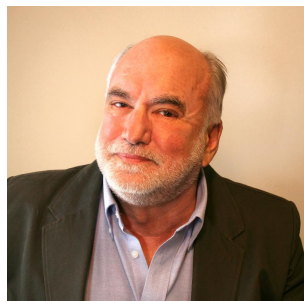




IN THIS ISSUE

- Medicaid Enrollment
- CHW Training
- NCAB Highlight
- and more!

Letter from the Executive Director



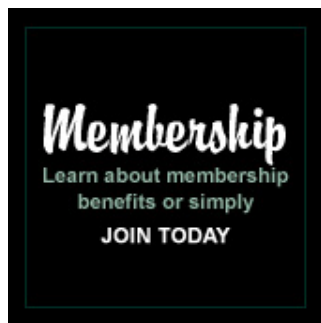
In November, HUD reported 610,042 homeless people in the January 2013 **Point-in-Time** count, a reduction of 4% from January 2012. While everyone recognizes the serious limitations and incompleteness of the Point-in-Time counts, this is a notable downward trend, particularly in light of the increasing numbers of patients seen by HCH projects in recent years.

[Read the letter.](#)

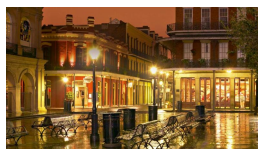
John Lozier, MSSW

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UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS



SAVE THE DATE - MAY 28-30, 2014 - ANNUAL CONFERENCE & POLICY SYMPOSIUM

Save the date for the 2014 National Health Care for the Homeless Conference & Policy Symposium, a gathering for everyone interested in or currently working to improve the lives of people experiencing homelessness.

Learn from expert peers, leaders, and HCH advocates. Over the course of three days, access dozens of accredited workshops, professional networking opportunities, engaging presentations, rejuvenating social encounters, and inspiring plenary sessions with federal officials and leaders in the HCH field. A full day of intensive pre-conference activities is planned for May 27.

The 2014 Annual Conference & Policy Symposium is set for May 28-30, 2014, at the Marriott International Hotel, 555 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA. Registration is \$500 and opens January 2, 2014.

DONATE

Individual Membership & website educational content are free. We rely on donations from individuals like you to make this possible.

— Thank You —

CLINICIANS' NETWORK UPDATE**JOIN THE CLINICIANS' NETWORK STEERING COMMITTEE**

Nominate yourself or a colleague for the Clinicians' Network Steering Committee, made up of leaders who provide hands-on care to people experiencing homelessness. The Steering Committee sets the Council's clinical agenda and offers opportunities for professional development, networking, and national involvement. The Committee particularly seeks representatives from HRSA Regions 3 (DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, WV) and 8 (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY).



Clinicians' Network
Chair Mollie Sullivan,
MEd, LMHC

[Learn more about the nomination process.](#)

NCAB UPDATE**"PATRIOT" AWARD WINNER IS NEW REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE**

Larry Adams is a new addition to the ranks of the National Consumer Advisory Board (NCAB) leadership. As Regional Representative for regions 1 and 2, Larry has begun outreach to the HCH projects in his area. His efforts will help us learn how HCH projects incorporate consumers in their governance structures as well as help add to the online CAB Directory.

Larry is a recent "Patriot's Difference Maker" award winner. This weekly award is given to individuals who are committed to making a difference in the New England community. Larry received a medal and a football signed by the New England football team for his years of service to the Boston HCH Program. Congratulations and welcome, Larry!

**RESEARCH UPDATE****UPCOMING SURVEY ON TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY**

In January 2014, the research team will conduct a survey of HCH Medical Directors regarding clinical practices and needs related to the diagnosis and treatment of traumatic brain injury (TBI) in individuals who are homeless. If you are a Medical Director, please participate in this important survey. The results of the survey will inform future efforts to obtain funding to study TBI diagnostic tools and interventions in the HCH setting.

