

# Single-Payer Now

Medicare For All Advocacy for the *Health Care for the Homeless* Community



May 2019  
Washington, DC  
#HCH2019

# Speaker Introductions

*Ken Zinn (NNU)*

*Regina Reed (NHCHC)*

*Stephanie Kang (Rep. Jayapal)*

# Audience Introduction/Icebreaker

*Raise your hand if...*

# Health Care vs. Health Coverage

Procedures or methods related to care of someone's physical or mental health

*Ex:*

*Blood test*

*Physical exam*

*Medications*

INSURANCE

*Ex:*

*Medicaid*

*Medicare*

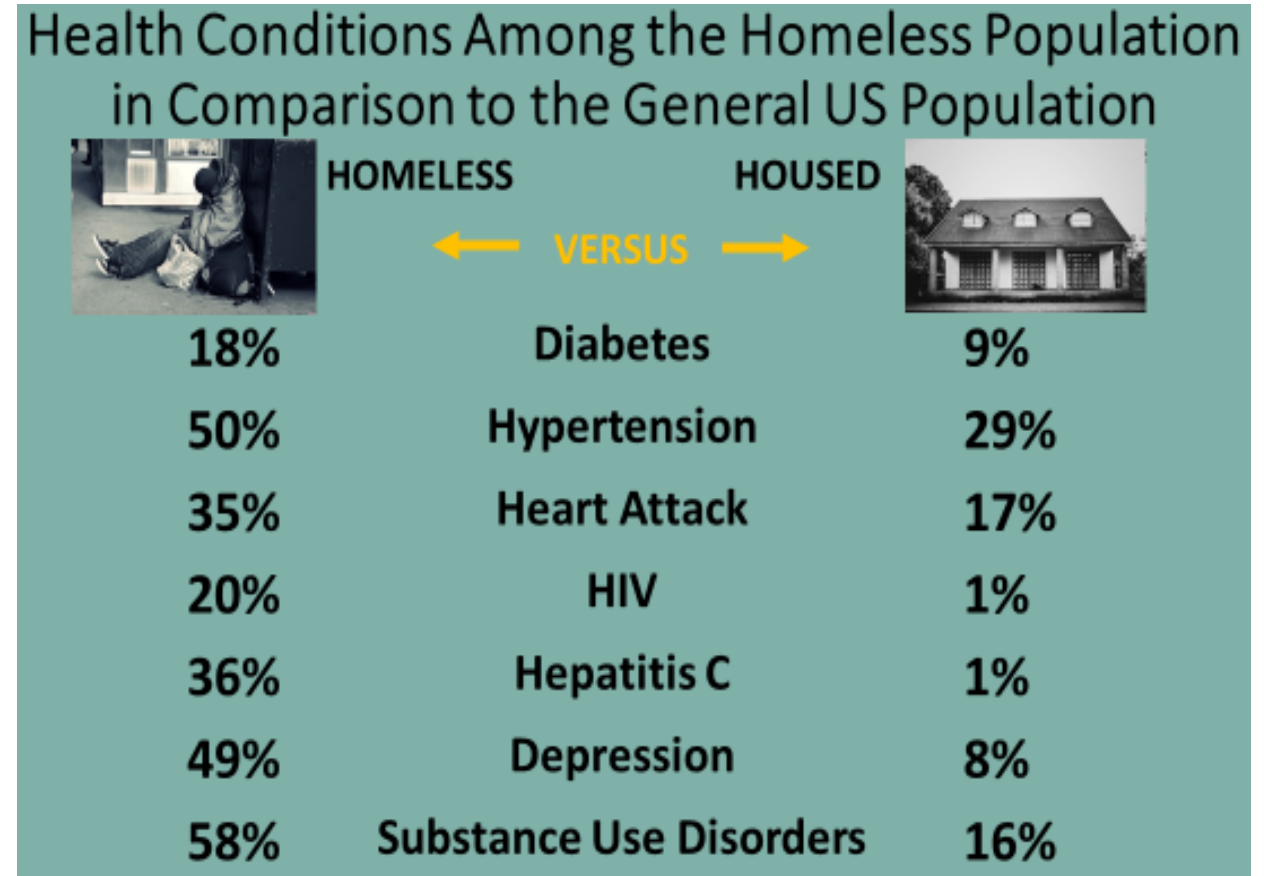
*Blue Cross Blue Shield*

*Aetna*

# Homelessness & Health

*(What we already know!)*

- Poor health is a major cause of homelessness.
- Homelessness creates new health problems and exacerbates existing ones.
- Recovery and healing are more difficult without housing.



Source: Health Center Patient Survey 2009

# What if we replaced “health” with “health **insurance**”?

- Poor health **insurance** is a major cause of homelessness.
- Homelessness creates new health **insurance** problems and exacerbates existing ones.
- Recovery and healing/health **insurance** are more difficult without housing.

