate:

First Reference:

Check if nominator

Name

Agency (if any)

Address

City State Zip

Phone

Additional Reference:

Name

Agency (if any)

Address

City State Zip

Phone

Only completed applications will be accepted and should be e-mailed to ncab@nhchc.org OR mailed to Dailey Award, PO Box 60427, Nashville TN 37206, OR submitted on-line at www.nhchc.org/2097DaileyAward by March 21, 2009. If there are any questions, feel free to e-mail NCAB at ncab@nhchc.org OR call 615-226-2292.

NCAB Members Report: Homeless Persons' Memorial Day

December 21, 2008

This year NCAB members from across the country helped organize and participate in local community events for Homeless Person's Memorial Day. NCAB members recount their activities:

- **Portland, Oregon,** On December 21, 2008—the longest night of the year—the worst storm since 1968 hit Portland, Oregon. The Homeless Persons' Memorial event was once again held at the Outside In Clinic. Approximately 40 people came to honor the 57 homeless friends, family, and neighbors that died in 2008. Of the 57 individuals who had passed away, four had died the night before this event due to the harsh, frigid weather. Two Bears and Sisters of the Road were instrumental in organizing this event. They overcame all odds—the weather and road conditions were so bad that people could not drive anywhere. As a result, Two Bears and Sisters of the Road got a few people together and they bundled up good and carried food and drinks up the hill by hand to the Outside In Clinic. Because of the bitter cold, they conducted the service inside the lobby of the Clinic, and then went outside in the snowy courtyard to light their candles and burn sage. Stories were told and prayers were offered up for the friends who had passed on.
- **Worcester, MA,** This year's HPMD event focused particular attention on homeless women due to an increase of violence against women. In 2008, several women died on the streets of Worcester. Leading up to the main event, advocates organized three candlelight vigils at the places where women had died in the city. The main HPMD event was held at the wet shelter on Saturday. People gathered at the downtown shelter—which is known to locals as "The PIP" (People in Peril). Several clergy members provided remarks and people spoke about those who had passed.
- **Baltimore, MD--** Service providers, community leaders, advocates, and people experiencing homelessness gathered at the Inner Harbor amphitheatre to recognize the 47 homeless individuals who died in Baltimore City in 2008. Forty-seven lanterns were lit around the amphitheatre to represent each fallen person. Clients from the Baltimore Health Care for the Homeless project made the 47 lanterns.

Visit our website at www.nhchc.org soon to see the Organizing Manual for the 2009 Homeless Persons' Memorial Day!

NCAB Executive Committee Meet in San Francisco

In December, members of the National Consumer Advisory Board Executive Committee met in San Francisco, CA for 3 days to prepare for the 2009 HCH Conference in Washington, DC, review the 2008-2009 NCAB Work Plan, and update the Consumer Participation Outreach Survey.

A new Mentorship Program for consumers coming to the conference was created during the course of this meeting. The Mentorship Program will kick-off at the 2009 National HCH Conference and will match up consumers who have never attended a HCH Conference in the past with consumers who have been to conferences before. The idea is to orient consumers to what HCH does and how they, as consumers, can get involved, as well as making them feel welcome and a part of the national group. This program could not have been created without the help of former chair, Sarah Davidson, who worked to develop an application form that will be included in this year's Scholarship Application for consumers. In addition, members talked about consumer-driven workshops for the 2009 Conference in June and other responsibilities that consumers will have.



NCAB Executive Committee Members brainstorming at San Francisco meeting.

Over the past five years, NCAB has been conducting Consumer Participation Outreach Surveys and producing a report on the findings from the survey. Past surveys have focused on access to healthcare, treatment by staff, access to affordable housing, and chronic homelessness. Recently NCAB has been collaborating with the National Health Care for the Homeless Council's Research Committee to develop a formal research project with the Consumer Participation Outreach Survey. The hope is to publish the results of the survey in a research journal and present our findings at future HCH conferences.

Executive Committee members reviewed the NCAB Work Plan for 2008-2009 and prioritized activities that need to be done over the course of the next Fiscal Year.

Contributions

Within You is the Strength

by Reginald Hamilton

Just yesterday you were affluent in green, gold, silver
You were able to complete, plenty to eat, a home to sleep.
Mother and father provided a comfort zone, safety, nourishment,
Compassion, love, plenty to eat, and a home to sleep.
Schools educated you providing reading, writing, arithmetic,
Promises for the future.
Ministers teach, preach, and council life, the Spirit and unity.
The world brought materiality, pleasure, selfishness,
Challenges and contradictions.
Today you are a amalgam of all your experiences
Within you is the strength to handle joy and adversity.
You were infused with the strength you need before you were conceived.
Every experience helps you access and manifest the strength from within.
Every encounter increases your appreciation of life.
When all is added up remember it all mirrors the strength in your mind, body, and soul.

Thou Art With Us Always: We Will Remember

by Randle Loeb

“My favorite client passed away. He was an awesome guy. He was dead in his truck for three days. I had been looking for him two blocks away, but somehow missed him in this new location. Life’s great irony-he quit drinking and the coroner thinks he may have died from a seizure. God has interesting plans for people. He was loved by all and yet died alone while we were searching for him. I hope he had a moment of peace where he could feel the love. His depression kept him from reaching out. He kept hard times to himself and he had a lot of these times to keep. I wish when someone like this died there was a yell or a scream or something more than quiet not-noticing the world is missing a person because he was homeless, a loner, and a misfit. To his mother, daughter, and HOPE volunteers he was a wonderful person with a warm smile and beautiful heart despite his challenges. The world should stop for at least a second to honor his spirit”.

Tragedies are everyday nightmares to most of those who live on the margins of life. It is easy to go on forgetting that these spirits are the bedrock of our own lives. We face overwhelming challenges ahead in the next period of history. What will be expected for us to survive these challenges?

One person sitting in front of you looking at you through the windows of the spirit is more essential than all of the heartache and turmoil of the volatile markets. The most important time and place is the one where we are sitting. For an instant stop and look at the atmosphere, breathe in deeply, gaze at the furrowed brow of the one who sits in front of you and recognize within him or her is the divine. Grasping the authentic reality of the person here and now and focusing on

what it is like for him or her to struggle with their life is the most essential reality. By focusing on this person we create hope and expectancy that we will be alright. Even though this may be the most difficult time of all we are conscious that this person before us is the ultimate issue of care and stewardship of the Earth.

Let us never forget what is happening around us with the elections and the markets. With the health and welfare of the people boils down to one truth: we are here together—friends and foe alike. We are one people, in one climate, interconnected by what we do together and how well we treat one another as sacred dancers in the passage of this life.

“God bless everyone,” smiling Tim was said to remark as he lived as blithely as a reed in the wind. His resilient spirit is contagious. Suffering is bearable when one understands that reality can shift and we are holding one another up arm in arm, shoulder to shoulder. We all have a place in this separate peace.

Send Us Your Stories

We need you!!! Hopefully, in our upcoming issues you, the readers, will send in your personal stories, poems, and articles regarding how you started your board and how it is running today. Please send any helpful comments on what you would like to see in the newsletter that might help others to ncab@nhchc.org

Join NCAB

Free membership to the National Consumer Advisory Board is available to anyone who has experienced homelessness and has received services from an HCH project. To join NCAB please go to to sign up on online OR send to ncab@nhchc.org or to NCAB, PO Box 60427, Nashville TN 37206-0427 the following information:

Name

Mailing Address (if any)

Telephone (if any)

e-mail (if any)

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