NEW IN FOCUS ISSUE ON INCARCERATION AND HOMELESSNESS: "THE REVOLVING DOOR OF RISK"

The November issue of In Focus provides a synthesis of recent literature on the connections between



incarceration and homelessness in the United States. The relationship between these topics is an intricate one, as each is a risk factor for the other. Some homeless sub-populations are at increased risk for incarceration, including those with mental health issues, youth, and veterans without stable housing. This publication discusses considerations for these special populations as well as the health impact of incarceration; the role of housing first, jail inreach, and re-entry programs; and additional policy implications.

[Read the latest issue.](#)

COUNCIL RESEARCH ON VETERANS PUBLISHED IN THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Sarah Knopf-Amelung, MA-R, and Darlene Jenkins, DrPH, co-authored a research brief for a special issue on public health and homelessness entitled "Identifying US Veterans Who Access Services from Health Care for the Homeless Clinics." Based on a needs assessment of HCH grantees, the study found that processes used to identify patients with veteran status were not uniform and some used confusing language. The research brief suggests that more streamlined, culturally competent practices for identifying patients with military history could produce more accurate data, better informed treatment plans, and linkage to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) services and benefits. The article is available for ["First Look"](#) and will appear in the December issue of the American Journal of Public Health.

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS GATHER IN NASHVILLE

In mid-November, the Council facilitated a two-day training in Nashville for the Community Health Workers (CHW) involved in the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation project. The CHWs are currently working to integrate high users of Emergency Room services with primary and preventive care at their local HCH clinics. There are 16 CHWs on staff at 12 HCH sites with 197 clients currently enrolled in the project. This training was developed in response to requests from the CHWs and their supervisors. Topics included understanding medical terminology, strategies for de-escalation, time management, facilitation skill development, and working through grief and loss.

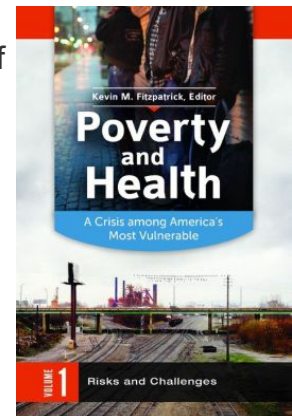


The CHWs traveled from all over the country to attend this training held at Scarritt-Bennett Center and facilitated by Council staff and local subject matter experts. We hope to have all of the CHWs together again for training at the 2014 National Health Care for the Homeless Conference and Policy Symposium in New Orleans in May.

COUNCIL AUTHOR CONTRIBUTES TO NEW VOLUME ON POVERTY AND HEALTH

Recently Darlene Jenkins, DrPH, Director of Research and Evaluation partnered with Dr. Travis Baggett, a physician at Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program to co-author a chapter in *Poverty and Health: A Crisis among America's Most Vulnerable*. The two-volume series features various writers focusing on key issues and challenges regarding health care access and delivery to disenfranchised populations.

Baggett and Jenkins' chapter examines three decades of research regarding Homelessness and Health. This book is a must-read for anyone serving vulnerable populations. Preview Jenkins's chapter, "[Homelessness and Health: Key Themes from Three Decades of Research.](#)"



POLICY & ADVOCACY

NEW POLICY BRIEF

[Medicaid Enrollment: Your Guide for Engaging People](#)

Experiencing Homelessness. This brief contains perspectives, lessons learned, strategies and talking points for discussing Medicaid enrollment with clients who may not be familiar with the new benefit available to them. Frontline workers in particular will find this a helpful resource, especially if they are new to benefits outreach or are looking for approaches that will boost successful enrollment initiatives. This project was a partnership between the National HCH Council and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness.

A webinar related to this policy brief is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11, 2013, from 1:00-2:30 pm ET.

Register.

COUNCIL POLICY DIRECTOR FEATURED IN AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

In the upcoming issue of the American Journal of Public Health, National Health Care for the Homeless Council's Barbara DiPietro, PhD, and Lisa Klingenmaier, MSW, MPH, explore the connection between homelessness and involvement in the criminal justice system. Their article, "Achieving Public Health Goals Through Medicaid Expansion: Opportunities in Criminal Justice, Homelessness, and Behavioral Health with the PPACA," argues that greater collaboration between multiple systems paired with Medicaid outreach is needed to ensure that these groups can access health care services.

Access the article.

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