

Respite RCPN News

An E-newsletter for Respite Care Providers' Network Members

In This Issue

[Medical Respite Webinar](#)

[Preventing and Managing Bed Bugs](#)

[Medical Respite Pre-conference Institute](#)

[Accepting Nominations for the RCPN Steering Committee](#)

[Medical Respite Programs Respond to the Health Care Innovation Challenge](#)

Quick Links

[Join RCPN](#)

[Respite News Archive](#)

[Webinar Archive](#)

Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

UPCOMING WEBINAR: INFECTION CONTROL POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR MEDICAL RESPITE PROGRAMS

Webinar: Infection Control Policies and Practices for Medical Respite Programs

Thursday, January 26, 2 - 3pm EST

Medical respite programs provide post-acute clinical care and 24-hour bed rest to people experiencing homelessness and recuperating from illness or injury. With patients often sharing the same quarters, effective infection control policies are necessary to prevent the spread of disease, particularly for patients who are immunocompromised. This webinar will describe infection control policies and practices to prevent the spread of infections related to respiratory disease, wounds, and gastrointestinal illnesses. Attendees will also learn from a medical respite program that primarily serves people who are diagnosed with tuberculosis. Program development, including funding, will be discussed. This webinar will be of interest to homeless health care administrators and clinicians, medical respite care providers, emergency shelter providers, public health and safety officials, and others interested in improving policies and practices in the medical respite setting.

Speakers:

Jessie Gaeta, MD, Medical Director
McInnis House
Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program
Boston, MA

Timothy Johnson, BA, BBA
Chief Operating Officer
Harmony House, Inc.
Houston, TX

[Webinar registration](#)

BED BUGS: GUIDELINES FOR PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

Bed bugs are known to wreak havoc at homeless shelters and other congregate living facilities. Though they are not known to carry disease, their bites can leave itchy welts on the skin and scratching can cause secondary infection. For people who are experiencing homelessness, having bed bugs can be particularly stressful as exposure can lead to stigma and social isolation, loss of personal items, and can even disrupt housing access and stability when landlords are made aware of infestations.

Like any living facility, medical respite programs should have policies and procedures in place to control bed bugs and to accommodate guests who have been exposed. The New York State Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program at Cornell University has produced a comprehensive bed bug prevention and management manual for the New York City Department of Homeless Services. This manual provides practical steps that providers can take to control bed bugs. In addition to providing guidance for shaping program policies, the manual provides advice for social workers and medical professionals who are assisting individuals who have been exposed to bed bugs.

[Guidelines for Prevention and Management of Bed Bugs in Shelters and Group Living Facilities](#)

GET READY FOR THE 2012 NATIONAL HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS CONFERENCE AND MEDICAL RESPITE PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTE

When: May 15-18, Kansas City, MO
Registration opens January 24, 2012

This May, the National Health Care for the Homeless Conference & Policy Symposium will take place in Kansas City, MO, the "City of Fountains". With affordable flights and hotel accommodations, Kansas City makes an ideal location to bring together providers, consumers, and advocates whose agencies may be faced with tight budgets.

By popular demand, the 2012 Medical Respite Pre-conference Institute (held on May 15, 2012) will continue to provide two-tracks to accommodate the learning needs of individuals new to medical respite care as well as those who have advanced knowledge. The beginner track will provide an Introduction to Medical Respite Care covering its role in the continuum of health care for people experiencing homelessness, program models, and tips for starting a medical respite program. The advanced track will focus on the current health reform environment and implications for medical respite programs. Topics will include opportunities for program growth, integrating medical respite programs into health home models, and partnering with local Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs).

The afternoon session of the Medical Respite Pre-conference Institute will bring both beginners and advanced participants together to learn and share quality improvement strategies that have been effective in patient retention, improved access, and improved outcomes.

Several workshops related to medical respite care will be offered throughout the general conference as well. Workshop topics include the role of specialized medical respite care in treating HIV-positive homeless adults, harm reduction in the medical respite setting, and improving transitions from hospitals.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE RCPN STEERING COMMITTEE?

We invite you to nominate yourself, a colleague or a program participant for a position on the National Health Care for the Homeless Respite Care Providers' Network (RCPN) Steering Committee. The RCPN Steering Committee manages and directs the work of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council as it relates to medical respite care. To accomplish this work, the Committee meets monthly by teleconference and twice annually in-person; once in October at the Council headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee, and again in May in conjunction with the National Health Care for the Homeless Conference.

Two Steering Committee positions are open. Nominees must be current RCPN members who have been members for at least one year. Serving in this capacity provides opportunities for professional development, collaboration with others involved in medical respite care, and active participation in directing the Council's work on the national level.

How does the nomination process work?

Use the link below to read more about the nomination process, to learn about the roles and responsibilities of RCPN Steering Committee members, and submit a nomination form. Current members of the RCPN Steering Committee will review nominations, interview nominees, and determine the slate of nominees, which will be announced at the Medical Respite Pre-conference Institute on May 15, 2012.

Nomination instructions and the list of current RCPN Steering Committee members can be found on the [RCPN webpage](#).

The deadline to submit nominations is **Friday, February 24, 2012**.

For questions, contact Sabrina Edgington, Program and Policy Specialist, at sedgington@nhhc.org or 615-226-2292.

NEARLY HALF OF U.S. MEDICAL RESPITE PROGRAMS RESPOND TO THE NATIONAL HCH COUNCIL'S REQUEST FOR PARTNERSHIP

Last month, the National HCH Council announced that it would apply for a cooperative agreement through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Health Care Innovation Challenge. Funding made available through the cooperative agreement would allow the National HCH Council to test a standardized health care delivery and payment model across a number of medical respite programs. Of roughly 60 medical respite programs in the United States, 30 programs submitted letters indicating their interest in participating in this challenge. The Health Care Innovation Challenge aims to fund new models of service delivery/payment improvements that hold the promise of achieving the three-part aim of better health, better health care, and lower costs. The National HCH Council will submit its application by January 27, 2012. The CMS Innovation Center will announce awardees by the end of March 2012; if selected, the Council will issue an RFP to the medical respite programs that submitted letters of interest.

Sabrina Edgington, MSSW | *Respite News* Editor
Respite Care Providers' Network Coordinator
National Health Care for the Homeless Council, Inc.
sedgington@nhhc.org | 615/226-2292 | www.nhhc.org

HEALTH CARE AND HOUSING ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

NATIONAL
HEALTH CARE
for the
HOMELESS
COUNCIL

This publication was made possible by grant number U30CS09746 from the Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Primary Health Care. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HRSA.

