

# NetworkNews



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

MAY 2008 | NUMBER 61

## CONTENTS

- Network-Sponsored Events at the National Health Care for the Homeless Conference
  - Meditation & Stress Reduction
  - Regional Networking Breakfast
  - 2008 Award For Outstanding Service
  - Shoptalk & 13th Annual Membership Meeting
- Oxford Health & Homelessness Conference Abstracts
- Call for presentations
- Clinical Resources Available from HRSA Information Center

## QUESTIONS FROM OUR READERS . . .

- Teaching students how to care for those in poverty

## 13th ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA

## UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

- June 11 - 14: 2008 National Health Care for the Homeless Conference & Policy Symposium
- June 19 - 20: Tuberculosis Intensive
- July 28 - 30: National Alliance to End Homelessness Annual Conference
- August 10 - 16: National Health Center Week & HCH Day
- October 6 - 7: A Home for All: Bringing the Pieces Together
- October 23 - 25: National Summit of Clinicians for Healthcare Justice
- 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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## NETWORK-SPONSORED EVENTS AT THE 2008 NATIONAL HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS CONFERENCE & SYMPOSIUM

**Meditation & Stress Reduction | Thursday | June 12 | 10:30 AM - 12 NOON | Sundance**

When your work exposes you directly and continuously to human suffering, the need to remain open and giving is high but the opportunities for emotional renewal are low. Even the most seasoned professional experiences giver's fatigue. Researchers have shown the powerful effect mindfulness can have on reducing stress and increasing vitality. Join bestselling author and Buddhist meditation teacher Susan Piver to learn simple mindfulness techniques—and the philosophy behind them—that you can put into use immediately.

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Susan Piver is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Hard Questions: 100 Essential Questions to Ask Before You Say "I Do"* and the new book, *How Not to Be Afraid of Your Own Life*, which offers insight and information from Buddhism about conquering the fears that hold you back. Piver is a graduate of a Buddhist seminary and authorized meditation instructor in the Shambhala Buddhist lineage. Piver leads meditation retreats across the country and offers workshops on meditation, creativity and the art of a contemplative life. She is a frequent contributor to *Body & Soul* magazine and *The Shambhala Sun* and is frequently in the media, including appearances on *Oprah*, the *Today* show, CNN, and in the press including *USA Today*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Time*, *Money* and others.

*How Not to Be Afraid of Your Own Life* is a winner of the 2007 Books for a Better Life Award in the Spiritual category.

"I have long recommended meditation as central to a healthy lifestyle. Susan Piver teaches this important practice in a trustworthy and practical way—and shows us how to use its lessons to create a fearless life." —Andrew Weil, MD, author of *Healthy Aging*

"Susan Piver has worked her magic again. She gives us an everyday approach to Buddhism, so that all of us can benefit from the wisdom of this magnificent philosophy. In this wacky world, we all need practices and perspectives that ground us in the here and now. Navigate and swim the river more gracefully with Susan's advice." —Rodney Yee, author of *Yoga: The Poetry of the Body*

### Regional Networking Breakfast | Friday | June 13 | 7 - 8:30 AM | Regency Ballroom

On Friday morning, we will organize seating in the conference hotel's ballroom in regional groupings during the continental breakfast. There, you will be able to meet your regional Steering Committee representatives, meet other clinicians working in your region and ask questions you may have about the Network. A map showing states by region is on page 9. Here are current Steering Committee members by region:

#### REGION I

Linda Barnet, BSN, RN | Staff Nurse | linda.barnet@sphs.com  
Health Care for the Homeless/Mercy Medical Center | Springfield, MA

Betsy Baldwin, BS | Patient Service Liaison | bbaldwin@swchc.org  
McKinney Health Care for the Homeless | Bridgeport, CT

#### REGION II

Mark Rabiner, MD | mrabiner@nyc.rr.com  
Saint Vincent Catholic Medical Centers - Saint Vincents Manhattan | New York, NY

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### REGION III

Jan Caughlan, LCSW-C | Director of Mental Health & Social Work | [jcaughlan@hchmd.org](mailto:jcaughlan@hchmd.org) | Health Care for the Homeless, Inc. | Baltimore, MD

### REGION IV

Pia Valvassori, PhD, ARNP | Assistant Medical Director | [pvalvassori@yahoo.com](mailto:pvalvassori@yahoo.com) | Health Care Center for the Homeless, Inc. | Orlando, FL

Erin Smith, MSW, LISW-CP | Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Social Worker | [erin.smith1@va.gov](mailto:erin.smith1@va.gov) | Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Affairs Medical Center | Charleston, SC

