

# NetworkNews

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



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- November 6 - 9: Collaborative Family Healthcare Association's 10th Annual Conference
- December 21: Homeless Persons' Memorial Day
- June 23 - 27: 2009 National Health Care for the Homeless Conference & Policy Symposium

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## ANNUAL NETWORK MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Minutes from the 13th Annual Network Membership Meeting are included in this newsletter [see pages 5 - 7]. These minutes include the announcement of Network 2008 - 09 officers, as well as the election of new Steering Committee members. Be on the alert for future updates as we work with Members' ideas collected during Shoptalk.

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## TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

It is time to renew your Network membership, if you haven't already! Our membership year runs from annual meeting to annual meeting, so your 2007 - 08 membership expired on June 13. For your convenience, we have attached a member renewal form to this e-mail message, or you may simply renew online at [www.nhchc.org/network\\_join.html](http://www.nhchc.org/network_join.html). If you have questions concerning your membership status, please write Pat Petty at [network@nhchc.org](mailto:network@nhchc.org) or call 615 226-2292. Thank you for your ongoing support!

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### WINNER OF DRAWING FOR NETWORK GIFT BAG

Network Member Stephanie Lewis, MSW, is the lucky winner of the drawing for Network gifts during the 2009 National Health Care for the Homeless Conference in Phoenix. Stephanie won an autographed copy of Susan Piver's book, *How Not to Be Afraid of Your Own Life*, a Network t-shirt and business card case. Congratulations, Stephanie! [Susan delivered the very well received workshop presentation at the Conference on using meditation to reduce stress.]

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### TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY AMONG HOMELESS PERSONS

The Network announces the publication of *Traumatic Brain Injury among Homeless Persons: Etiology, Prevalence and Severity*, a monograph by Jennifer Highley, PMHNP-BC. The purpose of the paper is to help clinicians identify, assess, diagnose, treat, house and create aftercare services for those homeless persons who have sustained TBI and other insults to the central nervous system. The paper concludes with a series of practice, administration and policy recommendations. Readers may download *Traumatic Brain Injury among Homeless Persons* without cost online at [www.nhchc.org/cognitiveimpairments.html](http://www.nhchc.org/cognitiveimpairments.html).

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### PHYSICIAN ADVOCACY MERIT AWARD

**Application deadline: September 2, 2008**

The Institute on Medicine as a Profession is pleased to announce the new Physician Advocacy Merit Award. Each year the three \$10,000 Merit Awards will recognize physician advocates for their commitments and accomplishments. A flyer with complete details and application guidelines are sent along with this issue of *Network News*. Note that the application deadline is September 2, 2008.

Sarah C. DeFeo | Program Director

Center on Medicine as a Profession | Columbia University

e-mail: [sd2279@columbia.edu](mailto:sd2279@columbia.edu) | phone: 212 342-5268 | website: [www.imapny.org](http://www.imapny.org)

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### POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE FOR FREE PHARMACEUTICALS

I want to tell you what I know about a significant opportunity for some of your member organizations to get grant money from a new and unexpected source—their Attorney General's office.

As you may have heard, recently CVS/Caremark surrendered \$37 million to settle a federal Medicaid fraud suit. A big portion of this money was distributed to the 30 states listed below who participated in the suit. Most states received between a half-million and \$1.5 million dollars. These states are now free to determine where that money will go. Here is where things could get interesting for Health Care for the Homeless projects.

In April an idea was born in Missouri and this month was picked up on in Ohio. Missouri said, "Let's give this money to free clinics and other organizations whose mission is to obtain free pharmaceuticals for indigent patients." As of today, several dozen

organizations have received grants that have allowed them to purchase such things as laptop computers for their outreach programs and two-year subscriptions to [our product] RxAssist Plus, the web-based program that greatly speeds up and facilitates the PAP application process. Recently we heard, but have not confirmed, that Michigan may be doing something similar.

I am writing to respectfully suggest that you contact your members in the states listed below and urge them to contact their AG's office to find out if/when similar grant programs will be starting up. There is suddenly A LOT of money sitting there and it has to go somewhere—why not to your good people? Here is where you can learn more about what I have sketched out above:

- **To learn about the CVS/Caremark settlement, go to:**  
[www.bizjournals.com/kansascity/stories/2008/02/18/daily2.html](http://www.bizjournals.com/kansascity/stories/2008/02/18/daily2.html)
- **To learn about the Missouri program, go to:**  
[http://ago.mo.gov/newsreleases/2008/First\\_round\\_of\\_grants\\_help\\_seniors\\_get\\_free\\_prescription\\_drugs/](http://ago.mo.gov/newsreleases/2008/First_round_of_grants_help_seniors_get_free_prescription_drugs/)
- **To learn about the Ohio program, go to:**  
[www.ag.state.oh.us/press/08/05/pr080509.pdf](http://www.ag.state.oh.us/press/08/05/pr080509.pdf)
- **To learn about RxAssist Plus, go to:** [www.rxassistplus.com](http://www.rxassistplus.com)

Finally, here is a the most current list we have of participating states:  
AZ, AR, CA, CT, DE, GA, FL, IA, IL, KY, LA, MD, MA, MI, MS, MO, MT, NE, NM, NC, OH, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, VT, VA, WA, WV, and the District of Columbia.

