

# NetworkNews

An E-newsletter for members of the HCH Clinicians' Network



SEPTEMBER 2006 | NUMBER 53

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## HEAT-RELATED CONDITIONS

Visit the new **Heat-related conditions** page on our website at [www.nhchc.org/heatrelatedconditions.html](http://www.nhchc.org/heatrelatedconditions.html) and let us know if you have additional resources to include or other suggestions for improvement. Our site at [www.nhchc.org](http://www.nhchc.org) is continually updated, so check in every week or so to stay abreast of what's happening in homeless health care!

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## **NETWORK ANNUAL REPORT**

Look for the Network's 2005 - 06 annual report under **What's New** online at [www.nhchc.org](http://www.nhchc.org). We welcome comments and feedback.

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## **SAMHSA REPORTS DATA ON HOMELESS ADMISSIONS TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released a new data summary report, *Homeless Admissions to Substance Abuse Treatment, 2004*. This report presents data from the 2004 Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS), an annual compilation of data on the demographic characteristics and substance abuse problems of substance abuse treatment admissions. The report is online at <http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k6/homeless/homeless.htm>.

**SOURCE:** United States Interagency Council on Homelessness e-newsletter | August 3, 2006

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## **CO-OCCURRING PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM SAMHSA WEBSITE**

Co-occurring mental and substance abuse disorders affect approximately 4.6 million individuals in the U.S. Only a small percentage of these individuals, however, receive treatment that addresses both disorders. Many receive no treatment of any kind. To better educate states, communities and behavioral health care providers, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Co-Occurring Center for Excellence (COCE) has released the first of a series of brief publications for treatment professionals on co-occurring mental and substance abuse disorders. The newly available products include:

- **Overarching Principles to Address the Needs of Persons with Co-Occurring Disorders;**
- **Definitions and Terms Relating to Co-Occurring Disorders; and**
- **Screening, Assessment and Treatment Planning for Persons with Co-Occurring Disorders.**

The publications, available at <http://coce.samhsa.gov/searchresults.aspx?obj=77>, are the first of ten short papers, spanning topics such as epidemiology, treatment, workforce and systems issues, prevention/early intervention, and evaluation/monitoring. The documents are designed for substance abuse treatment counselors and mental health providers who usually treat one or the other of the two ailments, but it will also be useful for administrators, primary care providers, criminal

justice staff and other health care and social service personnel who work with people with co-occurring disorders.

**SOURCE:** hch-medlist | June 15, 2006

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### **IMAGES FROM THE EDGE GIVES VOICE TO MENTALLY ILL/HOMELESS**

*Images from the Edge* gives a unique perspective on the difficulties that the homeless and the mentally ill face. The book features the writings and artworks of homeless and mentally ill at patients at the Mississippi State Hospital in Jackson, created as part of the Community Services Stubbs Homeless Program at the Hospital. Linda Townes, director of Stubbs Homeless Program, has been collecting the writings and art of her patients since the early 1990s. Townes began art and writing workshops after frequent visits to homeless shelters revealed the frustrations of the homeless. "I kept hearing, 'No one wants to hear from us. No one really cares about what we have to say.' These people believed, for good reason, that they had absolutely no voice." Townes was determined to give them a voice. This book teaches us that homeless does not mean helpless, that mentally ill does not mean incapable and that addictions can be overcome. For more information, visit [www.msh.state.ms.us/ImagesFromTheEdge/index.htm](http://www.msh.state.ms.us/ImagesFromTheEdge/index.htm) or call the Mississippi State Hospital Public Relations Office at 601 351-8018.

**SOURCE:** National Coalition for the Homeless | Safety Network | Summer 2006

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### **CROSSING THE LINE: TAKING STEPS TO END HOMELESSNESS**

Diane Nilan has compiled an engrossing chronicle of her extensive experience with homeless adults and children, painting spellbinding images of the often nameless and frequently forgotten individuals. *Crossing the Line: Taking Steps to End Homelessness* takes readers behind the scenes at a hectic suburban emergency shelter and introduces an unlikely cast of characters who confirm the path to homelessness is easier to enter than to exit. Nilan's perceptions and her direct style avoid clichéd stereotypes as she depicts scoundrels and saints. *Crossing the Line* is available online at [www.booklocker.com/books/2265.html](http://www.booklocker.com/books/2265.html). Proceeds benefit **Hear Us**, a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness about homelessness.