### REGION V

Bechara Choucair, MD | Medical Director/Managing Director | [bchoucair@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:bchoucair@heartlandalliance.org) | Heartland Health Outreach | Chicago, IL

Robert Donovan, MD | [brodrbob@pol.net](mailto:brodrbob@pol.net) | Cincinnati Health Network, Inc., Health Resource Center | Cincinnati, OH

Alan Pickett, BSN, RN | Mental Health Nurse | [picketta@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:picketta@ewashtenaw.org) | Project Outreach Team | Ann Arbor, MI

### REGION VI

Tina Carlson, APRN, BC | Clinical Nurse Specialist, Psychiatry | [tinacarlson@abqhch.org](mailto:tinacarlson@abqhch.org) | Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless, Inc. | Albuquerque, NM

### REGION VIII

Lisa Thompson, ND, MS, RN | [lthompson@coloradocoalition.org](mailto:lthompson@coloradocoalition.org) | Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Stout Street Clinic | Denver, CO

### REGION IX

Barbara Wismer, MD, MPH | Medical Director | [barbara.wismer@sfdph.org](mailto:barbara.wismer@sfdph.org) | Tom Waddell Health Center | San Francisco, CA

### REGION X

Bernie Creaven, MN, RN | Outreach Nurse | [bcreaven@cdchc.org](mailto:bcreaven@cdchc.org) | Carolyn Downs Family Medical Clinic | Seattle, WA

Wayne Centrone, NMD, MPH | Medical Director, Outreach Program | [wcentrone@outsidein.org](mailto:wcentrone@outsidein.org) | Outside In | Portland, OR

### 2008 Award For Outstanding Service | Friday | June 13 | 8:30 - 10 AM | Regency Ballroom

Following the keynote address during Friday's opening plenary, the Network will present its Award for Outstanding Service to Janice Kelly, LPN, founder and executive director of Bethel Recovery Center in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Janice came to this work through 25 years dealing with huge odds—four episodes of homelessness and recurring battles with alcoholism. In 1986, she transformed her life, going clean and finding a home. Since then, she has supported women and families as they do the same. With the presentation of this award, the Network strives to foster peer-to-peer recognition of the dedication and passion we see so frequently in clinicians working with homeless families and individuals.

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### Shoptalk & 13th Annual Membership Meeting | Friday | June 13 | 2 - 3:30 PM

Join other Network members at our annual meeting, which provides an opportunity to build new friendships and catch up with old friends. Network Chair Bechara Choucair will provide a summary of the year's activities and a glimpse of expected activities for the coming year. There will be a brief business meeting where we elect new Steering Committee members [see candidates' bios and statements, below] and salute 2008 Local Heroes Trish Lopez, MSW, and Kathy O'Dea, PCNP, RN.

We plan to introduce a new feature during this gathering, a process that we call Shoptalk. We will invite members to discuss clinical problems in homeless health care, noting emerging issues, recent trends and ongoing challenges. The information gathered will help focus the Network's future activities and direction. The meeting agenda is included in this newsletter on page 7.

### STEERING COMMITTEE CANDIDATES: BIOS & STATEMENTS

Isabella Christodoulou, MSW, LCSW | Tulane Drop-In Center | New Orleans, LA

Isabella has been a clinical social worker for nearly 20 years, working primarily in the field of substance abuse. Since January 2005, she has been working at the Tulane Drop-In Center, providing mental health and substance abuse services to homeless youth and youth at risk for homelessness. She provides crisis intervention, individual, couples and group therapy, and leads a writing group to empower clients' self-expression and creativity. Isabella is being trained in psychodrama psychotherapy. She has been a Network member since 2005, and recently joined the Network Pediatric Work Group.

**Candidate's statement:** "[Serving on the Steering Committee will be a] *valuable learning experience and a wonderful way to network with other like-minded health care providers. Personally and professionally, I believe that stretching out a bit will be both healthy and rewarding.*"

Rachel Herbig, MSW, MHP, RN | Mental Health Outreach Specialist | Valley Cities Counseling & Consultation | Seattle, WA

Rachel provides mental health outreach services to children, families and individuals who are living in homeless shelters or transitional housing. She performs mental health assessments, referrals, advocacy, general assistance evaluations for the department of social and health services in addition to counseling individuals and families. Rachel provides mental health and domestic violence awareness and education. A Network Member since 2007, Rachel is an active member of the Network Pediatric Work Group.

