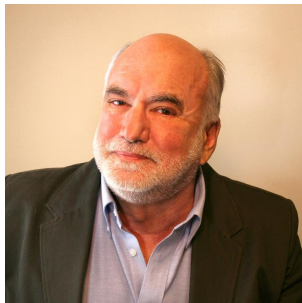




IN THIS ISSUE

- Conference Highlights
- New Publications
- Advocate Spotlights
- and more!

Letter from the Executive Director



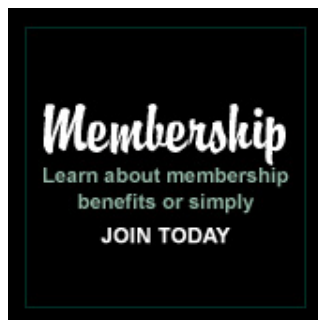
John Lozier, MSSW

The Continuing Resolution passed by Congress in March brings to health care for the homeless and our sister health centers new national prominence as essential providers. Even as across-the-board cuts take effect in hundreds of other programs, removing critical supports from people on the desperate edges of our economy, the health center program will grow, thanks to funding from the Affordable Care Act that was not subject to the sequester.

[READ THE LETTER.](#)

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NATIONAL HCH CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

REFLECTIONS ON THE CONFERENCE

With one of the highest attendance records in its history, the 2013 National Health Care for the Homeless Conference & Policy Symposium was a huge success as numerous experts from the housing, allied health, and HCH fields came together to support providers in delivering effective care to vulnerable populations.

[READ WHAT ATTENDEES HAD TO SAY.](#)

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW MISSION AND BOARD

The Governing Membership of the National HCH Council, composed of representatives of Organizational Members and the Council's three Individual Membership Groups, conducted its annual meeting on March 15, 2013. By consensus the Governing Membership adopted a new mission and vision Statement, elected new board members and officers, and amended the organization's by-laws.

[READ MORE.](#)

DONATE

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

— Thank You —

INTERVIEW WITH THE STAFF OF CHARLES DREW HEALTH CENTER

At this year's National HCH Conference, the Council's Melissa DaSilva, Julia Dobbins, and Dr. Darlene Jenkins sat down with the leadership of Charles Drew Health Center to discuss the new community health worker program among other items. Dr. Richard Brown, Susan Moore, Moses Stephen Loli, and Kenny McMorris were happy to share their insights.



[READ MORE.](#)

RESEARCH UPDATE**RECENTLY RELEASED PUBLICATIONS**

The National HCH Council's Research Team has recently released several publications in the area of HCH quality leaders, teaching health centers, and veterans. More information on these topic areas are provided below:

- *Quality Leaders* [READ MORE.](#)
- *Teaching Health Centers* [READ MORE.](#)
- *Veterans* [READ MORE.](#)

RESEARCH BRIEF IN *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH*

A research brief co-authored by the Council's Sarah Knopf-Amelung and Darlene M. Jenkins, DrPH, has just been accepted for publication in the

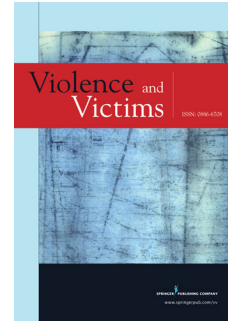
American Journal of Public Health. Titled "Identifying Veterans Who Access Services from Health Care for the Homeless Clinics," this research brief is one product of the larger veterans research initiative at the National HCH Council.

[READ MORE.](#)

NCAB STUDY IN *VIOLENCE AND VICTIMS JOURNAL*

"Exploring the Experiences of Violence Among Individuals Who are Homeless Using a Consumer-Led Approach" was accepted for publication in the journal *Violence and Victims* for early 2014. Authors include National Health Care for the Homeless Council research staff (Molly Meinbresse and Darlene Jenkins, DrPH), National Consumer Advisory Board members (Amy Grassetto, Joseph Benson, Carol Hall, Reginald Hamilton, and Marianne Mallot), and a Vanderbilt University PhD candidate (Lauren

Brinkley-Rubinstein).
[READ MORE.](#)



POLICY & ADVOCACY

MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY, ENROLLMENT, AND OUTREACH

