

THE CONSUMER VOICE

News from the National Consumer Advisory Board

Volume 2: Winter 2018

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Art Rios Sr.
NCAB Chair

Letter from the Chair

Welcome to the second edition of *The Consumer Voice*, the newsletter of the National Consumer Advisory Board, otherwise known as NCAB! In these pages, we'll provide interesting information and resources to educate and inform stakeholders of Health Care for the Homeless clinics nationwide. As a network of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council (NHCHC), NCAB works to empower consumers to improve their health and to end the national plague of homelessness. We intend for *The Consumer Voice* to serve as the voice of those vulnerable persons who struggle daily to overcome the trauma of homelessness. In the following pages you will find:

- A highlight of Homeless Persons' Memorial Day
- Opportunities for the upcoming 2019 National HCH Conference
- A recurring section, known as The CAB Spotlight, which will highlight what consumers are doing nationwide

The NCAB sprang to life in 2003, the product of a visionary consumer, Ellen Dailey, who tirelessly sought to increase access to health care and housing. Ellen began her advocacy in the Boston area, and broadened it nationally through NCAB. Her legacy continues through an annual award named in her honor and is presented at NHCHC's annual conferences. Ellen truly was a voice for consumers. You can find more information about Ellen Dailey and the founding CAB at Boston in our new case study here:

https://www.nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/boston-cab-case-study_final.pdf

The NCAB works through a 12-member steering committee. You can find more information about the NCAB here, as well as our individual biographies:

<https://www.nhchc.org/ncab-leaders/>

We hope you enjoy this second edition of *The Consumer Voice*, and that you find it useful, lively, and interesting. We welcome your feedback and contributions, particularly from persons who are experiencing the challenges of homelessness. For more information, please contact our National Consumer Advocate, Katherine Cavanaugh at kcavanaugh@nhchc.org.

Thanks for reading and see us at the NCAB table in May at the 2019 NHCHC Annual Conference in Washington D.C.!



NCAB



Homeless Persons' Memorial Day

Nighttime holds special significance for persons experiencing homelessness. Night is when we seek shelter and safe places for our belongings. Nighttime is also when we are most vulnerable, and when theft and violence are most likely to occur.

This is why for nearly 20 years, communities nationwide observe **National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day (HPMD)** on or near the winter solstice—December 21—the longest night of the year.

Co-sponsored by the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH), NHCHC, and NCAB, hundreds of cities, representing more than 30 states and the District of Columbia, are known to host HPMD events to remember our unhoused neighbors who died during the past year.

HPMD events bring much-needed public attention to the tragedy of homelessness during the height of the holiday season. Communities commemorate HPMD in a variety of ways. Past events have included:

- Candlelight vigils
- Silent marches
- Gravesite services
- Plays and Performances
- Special religious services
- Public policy advocacy events



We at NCAB encourage communities to commemorate HPMD. We believe it is important to give a measure of dignity and respect to our brethren who may not have received the benefit of such compassion when they were alive. HPMD events serve as a powerful reminder that homelessness should never be tolerated in a civilized society.

For more information on HPMD events, or technical assistance in setting up your own event, please contact Katherine Cavanaugh, National Consumer Advocate, at kcavanaugh@nhchc.org.

CAB Spotlight

This section of The Consumer Voice spotlights the accomplishments of Consumer Advisory Boards nationwide. Please let us know if your CAB spearheads an activity or reaches a special goal, and it can shine in the spotlight! For this second issue, we focus the Spotlight on consumers who attended our 2018 National Conference.

2018 Conference reflections



2018 NCAB Orientation Attendees

Jacquelyn Hardy; Birmingham, AL:

“I had the opportunity to speak with Directors, CEOs, board members, and consumers and I found that we all were on the same journey. It was inspiring to be part of so many different people, age, creed, color, and ethnicity with the same purpose and admiration to fulfill our dreams successfully.”



Warren Berke; New York City

“A major benefit was being exposed to different approaches used around the country in solving the mutual issues we all are jointly seeking solutions to.”



Brandon Beriyan; Baltimore, MD

“I really appreciated the Supporting Partnerships for Anti-Racist Communities (SPARC) workshop talking about the systems that cause and effect of homelessness, like race.”

Paula Lomazzi; Sacramento, CA

“My favorite workshop was “Fostering Trauma-Informed Leadership Skills for Consumers” which was well prepared and presented by consumers, in a trauma informed way. I presented some of the material I learned to my Consumer Advisory Board (CAB).”



Carmon Ryals; Albuquerque, NM

“In going to the conference, I realized just how important our mission is working with the new attendees so that they can come back wanting to learn more and get involved with NCAB and our Steering Committee again.”

Council News

National HCH Council Section: 2019 Conference



Each year the NHCHC gathers administrators, providers, consumers, and advocates for our Conference and Policy Symposium. This annual gathering provides space to learn about issues at the intersection of housing and healthcare while networking and learning from peers across the county. NCAB would like to invite you to participate in this event through the Ellen Dailey Consumer Advocate Award, nominations for NCAB Steering Committee, and the chance to attend the conference through a subsidy.

- Nominate a person with the lived experience in your community who has worked to improve your community at www.nhchc.org/ellendailey.
- Nominate yourself if you want to be a part of the National Consumer Advisory Board to work on projects that advance the consumer movement at www.nhchc.org/ncabnominations.
- Apply for a subsidy to attend our National Conference in Washington, D.C. on May 23-25, 2019 at www.nhchc.org/hch2019subsidies.
 - All nominations will be open from January 8 to February 28, 2019.

National Healthcare for the Homeless Council

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Upcoming Events!

2019 NATIONAL HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS Conference & Policy Symposium



May 22 - 25
Washington, D.C.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR JUSTICE



The NCAB Steering Committee is composed of 12 members, half of whom are up for re-election in any given year. All of us have stories stemming from our lived experience of homelessness. Please view our biographies at <https://www.nhchc.org/ncab-leaders/>.

2019 NCAB members include:

Art Rios	Chair	Regional	
Deidre Young	Co-Chair	Representatives	
Sukari Finley	Co-Chair	Derek Winbush	1 & 2
Valarie Dowell	Peer Advocate	David Peery	3 & 4
Joanne Guarino	Member at Large	Oliver Coleman	6 & 8
Carmon Ryals	Member at Large	Keith Belton	5 & 7
Gayle Dorskey	Member at Large	Paul Tunison	9 & 10
Rodney Dawkins	Immediate Past Chair		