**Candidate's statement:** "*I believe every person should have rights to health care, housing and a livable income. Being on the Steering Committee would be a wonderful opportunity and a commitment I would embrace. I believe I can bring a unique perspective, and that I have the qualities and experiences to make a strong contribution to the Network.*"

Gregory A. Morris, PA-C | Director | Peak Vista Homeless Health Program | Colorado Springs, CO

Greg's goal is to "make a difference, both through providing excellent health care to the homeless and advocating fiercely for their rights." He is a primary care provider and the director of a homeless health center. Several of his accomplishments include developing and implementing an immunization program for homeless children; securing funding for a

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medical-based street outreach program; and developing "Street Gallery," a photojournalism program for clients that documents street life. In 2002, the Physician Assistant Foundation named Greg National Humanitarian of the Year. A Network Member since 2000, Greg recently joined the Network Membership Committee.

**Candidate's statement:** *"As with any organization, the key to the Network's success is involvement. To be able to provide this type of support for its members, takes involvement by its members. If I can somehow give back to the Network by serving on the Steering Committee, I would consider it an honor."*

**Tina L. White, MBA/HCM | Homeless Services Coordinator | Grace Hill Neighborhood Health Centers | Saint Louis, MO**

Tina has extensive experience in the health care sector ranging from clinical care to administrative responsibility. In her position, she compiles, analyzes and monitors statistical data as it relates to patient care needs. Tina coordinates social work coverage for five clinical facilities, and provides case management services. She is liaison to over 32 shelters, providing an orientation to shelter directors on common health problems in the shelter setting and the proper response. Tina chairs the Homeless Advisory Board; is the Grace Hill representative at Homeless Network Board meetings; and is a member of the CoC Service Delivery Committee and Transitional Housing Subcommittee. Tina has been a Network member since 2008.

**Candidate's statement:** *"With over 12 years of health care experience as a medical assistant, social worker, and homeless services coordinator, I have extensive knowledge of issues pertaining to reforming the health care system to meet the needs of homeless people. With my educational background and work history, I can propose new and innovative ideas that shape the direction of the Network. Being a Steering Committee member will provide opportunities to strengthen my profession by learning different ideas from other regions."*

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## **OXFORD HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS**

**Deadline: May 31, 2008**

There is still time to submit an abstract for the Third Oxford Health and Homelessness Conference. Please send your abstract for consideration to [cpdhealth@conted.ox.ac.uk](mailto:cpdhealth@conted.ox.ac.uk) by **Saturday, May 31**. The form for submitting abstracts is on page 10. Further details of the conference are available at [www.conted.ox.ac.uk/cpd/homelessconf08](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/cpd/homelessconf08). If you would like to attend the conference, register your interest by e-mailing [cpdhealth@conted.ox.ac.uk](mailto:cpdhealth@conted.ox.ac.uk).

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## **CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS!**

**Deadline: June 30, 2008**

The Florida Coalition for the Homeless, Florida Supportive Housing Coalition, and the Florida Department of Children and Families are presenting the second annual homeless and supportive housing conference, *A Home for All: Bringing the Pieces Together*.

We are seeking exemplary speakers who are willing to share their experience and skills with supportive housing and homeless service providers, advocates, housing providers, local and state government officials, and people with special needs and their families. If you are

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interested in presenting, please submit a proposal at [www.flshc.net/events.htm](http://www.flshc.net/events.htm). We are accepting proposals through June 30, 2008. Please contact me if you are interested in presenting, so I can follow-up or answer any questions. We hope to see you in October!  
Freyja Sutherland Harris | Program Director | Florida Coalition for the Homeless  
phone: 850 412-0021 | e-mail: [freyja@fchonline.org](mailto:freyja@fchonline.org)

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### **CLINICAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE FROM HRSA INFORMATION CENTER**

*A Way with Words: Guidelines for Writing Oral Health Materials for Audiences with Limited Literacy* provides tips to help those who produce educational materials make them easy for everyone to understand, and thus more useful. The tip sheet offers suggestions for how to choose words; set an appropriate tone; and craft sentences, paragraphs, lists and headings that communicate most effectively with people with limited literacy. Ideas for how to design documents and how to present unfamiliar terminology are also presented. A list of resources for more information is included. Electronic copies are available from OHRC's website at [www.mchoralhealth.org/PDFs/AWaywithWords.pdf](http://www.mchoralhealth.org/PDFs/AWaywithWords.pdf).