I hope you find this helpful. If I can answer any questions, I will be glad to.  
George H. White | VP Marketing/RxAssist Plus | Systemetrics, Inc.  
e-mail: [george@rxassistplus.com](mailto:george@rxassistplus.com) | phone: 888 593-1085 ext 110

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## QUESTIONS FROM OUR READERS . . .

### TREATING HOMELESS ADULTS WITH HEPATITIS C...

I would like to ask *Network News* Readers if there are homeless health care clinics or clinicians who have treated homeless adults for hepatitis C with anti-HCV treatment, in the past or currently. The information is for my doctoral dissertation. Thank you for any assistance you can give.

Darlene Tyler, FNP, RN | Doctoral student  
UCLA School of Nursing Health Center at the Union Rescue Mission  
E-mail: [dft Tyler@earthlink.net](mailto:dft Tyler@earthlink.net)

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Resources specific to hepatitis C and homelessness are on our website on the Clinical Practice Resources page at [www.nhchc.org/clinicalresources.html](http://www.nhchc.org/clinicalresources.html)

### **INTEGRATED, WRAP-AROUND SERVICES IN SHELTERS...**

I am interested in networking with clinicians whose programs represent some of the best, integrated, wrap-around services in homeless shelters in the U.S. Please contact me at the address or phone number listed below.

Susan Louisa Montauk, MD | Professor, Clinical Family Medicine  
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine  
e-mail: [montausl@fammed.uc.edu](mailto:montausl@fammed.uc.edu) | phone: 513 558-4020

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### **UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS**

**July 28 - 30:** National Alliance to End Homelessness Annual Conference | Hyatt Regency Capital Hill | [www.endhomelessness.org/content/calendar/detail/1874](http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/calendar/detail/1874)

**August 10 - 16:** National Health Center Week & HCH Day, August 13 | Visit [www.healthcenterweek.org](http://www.healthcenterweek.org) for activities, information, ideas and tools

**August 26 - 28:** Tuberculosis Clinical Intensive | Francis J. Curry National TB Center in San Francisco | Approved for 18 Category 1 ACCME continuing education hours/nursing continuing education hours | For course description and application, visit [www.nationaltbcenter.ucsf.edu/training/tb\\_clinical\\_intensive.cfm](http://www.nationaltbcenter.ucsf.edu/training/tb_clinical_intensive.cfm) | Application deadline: July 15, 2008

**October 6 - 7:** A Home for All: Bringing the Pieces Together | Second Annual Homeless & Supportive Housing Conference | Sponsors: Florida Coalition for the Homeless, Florida Supportive Housing Coalition & Florida Department of Children & Families | Orlando, FL | [www.fchonline.org](http://www.fchonline.org) | [www.flshc.net](http://www.flshc.net)

**October 23 - 25:** National Summit of Clinicians for Healthcare Justice | Washington, DC | [www.allclinicians.org](http://www.allclinicians.org)

**November 6 - 9:** Collaboration: The Key to the Medical Home | Collaborative Family Healthcare Association's 10th Annual Conference | Grand Hyatt | Denver, CO | [www.cfha.net](http://www.cfha.net)

**December 21:** Homeless Persons' Memorial Day

**June 23 - 27, 2009:** National Health Care for the Homeless Conference & Policy Symposium | Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill | Washington, DC

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13th ANNUAL HCH CLINICIANS' NETWORK MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES  
HYATT REGENCY PHOENIX | JUNE 13, 2008

Bechara Choucair, MD, 2007 - 08 Network Chair, called the meeting to order and reported on 2007 - 08 Network activities:

- Participated in planning workshops, round table discussions, plenary sessions and other events for the National Health Care for the Homeless Conference
- Maintained a website on homelessness and health care featuring clinical resources on general topics as well as specific diseases and conditions
- Published and distributed five issues of the newsletter Healing Hands, three issues of the e-newsletter Healing Kids, and four issues of the e-newsletter Network News
- Surveyed members regarding our website and the Healing Hands newsletter; Communications Committee and staff are using data gathered to make improvements in these products/member benefits
- Contributed an update on Network activity to the HRSA publication Opening Doors, a newsletter going to all HCH grantees
- Published two case reports illustrating health care issues or services for homeless people that have educational value for the field of homeless health care
- Implemented a special project on poverty and health care, resulting in a model curriculum for professional schools to modify and adapt for their own use
- Focused on cognitive impairments and TBI in homeless patients, developing a monograph, Healing Hands issue and case report on this emerging topic

Next, Bechara announced election results for 2008 - 09 Network officers, who were elected during the Annual Steering Committee Meeting held on June 12:

Chair: Linda Barnet, BSN, RN  
Chair-Elect: Barbara Wismer, MD, MPH  
Secretary: Alan Pickett, BSN, RN  
Treasurer: Bob Donovan, MD

Bechara then turned the meeting over to the 2008 - 09 Network Chair, Linda Barnet.

