



January 2014

Respite **RCPN** News

An E-newsletter for Respite Care Providers' Network Members

In This Issue

[Medical Respite Pre-conference Institute](#)

[RCPN Steering Committee - Call for Nominations](#)

[Award for Excellence - Call for Nominations](#)

[Medicaid Enrollment](#)

[New Program - Los Angeles](#)

[New Program - Asheville](#)

Quick Links

[Join RCPN](#)

[Respite News Archive](#)

[Webinar Archive](#)

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YOU'RE INVITED: 2014 Medical Respite Pre-conference Institute

Join us in New Orleans on May 27, 2014 for the Medical Respite Pre-Conference Institute, *Medical Respite Care: Making the Most out of Health Reform*. This event precedes the National Health Care for the Homeless Conference and Policy Symposium and offers a full day of intensive learning and skill building for people interested in medical respite care.

This year's institute will include two main sessions. The first session will provide attendees with an overview of the newly developed medical respite standards, established as part of an effort to gain third party reimbursement and/or targeted funding by more clearly defining the scope of care and services provided by medical respite programs. Those new to medical respite care will participate in a discussion with experts to understand how these standards can be used as a framework for understanding medical respite care and for starting programs. Those coming from established medical respite programs will learn how to incorporate specific standards into current programming. The second session will focus on health reform and implications for medical respite programs. Breakout sessions, accommodating both beginner and advanced learners, will describe how new initiatives to improve quality and costs can create new partnerships and funding opportunities for medical respite programs.

Group activities and networking opportunities sprinkled throughout the day will ensure a lively and thought-provoking event. Attendees will walk away with better understanding of how medical respite programs can thrive in a new health reform environment.

Click [here](#) for more information about the 2014 National HCH Conference and Pre-conference Institutes.

RCPN Steering Committee Call for Nominations

We invite you to nominate yourself, a colleague or a program participant for a position on the National Health Care for the Homeless Council's 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 conjunction with the National Health Care for the Homeless Conference.

Four 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.

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

The deadline to submit nominations is **Friday, February 14, 2014**.

Medical Respite Award for Excellence Call for Nominations

Participants in medical respite programs have emphasized the importance of dedicated and compassionate staff not only to physical recovery, but in many cases, to longer-term health and housing stability. To honor the work of medical respite staff, leaders, and advocates, the National Health Care for the Homeless Council and Respite Care Providers' Network are pleased to announce the second annual Medical Respite Award for Excellence. This award recognizes those who have delivered outstanding medical respite services as well as those who have promoted medical respite programs in their communities or nationally.

The Medical Respite Award for Excellence recognizes outstanding contribution to the field of medical respite care by a person/team/agency as determined by their impact on improved health and quality of life for people experiencing homelessness. Contributions in the field can include (but are not limited to) clinical care, program development, policy change, advocacy, community collaboration, or innovations in research.

If you know of a person, team, or agency that has made a profound impact in your community through the delivery or advancement of medical respite care, please consider submitting a nomination to have their work recognized nationally.

A task force of the RCPN Steering Committee will select the award recipient and present the award during the National Health Care for the Homeless Conference and Policy Symposium, May 28-30, 2014 in New Orleans. The deadline for submissions is **Friday, February 14, 2014**.

[Medical Respite Award for Excellence nomination form](#)

Medical Respite Programs Boost Medicaid Enrollment and Improve Patient Navigation





Diana Anderson, Outreach Specialist and Certified In-person Assister, Yakima Neighborhood Health Services (Yakima, Washington), with John Panther

In Medicaid expansion states, medical respite programs can play an integral role in helping people experiencing homelessness enroll in Medicaid and understand how to best use their new health care coverage. Providers from two medical respite programs located in the state of Washington offer tips for helping patients become comfortably integrated into the health care system.

1. Many patients referred from a hospital or health center will have started and/or completed a Medicaid application by the time they arrive at the medical respite site. Medical respite staff should check each patient's enrollment status to verify that their application was completed.
2. If patients have not completed their applications (i.e., selected a provider), connect them to a health navigator who can help them finish the process.
3. Patients may have completed their applications but may not know how to contact their assigned primary care provider (PCP). Medical respite staff can help patients learn how and when to contact their new PCPs.
4. If a follow up appointment with their PCP is not already scheduled, medical respite staff should schedule an appointment (preferably while the patient is still in the medical respite program) and attend the appointment with patients if necessary and desired.
5. If patients reside in a part of town that is far from their PCP's office, identify a transportation plan for helping them meet their scheduled appointments.
6. If needed, allow patients to use the medical respite program's address to receive their Medicaid cards and appointment information.

Article contributors:

Ed Dwyer O'Conner, Senior Manager, Downtown Programs, Ambulatory and Allied Care Services, Harborview Medical Center (Edward Thomas House Medical Respite Program), Seattle, Washington

Annette Rodriguez, Yakima Neighborhood Health Services Director of Homeless & Housing Programs, Yakima, Washington

National Health Foundation and Illumination Foundation Open Third Medical Respite Program

On Tuesday, October 22, 2013, a coalition of providers announced 20 new recuperative care beds in San Gabriel Valley, a region located in Los Angeles County. The new beds, located in a converted motel, will add to the existing 55 beds jointly operated by the National Health Foundation and the Illumination Foundation. Spearheading the effort is Methodist Hospital of Southern California along with Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, Corporation for Supportive Housing, National Health Foundation, Pomona Community Health Clinic, YWCA-San Gabriel Valley, Huntington Memorial Medical Center and Citrus Valley Medical Center, who have committed \$1.3 million dollars toward the

Center, who have committed \$1.5 million dollars toward the implementation and operation of this expanded project. More recently, the program received a \$250,000 grant from the Harold Edelstein Foundation.

Since 2010, Recuperative Care centers operating in Los Angeles and Orange County have saved participating hospitals more than \$11 million; more than 1500 patients have been served, of whom 43% were connected to housing options and only 11% were re-admitted to the hospital post-recuperation.

Watch a short video about the [National Health Foundation's Recuperative Care Program](#).

New Medical Respite Program Opens in Asheville

A renovated church building is the new home to a 10-bed medical respite program in Asheville, North Carolina. The Haywood Street Respite program will link patients to primary care and provide supportive services as part of an effort to strengthen the continuum of care for more than 500 individuals in Asheville who lack housing. The annual budget of approximately \$200,000 will come from a combination of grants, contributions from partner churches and gifts from individual donors.

Learn more about the [Haywood Street Respite program](#).

Sabrina Edgington, MSSW | Respite News Editor

Respite Care Providers' Network Coordinator

National Health Care for the Homeless Council, Inc.

sedgington@nhchc.org | (615) 226-2292 | www.nhchc.org

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