*Dental Hygienists and Head Start: What You Should Know and How You Can Help* provides information about how dental hygienists can help address the oral health needs of pregnant women, infants and children enrolled in Head Start. The tip sheet presents an overview of the Head Start program, information on children's access to services and oral health status, and promising approaches to providing care for Head Start participants. Electronic copies are available from OHRC's website at [www.mchoralhealth.org/PDFs/HSRDH.pdf](http://www.mchoralhealth.org/PDFs/HSRDH.pdf).

*Knowledge Path: Health and Pregnant Women, Infants, Children and Adolescents* is an electronic guide to resources that analyze data, describe effective programs and report on policy and research aimed at improving oral health access and quality. The knowledge path includes links to websites and electronic publications; journal articles, books, reports and other print publications; databases; and discussion groups and electronic newsletters. Access Knowledge Path at [www.mchoralhealth.org/knwpathoralhealth.html](http://www.mchoralhealth.org/knwpathoralhealth.html).

Single or multiple print copies of the top sheets are also available at no charge from:  
HRSA Information Center | P.O. Box 2910 | Merrifield, VA 22116  
phone: 888 ASK-HRSA (275-4882) | e-mail: [ask@hrsa.gov](mailto:ask@hrsa.gov)

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### **QUESTIONS FROM OUR READERS . . .**

#### **TEACHING STUDENTS HOW TO CARE FOR THOSE IN POVERTY**

My name is Dr. Cynthia Arndell and I am a physician on faculty at the University of New Mexico. We live in an extremely poor state, rated 48th in the nation. We have a large population of Hispanics, Native American Indians, homeless persons and undocumented immigrants. I have worked with underserved populations for over 25 years as both a nurse and physician and have begun to develop a poverty and health care curriculum that will span

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the four years of medical school training at UNM. The core design team for the curriculum plans to incorporate a transdisciplinary approach into the teaching methods involving other disciplines, i.e., nursing, law and pharmacy. I would greatly appreciate feedback and/or experience that any of you have had in teaching students on how to care for those experiencing poverty. Thank you for your time and valuable input.

Cynthia Arndell, MD | UNM Family Health Clinic | University of New Mexico | Health Sciences Center | School of Medicine | Albuquerque, NM  
e-mail: CArndell@salud.unm.edu

**13th ANNUAL HCH CLINICIANS' NETWORK MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
HYATT REGENCY PHOENIX | REGENCY BALLROOM, FIRST FLOOR  
FRIDAY | JUNE 13 | 2 - 3:30 PM | AGENDA**

**Welcome** - Bechara Choucair, MD, 2007 - 08 Network Chair - 7 minutes

- Network annual report
- Announce election results for 2008 - 09 officers
- Introduce 2008 - 09 Network Chair, Linda Barnet, BSN, RN

**Presentation of thank you gift to Outgoing Chair** - Linda Barnet - 5 minutes

**Steering Committee election** - Lisa Thompson, ND, MS, RN, Nominating Committee Chair - 5 minutes

**Local Hero awards' presentation** - Tanya Page, MD, 2007 Local Hero - 10 minutes

- Kathy O'Dea, CNP, RN
- Trish Lopez, MSW

**Shoptalk** - Jan Caughlan, LCSW-C, Communications Committee Chair

- Introduction: Purpose, objectives, process - 10 minutes
- Brainstorming in small groups/rounds - 30 minutes
  - Steering Committee members, current & present, facilitate discussion
  - Topics: Current clinical problems in the homeless health practice setting: emerging issues, recent trends, pernicious challenges, potential solutions you wish to advance
- Select top two priorities - 10 minutes
- Small groups report out priorities - 12 minutes

**Wrap up, announce next steps and adjourn meeting** - Linda Barnet - 3 minutes

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### UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

**June 11 - 14:** 2008 National Health Care for the Homeless Conference & Policy Symposium | Hyatt Regency | Phoenix, AZ | [www.nhchc.org](http://www.nhchc.org)

**June 19 - 20:** Tuberculosis Intensive | Francis J. Curry National Tuberculosis Center | Seattle, WA | [www.nationaltbcenter.edu/training/tb\\_intensive.cfm](http://www.nationaltbcenter.edu/training/tb_intensive.cfm)

