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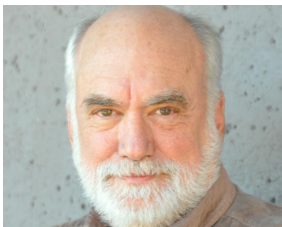
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Letter from the Executive Director



Willingly or unwillingly, many of you spent bitterly cold nighttime hours this January on the sidewalks of American cities. Some of you live on the streets year round. Some of you went from warm homes to participate in the Point in Time counts of people without homes. Many of you were working to bring freezing people indoors, saving fingers, toes and lives from the extreme weather.

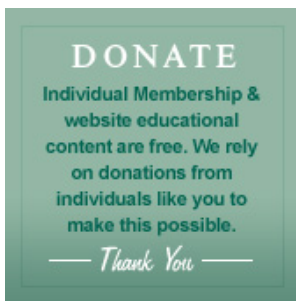
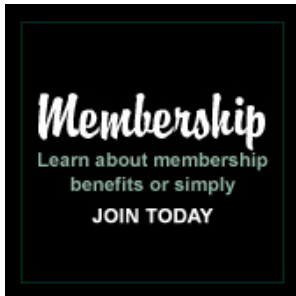


John Lozier, MSSW

Read the letter.

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UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS



REGISTER NOW - MAY 28-30, 2014 - ANNUAL CONFERENCE & POLICY SYMPOSIUM

Registration is now open for the 2014 National Health Care for the Homeless Conference & Policy Symposium in New Orleans, a gathering for everyone interested in or currently working to improve the lives of people experiencing homelessness. Preview pre-conference learning opportunities and workshop schedules when you [register on the conference website](#).

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.

WEBINAR: NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR HCH GRANTEES - MEETING HRSA REQUIREMENTS

Open for [registration](#): Needs Assessment Webinar for HCH Grantees, February 20, 2014 addresses the following questions about meeting HRSA requirements:

What is sufficient evidence in assessing needs of homeless in the service area? What kind of data is used for your Needs Assessment? How does one obtain this data and what resources are available to meet this requirement? What is the timeline your organization uses from start to finish to gather data and create the needs assessment? How is the needs assessment used and shared with others at your organization?

Presenters include:

- Erika Barber, Esq, Compliance Officer/ Government Grants Manager, Boston HCH
- Lee Carroll, MSW, LCSW, Administrative Subject-Matter Expert and consultant, National HCH Council
- Victoria Deloney, MBA/HCM, BSN, RN, PHN, Senior Health Program Coordinator, Sacramento County DHHS/ Primary Health Services/ Clinic

The webinar is free and open to the public. [Visit our webpage to learn more.](#)

RESPIRE CARE PROVIDERS' NETWORK UPDATE

RCPN STEERING COMMITTEE CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



The Respite Care Providers' Network (RCPN) Steering Committee released a Call for Nominations to fill four Steering Committee seats. Nominees must be current RCPN members who have been members for at least one

year. Serving in this capacity provides opportunities for professional development, collaboration with others involved in medical respite care, and active participation in directing the Council's work on the national level.

More information can be found on the [RCPN webpage](#). The deadline to submit nominations is **Friday, February 14, 2014**.

NCAB UPDATE

SUBMIT NOMINATIONS FOR NCAB LEADERSHIP AND ELLEN DAILEY AWARD

The National Consumer Advisory Board seeks leaders for the following positions: Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary, two Members-At-Large, and Regional Representatives for regions 1 & 2 (ME, VT, NH, MA, CT, RI, NY, NJ, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands) and Regions 6 & 8 (NM, TX, OK, AR, LA, UT, CO, WY, SD, ND, MT). Click [here](#) for more information on these volunteer positions. You may nominate yourself or someone else for these positions by completing this [form](#) or by printing, filling out, and scanning this [paper form](#) and returning it to [Brian Zralek](#). The deadline is February 21, 2014.



National Consumer Advisory Board



The annual Ellen Dailey Award honors the memory of Ellen Dailey by highlighting accomplishments that continue her legacy of forceful advocacy by and for people experiencing homelessness. Last year's winner of the Ellen Dailey Award was Marianne Malott, who earned her degree in social work while experiencing homelessness. She continues to

access for greater health care access in Oregon. Click [here](#) for more information on the Ellen Dailey Award and complete this [nomination form](#), due February 21, 2014.

2014 CONSUMER CONFERENCE SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE

The National Health Care for the Homeless Council will provide a limited number of Consumer Conference Subsidies to support consumer participation in the [National HCH Conference &](#)

Policy Symposium occurring May 28 - 30, 2014, in New Orleans.

This Consumer Conference Subsidy will be offered only to HCH grantees to support the travel of consumers who are one of the following:

- members of HCH grantees' Board of Directors
- members of Consumer Advisory Boards of HCH grantees
- employees of HCH grantees.

To apply, complete this form by February 28, 2014. If you have questions, **contact Brian Zralek**.

**NEW YORK CITY,
HOMELESS PERSONS'
MEMORIAL DAY IS A
HARLEM SONG**

The 2013 Homeless Persons' Memorial Day event, sponsored by HCH grantee Care for the Homeless in New York City, occurred at New Song Church, in Harlem. The names of almost 90 individuals who died while homelessness were read to the toll of a chime. The gathering of nearly 200 included family and friends, advocates, and several staff and board members of Care for the Homeless.



Photo credit: Rosa Goldensoh

Organizers circulated a petition to ask the New York State congressional delegation to avoid further safety net cuts. David Broxton, a longtime client leader, sang a rendition of "This Little Light of Mine". This writer shared some of his own story and discussed a short story by Jack London, "To Build a Fire." London, who died in 1916, was once homeless, and died young. The observance was full and meaningful; however, we look forward to a time when Homeless Persons' Memorial Day won't be necessary at all.

