



# NCAB Newsletter

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*Editor's Note: It is with great sorrow that I put together this newsletter. We have lost a dear friend and fighter for the healthcare of homeless people across the country. I will start the newsletter with some of the comments received over the past week. (SD)*

Lost an amazing spirit here on earth, gained an amazing ally in heaven!  
Ellen is a spirit that we run across a very few times  
she is not a category  
she is not a client  
she is Ellen...and she WILL be watching over us  
Guarantee it

*Paul Boden  
Director, Western Region Advocacy Project  
San Francisco, California*

Friends, my name is Gilbert DeBarros and I didn't know Ellen at all. But her presence at the conference in Portland was so evident. I knew I was in the presence of a proud African/Native American woman. That moment will be remembered as well as she. God Bless her spirit and He holds her close.

*Gilbert DeBarros  
Treasurer, Board of Directors, Generations Family Health Center  
Norwich, Connecticut*

We, of the National Consumer Advisory Board (NCAB), will surely miss one of our original members and pioneers. Ellen welcomed me, Richard Drain at my first Health Care for the Homeless conference, some years ago. Her honesty, open-mindedness and willingness won me over. I surrendered to NCAB'S process of self-help. I will always honor her. Ellen opened doors that no one can close and shut doors that would not allow persons with Behavioral Health Issues to enter. Her memory and work live on in each of us who wish to champion her call to freedom from our self made prisons, "called I can't".

*Richard Drain  
Department of Behavioral Health/Mental Retardation Services  
Philadelphia, PA*

When I went to my first conference in New Orleans, I was very nervous and wondered if I was over my head. When I attended the consumer meeting and Ellen spoke, she made me feel like I can do anything and she gave me the strength to continue on. I currently am the Chairperson for the Memphis Health Center Consumer Advisory Committee.

God needed another fantastic Angel by his side.....so the Angel that was on Earth to help all of us had to leave. She will be greatly missed but this will push me to do a little bit better in Ms. Ellen Dailey's memory.

*Glenise Hildahl  
Memphis, Tennessee*

Ms. Daley, you were an inspiration to all who encountered your presence. The beautiful smile that shined as the stars in the heavens and throughout the universe. A diva who glided like the clouds and the flower that sent an aura of dignity along with strength. Your warm compassion and love for all told the story of the beautiful woman, mother, friend and leader that you were. May all of us who knew you continue pushing forward to end homelessness. Love,

*Paula Lewis.  
Baltimore, Maryland*

Dear Friend, I don't know if you remember the first time we met, sat in the lobby in the hotel in Washington DC talking for hours, I knew we were going to be best of friends. We talked about the world's problems and how we were going to fix all of them hahahaha and then of course we had to get some sleep, but of course first thing the next morning we were back talking, little did I know I would be blessed to have such a wonderful friend like you. You know in our talks I remember you talking about how, Health Care for the Homeless saved your life, I never told you but you were the driving force behind me becoming so involved with NCAB. I will always remember your mothering ways, how you would walk into a room and just take charge. Ellen I can only hope one day to be like you. I love you very much and will miss you. I remember all the things you have taught me. In addition, I will promise to pass them. Thank you,  
Your Buddy Eugene

P.S. My Buddy will be missed. See You Later My Friend.....

*Ulysses Maner  
Former Chair, National Consumer Advisory Board  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida*

I met Ellen for the first time very briefly in Portland Oregon. I found Ellen to be a very special person. She took the time to help others. She developed the gifts that God gave her to help people. The world is a better place too live in because of Ellen.

*Russell Oliver  
Hazard, Kentucky*

We're stunned and quite saddened. We had the opportunity to connect with Ellen in Portland and she gave a boost to our inspiration and practical vision for a new AHCH commitment to meaningful consumer leadership. In fact, it was freshly back from her encouragement and framing that we were able to persuade our Board to vote formally to work toward 51% consumer representation over the next several years. That was just last Tuesday at our annual meeting, and was unprecedented.

Know that we're thinking of you at this time and of others fortunate to have been touched by her.

*Jenny Metzler  
Co-Executive Director, Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless  
Albuquerque, New Mexico*

I always looked to Ellen, You, and Ulysses for leadership and direction. Today that comes to a close with the next chapter of our leader and inspiration. For She will be Dearly missed, No more suffering, No more sorrow, Just answered Prayers, For GOD IS GOOD!