# What's happening in Congress?

- [\*H.R. 1384: Medicare for All Act of 2019\*](#)
- [\*S. 1129: Medicare for All Act of 2019\*](#)

# **Our Community Has A Unique Role in this Fight for Justice.**

- **As providers...**
- **As consumers...**
- **As businesses...**
- **As citizens...**



NATIONAL  
HEALTH CARE  
*for the*  
HOMELESS  
COUNCIL

The logo is centered on a dark green rectangular background. It features the words "NATIONAL", "HEALTH CARE", "HOMELESS", and "COUNCIL" in a white, all-caps, serif font, arranged in four lines. The words "HEALTH CARE" and "HOMELESS" are separated by a thin white horizontal line. The phrase "for the" is written in a smaller, white, italicized serif font between "HEALTH CARE" and "HOMELESS".



# Medicare for All Would Benefit Patients Experiencing Homelessness

- **Prioritize health, not the ability to pay.**
- **Focus on access to care, not logistics of coverage.**
- **Increase choice of providers.**
- **Facilitate greater trust with providers.**



“IT’S FRUSTRATING TRYING TO KEEP TRACK OF ALL THE PAPERWORK AND ALL THE RULES AND STILL KEEP UP WITH MY HEALTH. THEY MAKE IT REALLY HARD TO FIGURE OUT THE SYSTEM, BUT THEN THEY BLAME ME IF I DON’T GET IT RIGHT OR IF I GET SICK. IT’S LIKE THE SYSTEM IS FIXED AGAINST ME.”

– ART RIOS, SR., CHAIR

NATIONAL CONSUMER ADVISORY BOARD, PORTLAND, OR

# Medicare for All Would Benefit Clinical Providers

- **Liberate clinical decision-making.**
- **Prioritize quality and patient care, not paperwork.**
- **Improve access to health information.**
- **Redirect administrative costs to clinical care.**



**“I HAVE NO TIME TO FOCUS ON PREVENTIVE CARE BECAUSE I’M ALWAYS SPENDING TIME FIXING PROBLEMS CAUSED BY A FRAGMENTED SYSTEM. I CAN’T GET MY PATIENTS THE CARE THEY NEED BECAUSE THEY AREN’T ELIGIBLE.”**

**– PIA VALVASORI, PHD, NURSE PRACTITIONER  
HEALTH CARE CENTER FOR THE HOMELESS, ORLANDO, FL**

# Medicare for All Would Benefit Non-Profit Community Employers

- Better fulfill mission by focusing on staff development and training.
- Facilitate pay raises, not coverage of insurance increases.



“UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE IS CRITICAL TO ATTAINING A STABLE LIFE. ECONOMIC STABILITY, MENTAL HEALTH, RECOVERY, STABLE HOUSING—ALL OF THESE THINGS ARE CONNECTED TO HAVING CONSISTENT ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE. FOR TOO LONG, ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE HAS BEEN RATIONED, WHICH HAS LEFT MANY OF OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS BEHIND.”

– RACHEL SOLOTAROFF, PRESIDENT & CEO  
CENTRAL CITY CONCERN, PORTLAND, OR

# Medicare For All Would Help Prevent and End Homelessness

- **Promote economic stability.**
- **Prevent poor health from causing poverty.**
- **Address social determinants of health.**
- **Facilitate common interest in good outcomes.**



**“OUR CURRENT FRAGMENTED HEALTH PROGRAMS ARE TOO COSTLY, COVER TOO FEW, AND PLACE MOUNTING FINANCIAL BURDENS ON EMPLOYERS. IT’S WELL PAST TIME FOR A NATIONAL FINANCING SYSTEM THAT BRINGS EVERYONE IN AND LEAVES NOBODY OUT – PARTICULARLY THE MOST VULNERABLE AMONG US.”**

**– KEVIN LINDAMOOD, PRESIDENT & CEO**

**BALTIMORE HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS, BALTIMORE, MD**



# Medicare for All Would Benefit Everyone and is the Right Thing to

- **Create level playing field and rectify health disparities.**
- **Allow focus on public health and create greater system responsiveness.**
- **Represent fundamental American values.**
- **Reduce incarceration and make communities safer.**
- **Recognize all people deserve health care.**



**“WHEN EVERYONE IN OUR COUNTRY CAN BE TREATED OR SCREENED FOR PREVENTABLE COMMUNICABLE DISEASE, OUR OVERALL HEALTH WILL IMPROVE AS A NATION.”**

**– ANNIE NICOL, FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER & PHYSICIANS ASSISTANT, DIRECTOR OF HOMELESS SERVICES, PETALUMA HEALTH CENTER, PETALUMA, CA**

# What You Can Do

- **Learn more by reading our statement.**
  - [Medicare For All & the HCH Community](#) (May 2019)
- **Be a part of the conversation.**
  - Talk about this with your colleagues, friends, and family.
- **Stay Engaged with the National HCH Council.**
  - Sign-Up for our Mobilizer newsletter. [www.nhchc.org/mobilizer](http://www.nhchc.org/mobilizer)
- **Share your story.**
  - All we need is a few sentences. [rreed@nhchc.org](mailto:rreed@nhchc.org).
- **Join our Congressional advocacy/education efforts.**
  - Let's set up a call with your member. [rreed@nhchc.org](mailto:rreed@nhchc.org).