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2009 NATIONAL HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS CONFERENCE & POLICY SYMPOSIUM

Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill | Washington, DC | June 25 - 27

The National Health Care for the Homeless Council and the HCH Clinicians' Network invite you to participate in the 2009 National Health Care for the Homeless Conference & Policy Symposium, to be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. The theme of the conference is ***Working Together for Health, Housing, and Human Rights***. Clinical, administrative and consumer-oriented workshops will begin on Thursday, June 25, and run through Saturday, June 27. Five daylong Pre-conference Institutes will also be offered on Wednesday, June 24.

Look for the following pediatric workshops scheduled throughout the conference:

Youth Medical Services Panel

Thursday, June 25, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

This panel workshop will showcase best practices of several Youth Medical Services. Topics will include building a youth-centered model of comprehensive services; how to provide an "enhanced medical home" for homeless adolescents; and running, planning, evaluating and sustaining a medical respite program for homeless young people.

Presenters:

Elizabeth Amrhein, Seth Ammerman, Josephine Ensign, Aileen Panke, Lara Tannenbaum

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Healthcare & Hope for Children in Shelters: Building Professional & Community Partnerships

Thursday, June 25, 3:15-4:45 p.m.

Pediatric residents at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia recognized unmet health care needs of local children who were homeless. The Homeless Health Initiative was formed to offer health outreach through compassionate, culturally respectful pediatric health and dental screenings and health education. Community and professional partnerships were developed, and the program has evolved into an award winning "Best Practice Model" that will be shared in the workshop.

Presenters:

Melissa Bennett, Karen Hudson, Kimberly Powell

Helping Homeless Families Find Their Strengths & Build Stability One Step at a Time

Friday, June 26, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

This workshop will highlight Outreach and Engagement Models using a non-traditional, assertive home visiting approach that integrates counseling and clinical care coordination to build relationships with at risk or hard to reach families with substance use and/or co-occurring disorders. It is client-driven, anticipatory, and culturally sensitive; it also involves family-based advocacy and is crucial to family members accessing appropriate health, mental health and substance use treatment and recovery.

Presenter:

Susan Dargon-Hart

Sharing Best Practices Anecdotal Experiences & Clinical Challenges in Serving Homeless Youth & Adolescents

Friday, June 26, 3:15-4:45 p.m.

This workshop will focus on a practical approach to the care and advocacy of homeless adolescents and young adults. The panel of presenters, comprised of a physician administrator, clinical practitioner and social worker, will discuss the unique challenges and triumphs of delivering effective and sustainable care to young adult populations. In addition, the moderator of the workshop forum will encourage audience participation and discussion.

Presenters:

Peggy Akers, Wayne Centrone, Isabella Christodoulou

Developmental Delays in 0-3 Year Olds: Screening & Successful Follow-Up

Saturday, June 27, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Available research suggests that 50% of homeless children 0-3 years old have developmental delays; three to four times that of children in the general population. Despite federal mandates for early detection, unrecognized delays in homeless children are the norm. Skilled intervention for delays can have powerfully positive,

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lifelong impact. In this workshop, we review successful strategies for both testing and assisting appropriate families to follow through with their child's therapeutic needs.

Presenters:

Tanya Froehlich, Susan Louisa Montauk, Ashley Tucker

Child Health Initiatives Panel

Saturday, June 27, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

This workshop will examine health initiatives intended to connect homeless families with the information, resources, and care that they and their children need in order to stay healthy. Topics will include relationships between health care access, utilization, and health outcomes among sheltered homeless children in New York City; the National Center on Family Homelessness (NCFH)'s state-based Report Card on Child Homelessness; and developing effective communication between local shelters, clinics and Medicaid offices.

Presenters:

Eric Murry, Laura Sheinkopf, Katie Volk, Katherine Ziol-Guest

To register for and find out more information about the 2009 National HCH Conference & Policy Symposium, go to www.nhchc.org/2009conference/2009conference.html.

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JUST RELEASED: STATE-BY-STATE REPORT ON CHILD HOMELESSNESS

As part of the larger *Campaign to End Child Homelessness*, the National Center on Family Homelessness released a 250-page report on March 10, 2009, to describe the condition of child homelessness in the United States. Each state was evaluated and ranked based on the following domains: extent of child homelessness, child well-being, risk factors for child homelessness, and policy and planning efforts. The report includes a description of the report card, state-by-state reports and policy recommendations. Download the full report at www.HomelessChildrenAmerica.org.