Please know that Cincinnati prayers are always with you and yours.

*In my prayers,  
Bob McGonagle*

I was greatly saddened to hear of Ellen's passing, especially since I only had the privilege of having just met her at the Portland Conference. Her regal, determined, no-nonsense demeanor coupled with her compassion and warmth makes her impossible to forget.

*Marion Walls*

I first met Ellen in 2001 at a meeting that the council and bureau had asked the consumers to hold. We were to come together to form a national group of consumers to give advise to them. Ellen was elected as one of the Co-chairs and I was elected Secretary.

That first year we had a lot of work to do. We needed to start with a mission statement and vision statement. Ellen immediately got to work on these. In a matter of a short time we had these--the only thing the others of us had to do was to check for typos etc. They said exactly what needed to be said.

Then Ellen decided that we needed a how to book on how to start and run local CABs. Again, Ellen got to work and produced The Manual and again all we had to do was to check for typos and stuff.

Over these past few years, I have learned a lot about myself, thanks to Ellen. She taught me that I somebody and that I have something to say concerning health care for the homeless.

Through Ellen's courage and dignity, I have learned to accept myself for who I am not what someone else wants me to be. She taught me that no matter where I have been the important thing is where I am going and how I am getting there.

If it were not for Ellen, I would not be where I am today. She encouraged me to open my mouth when I saw something that I thought was wrong. She encouraged me to move up the ranks on NCAB. She encouraged me to walk with a dignity that I some times did not feel I had the right to.

Ellen was a good friend to me and she will sorely be missed by me and all the other consumers and staff who have had the pleasure to meet her.

*Sarah Davidson*

*Chair, NCAB*

I first met Ellen three years ago at the Health Care for the Homeless Conference in New Orleans. It was my first HCH conference, and I really didn't know what to expect. I knew I needed to attend some Consumer events as a condition of me receiving a scholarship to attend. From the first time I met Ellen on that first day of the conference I immediately felt her motherly warmth, as if she was taking me under her wing.

Over the last three years I have come to admire and respect Ellen; she was smart and compassionate to all people, and most of all she was real. She didn't like injustice and wasn't afraid to let people know how she felt. She was someone; she was my dear friend.

For the week that we were in Portland, Ellen, Sarah, Ulysses and I spent a great deal of time together; talking about the days ahead for NCAB, about our excitement for it's future, but we also talked about how much we meant to each other. I'm so blessed to have had that time with her. I'm a better person having known her.

I'll love and miss her always.....

*Amy Grassette*

*Co-Chair, NCAB*

***Ellen's memorial service was held on Saturday June 24, 2006 in Boston Mass. There was a large turn out of family, friends, and associates. Three of the executive committee of NCAB were able to be present as well as a number of the members of the Boston CAB. There was a reception following the service at the home of Ellen's niece, Nicole.***

***For more tributes about Ellen go to the National Council's web site at: [nhhc.org](http://nhhc.org). (SD)***

# HCH Conference—Portland, OR

## Business Meeting Summary:

At the business meeting that was held in Portland, there were a number of things accomplished:

1. New officers were elected. *They are:* Chair—Sarah Davidson; Co-Chairs—Amy Grassette and Carol Hall; Members at Large—Reginald Hamilton, Marianne Mallot and Antoinetta Stadlman.
2. Bylaws: There was discussion concerning revising the bylaws and volunteers were gathered to form a committee to accomplish this.
3. Newsletter: There was discussion concerning the need for a committee to take over this responsibility and names were gathered to form a committee for this.
4. National Council Committees: There was discussion concerning having a consumer on all of the Council's committees. Mr. John Lozier distributed forms for people to volunteer for these.
5. Consumer outreach: The results of the consumer outreach were discussed at the meeting as well as at other times during the conference.

The coming year will be a busy one for the officers and other volunteers.

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the Health Resources and Services Administration.**

### Send Us Your Stories

*We need you!!! Hopefully, in our upcoming issues you, the readers, will send in your personal stories, poems, and articles regarding how you started your board and how it is running today. Please send any helpful comments on what you would like to see in the newsletter that might help others to [ncab@nhhc.org](mailto:ncab@nhhc.org)*