**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

**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

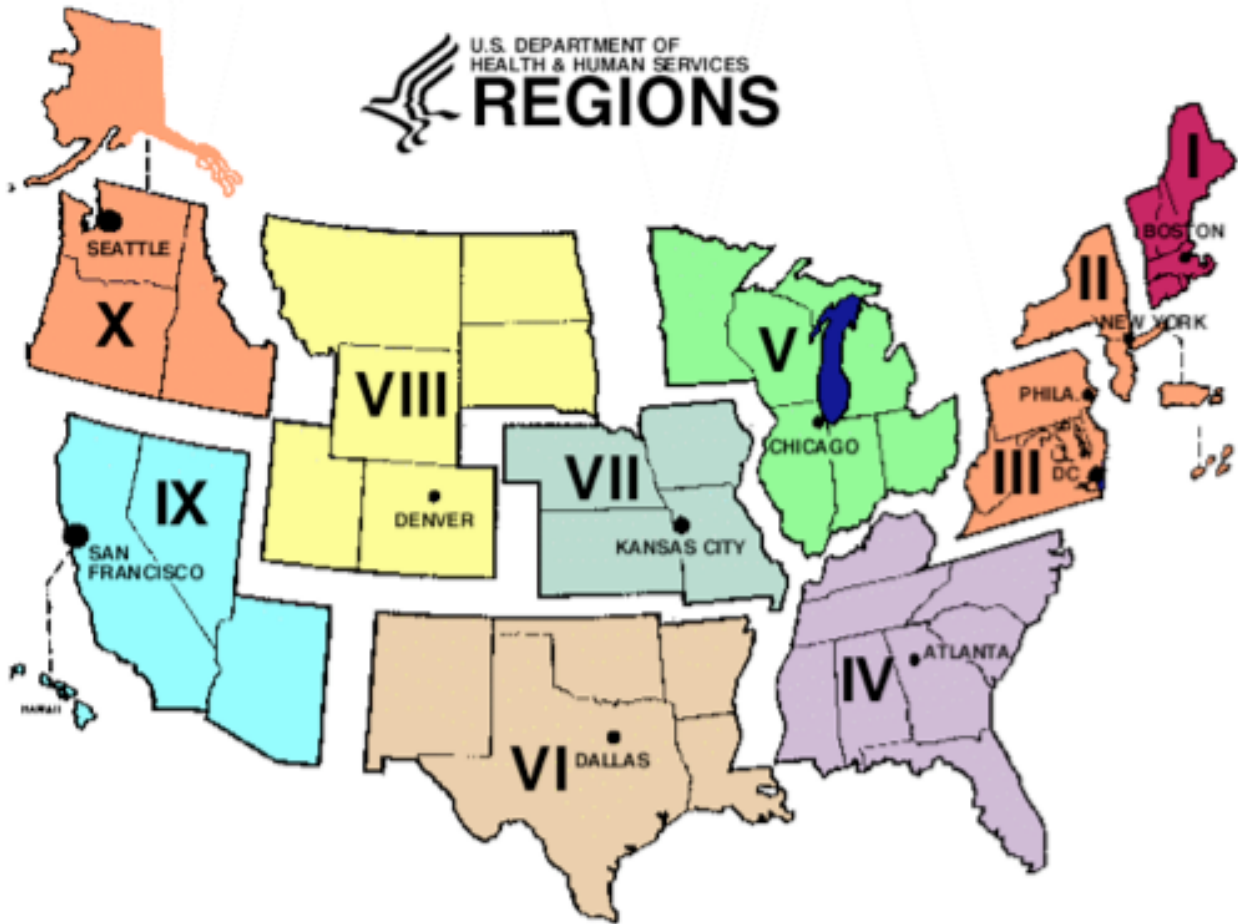
**June 23 - 27, 2009:** National Health Care for the Homeless Conference & Policy Symposium | Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill | Washington, DC

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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.

The Network develops this publication with support from the Health Resources & Services Administration. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HRSA/BPHC, the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, Inc., or the Health Care for the Homeless Clinicians' Network.





**THIRD OXFORD HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS CONFERENCE  
FORM FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACT 2<sup>nd</sup> call**

Name (including title):

Post:

Institution:

Address for correspondence:

Telephone:

Mobile:

Email:

I am submitting an abstract for poster presentation / oral presentation (delete as appropriate)

**Abstract:** (maximum 250 words)

**Brief guidance for presenters:**

- Presentations should be relevant to the issue of health / healthcare and homelessness.
- Presentations should cover either recent original research or recent reviews of the literature in either case, the research or review must have been carried out by the presenter or a member of the team who has given permission for the presentation.
- Descriptions / evaluations of services where there has been relevant data collection and / or qualitative enquiry will also be welcome.
- Oral presentations should be no longer than 20-25 minutes with 5 minutes for questions / discussion and must be accompanied by a PowerPoint or similar presentation, submitted at least 2 weeks prior to the conference.
- Poster presentation should be printed by the presenter as an A0 poster and accompanied by a printed version for distribution to delegates (to be provided by the presenter)

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: 31 May 2008**

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