- Philip J. Malebranche (New York, NY)





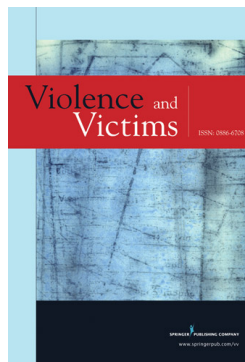
ST. JOSEPH'S MERCY CARE RALLIES FOR MEDICAID EXPANSION IN GEORGIA

It was a cold and rainy January afternoon in Atlanta as several hundred people stood in front of the Georgia State Capitol to rally for Medicaid expansion. Consumer leaders and employees from HCH grantee, St. Joseph's Mercy Care, were in attendance with signs held high. Cathryn Marchman, Program Director at SJMC, said that Medicaid expansion would help improve care by empowering patients to take care of their health.

Guest speaker, State Senator Vincent Fort, said that under the current system, if Governor Deal gets sick, he has access to primary care services. However, when hundreds of thousands of Georgians living under the poverty level get sick, they risk untreated illness and an uncertain future. Expanding Medicaid would extend health care coverage to approximately 650,000 Georgians.

RESEARCH UPDATE

NCAB VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION ARTICLE PUBLISHED ONLINE



In 2009, the National Consumer Advisory Board (NCAB) surveyed individuals who were homeless in five US cities asking them about experiences of violence while homeless. Almost 50% of the study participants reported being the victim of a violent attack while homeless compared to a much lower 2% in the general population ([National Crime Victimization Survey 2010](#)). The results and implications of NCAB's study are now published online in the article "Exploring the Experiences of

Violence Among Individuals Who are Homeless Using a Consumer-Led Approach" through the journal Violence and Victims. View the abstract [here](#) and contact [Molly Meinbresse](#) if you are interested in reading the article.

ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT

JWCH Institute, Inc.
Los Angeles, CA
Jill Rotenberg, Program Director

The National HCH Council is pleased to highlight the JWCH Institute as one of the sites participating in the Council's Health



Care Innovation project titled Community Health Workers and HCH: A Partnership to Promote Primary Care. JWCH is well known for their presence and work in the Los Angeles downtown area of Central City East commonly known as skid row. They hired Juanita Alvarez



as their Community Health Worker and she works to connect individuals experiencing homelessness and overusing ED services to primary and preventive care. As soon as she came onto the project, Ms. Alvarez hit the pavement. She has worked tirelessly in her outreach efforts on the streets and in the ED of their partner hospital (Los Angeles County - USC Medical Center) to connect with clients. The National HCH Council is proud to have JWCH as a partner in this project. We are impressed by the dedication, hard work, and drive of Ms. Alvarez and her supervisor, Program Director, Jill Rotenberg. (Pictured: Juanita Alvarez)

POLICY & ADVOCACY

NEEDED: STORIES ABOUT MEDICAID ENROLLMENT AND SERVICES

How is Medicaid enrollment going for you? We want to hear from frontline workers, clinicians, administrators about new benefits and new access to services. How do consumers respond to new eligibility or to enrollment efforts? What's working well, and what's needed to still improve? How are clients getting connected to specialty care and other services beyond the health center? How has your clinical work changed now that new options are available? The Council is getting requests from the White House, the federal Medicaid office, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, news reporters, and others who want to highlight our successes and talk about how homelessness is impacted by the Affordable Care Act. Please help us share your experience! [Contact Barbara DiPietro](#), Director of Policy, if you have an example you'd like to share.

POLICY EVENTS FROM DECEMBER 2013

Council participates in SAMHSA Webinar with HRSA

On December 5, SAMHSA hosted a webinar related to reducing chronic homelessness and the impact of the Affordable Care Act on homeless populations. SAMHSA spoke of its work to highlight enrollment among people with behavioral health conditions, HRSA promoted health centers as ideal places for vulnerable people to receive care, and the Council talked about successful strategies HCH grantees have found to reach this group of consumers. [Listen to a recording of the webinar.](#)

Collaboration with the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness on policy brief and webinar highlighting successful Medicaid enrollment strategies

Frontline workers from the Boston HCH program and Heartland Health Outreach in Chicago shared their advice for what works

best for enrolling homeless clients in Medicaid and connecting them to needed health services. Over 1,000 people registered for this active discussion. [Read the policy brief.](#)

NEW COUNCIL OUTREACH TOOL

[Outreach and Enrollment Quick Guide: Promising Strategies for Engaging the Homeless Population.](#) This guide features the experiences of frontline staff-including outreach, case management, and benefits workers-to illustrate the importance of outreach and enrollment and highlight promising strategies being employed to overcome individual and systemic challenges.

WHITE HOUSE HEALTH REFORM EVENT FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESS STAKEHOLDERS

Council Policy Director, Barbara DiPietro, will represent the HCH Community at a White House Health Reform event on February 11, 2014 and moderate a panel discussion on best practices for facilitating enrollment.

NEW POLICY PUBLICATIONS AND WEBINARS FORTHCOMING

This spring, the Council will be releasing two new policy briefs and hosting webinar events to discuss them. The first focuses on alternatives to traditional Medicaid expansion (to include Premium Assistance and other options), which have been approved in a few states and are of particular interest to states that have not yet expanded Medicaid. The second focuses on two new payment models that may influence how states pay providers for health services. The HCH Community has a vested interest in both these issues, so look for more information in the coming months.

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