**SOURCE:** National Coalition for the Homeless | Safety Network | Summer 2006

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### **STRENGTH FOR SERVING**

Health care providers in general, and those who work with the underserved in particular, are at risk for provider burnout and compassion fatigue. Many health care clinicians put the needs of their patients before their own, often to the

detriment of their own health and wellness. **Strength for Serving**, a project of the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved, grew out of recognition of the needs of medical providers serving the underserved and the complexities of our health care system. By promoting professional health and wellness, ACU believes that many "occupational risk factors" can be altered, and that clinicians can effectively overcome and prevent the isolation and burnout associated with health care practice. The **Strength for Serving** section of the ACU website has been developed to serve as a resource to:

- Aid us in creating healthy lives and workplaces
- Optimize the quality of health care delivery
- Enhance the health of the communities we serve
- Help providers recognize signs of burnout and suggest ways to stop the process
- Link providers to resources that can help evaluate wellness and provide support to create and maintain a healthy lifestyle

For more information, visit [www.clinicians.org/programsandservices/strengthforserving/strength\\_serving\\_intro.shtml](http://www.clinicians.org/programsandservices/strengthforserving/strength_serving_intro.shtml)

**SOURCE:** Association of Clinicians for the Underserved | Strength for Serving Program | Lois Wessel, CFNP, Program Manager | phone: 703 442-5318

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### **COVERING KIDS & FAMILIES: BACK-TO-SCHOOL 2006**

On August 9, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation kicked off the seventh annual Covering Kids & Families Back-to-School Campaign, a nationwide effort encouraging parents to enroll their eligible, uninsured children in Medicaid or SCHIP as an important part of preparing for the new school year. At events nationwide, the Foundation released research showing that the percentage of uninsured kids in America has decreased by 20 percent since Congress approved the State Children's Health Insurance Program in 1997, despite an increase in the total number of uninsured Americans.

RWJF's report also shows that even though the number of kids with private insurance is declining, public health coverage programs have provided an important safety net for families. The percentage of children enrolled in public health coverage programs has increased by 31 percent since 1997 - 98: at least 5 million more kids now have public coverage today than they did nine years ago. Yet, millions of children remain uninsured. The latest Census data show that nearly 8.3 million children are uninsured and experts say that more than 70 percent of these

children are likely eligible for low-cost or free health care coverage through SCHIP or Medicaid, but have not yet enrolled.

Programs exist in every state and the District of Columbia. Eligibility varies by state and is based on family size and income. Parents can call toll-free 1 877 KIDS-NOW to find out if their uninsured children are eligible for Medicaid or SCHIP.

RWJF's national press release and research report are online at [www.coveringkidsandfamilies.org](http://www.coveringkidsandfamilies.org). For information on scheduled events and how you can get involved, visit [www.coveringkidsandfamilies.org](http://www.coveringkidsandfamilies.org) or contact Lisa Beck at 202 572-2988 or write [lisa.beck@gmmb.com](mailto:lisa.beck@gmmb.com).

*The HCH Clinicians' Network is a Supporter of Covering Kids & Families.*

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### **POOR PEOPLE PAY MORE FOR THE SAME GOODS**

Low-income families pay more for the same exact consumer products including check cashing, tax refund services, car loans, car insurance, home loans, furniture and electronics, and groceries, than families with higher incomes, according to **From Poverty, Opportunity: Putting the Market to Work for Lower Income Families**, a report recently released by the Brookings Institution. The report identifies four factors that help drive up the market price for these goods:

- Companies face real and perceived higher costs of doing business with lower income consumers;
- Low-income households, particularly those concentrated in high poverty neighborhoods, have limited choice in consumer goods;
- Unscrupulous business practices drive up prices; and
- Low-income households lack information about choices in the market, leaving them uninformed and more likely to make unwise decisions.

The report calls on public and private leaders to adopt strategies that will reduce the cost of living for low-income households. Actions suggested include cracking down on alternative, high-priced businesses in low-income neighborhoods, promoting consumer responsibility and providing low-income households with better market information, and encouraging mainstream businesses to serve low-income households and neighborhoods. The report is online at

[www.brookings.edu/metro/pubs/20060718\\_PovOp.htm](http://www.brookings.edu/metro/pubs/20060718_PovOp.htm)

**SOURCE:** National Alliance to End Homelessness | Alliance Online News | August 1, 2006

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## **TB IN HOMELESS SHELTERS**

The Network has a few copies of **TB in Homeless Shelters: Reducing the Risk through Ventilation, Filters, and UV** produced by the Francis J. Curry National Tuberculosis Center and California Department of Health Services. If you would like a free copy, write Pat Petty at [network@nhchc.org](mailto:network@nhchc.org).

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## **HIV & HOMELESS SHELTERS**

The Network has a few copies of **HIV & Homeless Shelters: Policy & Practice**, produced by the American Civil Liberties Union AIDS Project and endorsed by National Coalition for the Homeless, the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, and the National Alliance to End Homelessness. If you would like a free copy, write Pat Petty at [network@nhchc.org](mailto:network@nhchc.org).

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## **FUNDING & AWARD OPPORTUNITIES**

### **PHYSICIAN ADVOCACY FELLOWSHIP**

**Deadline for short proposals: October 6, 2006**

The Physician Advocacy Fellowship provides support to doctors who want to develop their policy and advocacy skills by partnering with an advocacy organization on a project that they design jointly. Fellows will:

- Design and implement an advocacy project to improve health and service delivery;
- Address social issues such as racism, violence, health care access, and environmental hazards which adversely affect health and health care delivery;
- Develop or strengthen their advocacy skills through collaboration with a partner advocacy organization.

The Fellowship supports 50 percent of a fellow's time for 12 to 24 months, is open to physicians nationwide and does not require relocation. Additional information, including a list of past fellows, and application information, is available on the website at [www.imapny.org/advocacy](http://www.imapny.org/advocacy). Please feel free to contact me anytime.