This archived webinar from February 27 features federal officials and national partners focused on the changes coming to all states related to enrollment together with the state option for expansion to childless adults earning at or below 133% FPL. Learn about these changes from the archive on our health reform website

[WATCH THE WEBINAR.](#)

COMMENTS TO HHS ON PROPOSED RULES ON MEDICAID EXPANSION AND SINGLE STREAMLINED APPLICATION

As part of its Cooperative Agreement, the National HCH Council is required to provide comments to HHS to explain how proposed rules will affect homeless populations and the health centers that serve them. In February, the Council submitted comments to HHS related to [Medicaid eligibility and the out-of-pocket costs being proposed](#) for those newly eligible and on the [proposed single streamlined application](#) that all states should replicate for those seeking coverage on both the state Exchanges as well as Medicaid.

HCH ON CAPITOL HILL

The HCH community participated in over 70 meetings with elected officials and their staffs during the 2013 National HCH Conference & Policy Symposium. These meetings came at a critical time while Congress was making [funding decisions](#). Attendees reported enjoying the opportunities to speak with representatives and leaving the meetings inspired.

[READ MORE.](#)



NEW SSA RULING ON DRUG ADDICTION AND ALCOHOLISM

The 1996 termination of SSI and SSDI eligibility for individuals whose drug addiction or alcoholism (DAA) is material to their disability was not intended to disqualify persons disabled by co-occurring impairments that include substance use disorders. However, inconsistent interpretation and application of the DAA policy combined with the complexities of determining whether DAA is material to disability have prevented many people with severe disabilities from accessing benefits. After working with other national and local groups to encourage SSA to provide clear guidelines for implementing this policy, the National HCH Council is pleased that SSA has released a **new ruling** outlining steps that must be taken before an individual can be denied a disability determination due to drug addiction or alcoholism.

HCH CLINICIANS' NETWORK NEWS

WELCOME NEW STEERING COMMITTEE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

Chairperson: Mollie Bresnahan
 Chair-elect: Debbian Fletcher-Blake
 Fiscal Officer: Paul Leon
 Region II: Lynda Bascelli and Ansell Horn
 Region VII: Dana Basara



AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Congratulations to Rebecca LaBovick, RN-BC, winner of the 2013 HCH Clinicians' Network Award for Outstanding Service. LaBovick is the Director of Therapeutic Services for Community Human Services in Pittsburgh.



NEW WORKGROUP

Are you knowledgeable about or interested in addiction medicine? The HCH Clinicians' Network Steering Committee is putting together a work group for a project on opioid addiction treatment and would like to invite you to participate! With the help of staff, this workgroup will meet monthly to develop Adapted Clinical Guidelines on Opioid Addiction Treatment for

the Homeless. If you are interested in joining and contributing to this work group, please contact [Juli Hishida](#).

RESPITE CARE PROVIDERS' NETWORK NEWS

MEDICAL RESPITE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE PRESENTED TO THE CENTER FOR RESPITE CARE

During the National HCH Conference & Policy Symposium, the first annual Medical Respite Award for Excellence was presented to the Center for Respite Care. For a decade, the Center for Respite Care has provided medical respite care for Cincinnati residents who have no home to recuperate from illness and injury. The award was presented to the agency for implementing a HUD-funded rapid rehousing program for people with medical disabilities. Due to the program, 90% of the people leaving the medical respite facility are able to transition into housing, and 90% of those remain stably housed after a year. [Learn more](#) about the Center for Respite Care and their Respite Housing Program.



NATIONAL CONSUMER ADVISORY BOARD NEWS

ELLEN DAILEY AWARD

At this year's National HCH Conference, Marianne Malott was presented with the Ellen Dailey Award, recognizing her efforts in advocating for people experiencing homelessness. Malott accepted the award on behalf of all consumers and consumer advocates and explained, "This [award] is the result of teamwork." She felt that nature was one of her best teachers, giving special credit to geese for their ability to exemplify compassion and teamwork naturally.



ADVOCATE SPOTLIGHT

For most of his career, Jay Tankanow, LSW, has worked in the human services field, first as an emergency medical technician and then as a social worker for the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health running dual diagnosis programs dealing with

mental illness and addiction therapy. He has also been a consumer advocate in campaigns promoting patient safety through use of drugs, like Narcan, which can help prevent deaths due to opiate overdoses.

[READ MORE.](#)



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