Linda thanked Bechara for his leadership and introduced Lisa Thompson, DNP, APRN-BC, Chair of the Network Nominating Committee. Lisa presented the slate of Steering Committee candidates for election to the Steering Committee, 2008 - 2011:

- Isabella Christodoulou, MSW, LCSW, Tulane Drop-In Center, New Orleans
  - Rachel M. Herbig, MSW, MHP, Valley Cities Counseling & Consultation, Seattle
  - Gregory A. Morris, PA-C, Peak Vista Community Health Centers, Colorado Springs, Colorado
  - Tina L. White, MBA/HCM, Grace Hill Neighborhood Health Centers, Saint Louis
-

And for re-election to the Steering Committee, 2008 - 2011:

- Linda C. Barnet, BSN, RN, HCH/Mercy Medical Center, Springfield, Massachusetts
- Pia C. Valvassori, PhD, ARNP, Health Care Center for the Homeless, Orlando, Florida

The Membership approved the slate as recommended by the Nominating Committee. Elected candidates assumed office following the Annual Membership Meeting.

Tanya Page, MD, 2007 Local Hero, presented the 2008 Local Hero awards to Kathy O'Dea, CNP, RN, Hennepin County Health Care for the Homeless, Minneapolis, and Trish Lopez, MSW, Valley Cities Counseling & Consultation, Seattle. Brenda Proffitt, Network Director, presented Judi Allen, DMD, with a gift of appreciation for five years of service on the Network Steering Committee; Bob Donovan, MD, accepted the gift on Judi's behalf.

Jan Caughlan, LCSW-C, Communications Committee Chair, introduced Shoptalk, a process used by the Steering Committee to identify emerging issues, recent trends and ongoing challenges in the homeless health practice setting. The purpose of the discussion was to gather information that the Steering Committee can use to help set Network priorities and future direction. Meeting participants worked in small groups with discussion facilitated by Steering Committee members. Jan asked the participants to select one to three priorities at each table and to report to the larger group. A list of identified priorities is in Appendix A.

In terms of next steps, the Network Executive Committee will review the list of priorities and assign topics to Network working committees, as appropriate. Committees will develop proposals for Network activities and present the proposals to the Steering Committee for review and comment. Once the proposals are accepted, staff will seek funding for the activities. Not all of the listed priorities can be addressed in the coming year, but perhaps two to three of them may be funded. Network activities funded in the past include products such as:

- Workshops, pre-conference institutes, curricula development, videotape production
- Practice-based research
- Communications and publications including newsletters and monographs
- Adapted practice guidelines, pocket cards, case reports
- Web-based resources

Linda thanked the audience for its participation and adjourned the meeting.

Respectively submitted,  
Brenda Proffitt, Network Director

I hereby attest to the accuracy of these minutes:  
Alan Pickett, Network Secretary

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APPENDIX A | SHOPTALK PRIORITIES

- Youth participation in activities of the Network
- Difficult clients
- Integration of preventive care
- Continuity of mental health care (medications, referrals, post-discharge care, etc.)
- Pain management in population with substance use issues
- Housing First: Then what? (Clients with behavioral issues facing evictions, substance users who relapse, etc.)
- Chronic homeless families: Mental health services for children
- Addiction treatment integration in primary care services
- Hepatitis C, mental health and substance use: diagnosis, treatment, support, etc
- "Medical home" for people experiencing homelessness
- Cultural competency: Provider training
- Solution: creating online social support network
- Developing economic crisis affecting the most vulnerable populations
- Coordination of services for substance use and mental health, particularly for young people and families
- Financial sustainability of HCH projects, including flat funding
- Stigma [for professionals] associated with treating people experiencing homelessness
- Lack of access to specialty services
- Workforce development: Recruitment and retention [mentioned by two groups]
- Best practices and trainings for TBI
- Barriers to receiving services due to lack of identification
- Immigration and homelessness
- Sharing different tools with other projects through the Internet
- Orientation to HCH for new staff and students
- Provider stress and burnout
- Ethical issues related to services provided to people experiencing homelessness
- Long-term, stable housing
- Complex cases

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The Health Care for the Homeless Clinicians' Network brings you this Network News e-mail update. We invite you to share your opinion on issues of concern to the homeless health care community. In addition, we welcome your feedback on our e-newsletter. If you have comments or suggestions for improvements, please send them to the Network News editor, Brenda Proffitt, at [bproffitt@nhchc.org](mailto:bproffitt@nhchc.org). If you decide to cancel your subscription, please send a blank e-mail to [network@nhchc.org](mailto:network@nhchc.org), and put Leave Network News in the Subject line of your message.

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