For more information on the National Center on Family Homelessness, please visit www.familyhomelessness.org, or e-mail info@familyhomelessness.org.

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TREATING ADOLESCENTS WITH HIV: TOOLS FOR BUILDING SKILLS IN CULTURAL COMPETENCE, CLINICAL CARE & SUPPORT

In the United States, HIV disproportionately affects ethnic and sexual minority youth. These youth are also at risk of dropping out of care, nonadherence to treatment regimens, and comorbidities such as substance abuse and mental health problems. A free online training series for MDs, NPs, PAs, RNs, psychologists, social workers, case managers and other health professionals who are actively involved or interested in adolescent HIV care is available online at www.hivcareforyouth.org.

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TREATMENT & RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN WITH OTITIS MEDIA

Clinicians who provide primary care to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness routinely adapt their medical practice to foster better outcomes for these patients. Standard clinical practice guidelines often fail to take into consideration the unique challenges faced by homeless patients that may limit their ability to adhere to a plan of care. Recognizing the gap between standard clinical guidelines and clinical practices used by health care providers experienced in the care of homeless individuals, the HCH Clinicians' Network developed a series of treatment recommendations called **Adapting Your Practice**.

Adapting Your Practice: Treatment & Recommendations for Homeless Children with Otitis Media is one of the publications produced as part of this series. These special recommendations, which reflect HCH clinicians' collective experience in serving homeless children, address the treatment and prevention of ear infections in children who lack residential stability. You can access the complete adapted clinical guideline on otitis media at www.nhchc.org/Publications/OtitisMedia2008.pdf.

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HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS: NEW RESOURCES ONLINE

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States. It is estimated that in the United States 6.2 million people become infected each year. HPV infects up to 80% of sexually active people by the time they turn 50. The HCH Pediatrics Work Group recently compiled important resources on HPV as it relates to pediatrics care and the homeless population. Please visit the [Clinical Practices Resources](#) page of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council website to access these resources or visit the [HVP page](#) itself.

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HCH PEDIATRICS WORK GROUP

The HCH Pediatrics Work Group is a committee of the HCH Clinicians' Network and responsible for the production of this newsletter. The purpose of the work group is to improve the health and lives of children and families who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk for homelessness. The work group contributes to the preparation of Network newsletters and publications, planning for the National HCH Conference and content development for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council website. Please contact Molly Meinbresse (mmeinbresse@nchc.org) if you are interested in joining the HCH Pediatrics Work Group. A list of current members follows.

Betsy Baldwin
Southwest Community Health Center
McKinney Health Care for the Homeless
Bridgeport, CT

Kalyani Bhayani
Children's Specialized Hospital
Fanwood, NJ

Isabella Christodoulou
Tulane Drop-In Health Services
New Orleans, LA

Bernie Creaven (Chair)
Carolyn Downs Family Medical Clinic
Seattle, WA

Megan Grandin
National Center on Family Homelessness
Newton Centre, MA

Rachel Herbig (Co-Chair)
Valley Cities Counseling and Consultation
Seattle, WA

Karen Hudson
The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA

Rachel Marzec
Young Children's Health Center
Albuquerque, NM

Deborah McMillan
Public Health Management Corporation
Philadelphia, PA

Susan Montauk
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine
Cincinnati, OH

Eric Murry
National Health Care for the Homeless
Council, Inc.
Nashville, TN

Katie Volk
National Center on Family Homelessness
Newton Centre, MA

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AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE HCH CLINICIANS' NETWORK

Please consider joining the HCH Clinicians' Network to be a part of this vital force of clinicians working to end homelessness. When you join the Network, you automatically become an individual member of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. Network members receive the Healing Hands publication and Network News e-mail update; elect the leadership of the Network; and can serve on various committees within the Council and Network. To join, simply complete the [online application](#). Yearly membership dues are \$35.

FEEDBACK

We invite you to share your opinion on issues of concern to the pediatrics community. In addition, we welcome your feedback regarding this newsletter. Please send comments and suggestions to the Healing Kids newsletter editor, Molly Meinbresse (mmeinbresse@nhchc.org). If you decide to cancel your subscription, please send a blank e-mail to network@nhchc.org, and type Leave Pediatric Interest Group in the subject line of your message.

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