Thank you and I hope to hear from you soon.

Monica R. Chierici | Program Coordinator | Physician Advocacy Fellowship | Center on Medicine as a Profession | website: [www.imapny.org/advocacy](http://www.imapny.org/advocacy)  
phone: 212 342-4109 | e-mail: [mc2827@columbia.edu](mailto:mc2827@columbia.edu)

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## **EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA DOMESTIC HUNGER PROGRAM**

**Deadline: October 2, 2006**

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ([www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)) Domestic Hunger Program provides relief and development assistance for those who suffer from hunger and injustices related to hunger in the United States. The 2007 ELCA Domestic Hunger Grant Application is available for download online. Organizations may submit only one application per year and can be funded up to three consecutive years. Priority will be given to persons living in poverty, with special focus on people with the least resources for meeting their basic needs and women and children at risk. In 2006, the average grant awarded was approximately \$3,000. Visit the program's website for complete program information and the application.

**SOURCE:** RFP BULLETIN | Foundation Center | August 18, 2006 | Vol 7, Issue 33

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## **JONATHAN MANN AWARD FOR GLOBAL HEALTH & HUMAN RIGHTS**

**Deadline: January 15, 2007**

Established in 1999, the Jonathan Mann Award for Global Health & Human Rights is bestowed annually to a leading practitioner in health and human rights and comes with a substantial financial reward to allow its recipients a measure of freedom to pursue their work in the area of global health and human rights. Award criteria and online nomination form are available at the Global Health Council website at [www.globalhealth.org/conference/view\\_top.php?id=612](http://www.globalhealth.org/conference/view_top.php?id=612).

**SOURCE:** RFP BULLETIN | Foundation Center | August 25, 2006 | Vol 7, Issue 34

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## **JOB OPENING: PHYSICIAN**

**Needed immediately:** Physician to work in an innovative Health Care for the Homeless program in downtown Austin, Texas. Join a dedicated team committed to providing the best possible clinical care and supportive services to patients with historically poor access to treatment. The clinic provides integrated primary care, dental, vision, case management, psychiatric, benefits eligibility, and street outreach services. Will consider either Family Practice or Internal Medicine (Board Certified). Responsible for acute and preventive care for the continuum of ages from newborn to geriatric. Excellent documentation skills required. Knowledge of electronic medical records helpful. Bilingual a plus. At least three years of clinical experience preferred. Unrestricted license in the State of Texas with current DEA and DPS certificates.

**CONTACT:** John Gilvar | Health Care for the Homeless Project Director |  
Community Health Centers of Austin & Travis County | City of Austin Community  
Care Services Department | [www.ci.austin.tx.us/communitycare](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/communitycare)  
phone: 512 972-4006 | pager: 512 802-9213

### Did you know . . .

Your agency can post job openings directly on our website at [www.nhchc.org/jobposting.html](http://www.nhchc.org/jobposting.html). Are you looking for a job in homeless health care? From the web page at [www.nhchc.org/resumeposting.html](http://www.nhchc.org/resumeposting.html), you can easily post your resume for six weeks at no charge.

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### QUESTIONS FROM OUR READERS

#### Seeking information about Electronic Medical Records . . .

I am exploring ways in which to customize our new EMR to capture unique aspects homeless health care in simpler and more direct ways. There are several products in use as an outpatient electronic medical record, and many of us here in the Northeast use Centricity (formerly known as Logician). Designed for traditional clinics and patients, these systems can be customized for homeless health care. It would be great if we all planned to customize in similar ways. I would like to hear what others are doing and share ideas.

Marianne Savarese, BSN | Project Director | Mobile Community Health Team at Catholic Medical Center | Manchester, NH  
e-mail: [msavarese@cmc-nh.org](mailto:msavarese@cmc-nh.org) | phone: 603 663-8716

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### UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

September 21: **Second Annual National Forum on the Human Right to Housing** | Co-sponsored by the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty and The Centre on Housing Rights & Evictions | George Washington University Law School | Washington, DC | Registration materials are available at [www.nlchp.org/FA\\_HUMANRIGHTS/Forum.cfm](http://www.nlchp.org/FA_HUMANRIGHTS/Forum.cfm)

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September 24 - 30: **National Homeless & Low Income Voter Registration Week** | Co-sponsored by the National Low Income Housing Coalition, the National Coalition for the Homeless, the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council | For materials, toolkits and support while you plan your events, contact John Lozier at the National Council ([jlozier@nhchc.org](mailto:jlozier@nhchc.org); phone: 615 226-2292 ext 24)

October 31 - November 3: **Tuberculosis Case Management and Contact Investigation** | San Francisco CA | For nurses, communicable disease investigators and medical social workers, this course covers TB case management and contact investigation | For course description and application information, visit [www.nationaltbcenter.edu/training/tb\\_case\\_management\\_intensive.cfm](http://www.nationaltbcenter.edu/training/tb_case_management_intensive.cfm)

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**Brenda J. Proffitt, MHA | Editor, Network News**

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