The National Health Care for the Homeless Council is a leader in providing information on the intersection of health care and homelessness. National and local journalists from media outlets of all sizes have utilized the expertise of our community and staff to help define concepts that are often complex so that they are better understood by their audience of readers, listeners and viewers. The experts who comprise our Media Bureau bring a wealth of knowledge on a variety of topics, and this publication lists areas where the Council’s expertise has been commonly sought.

To contact any of these experts, or to request information on other topics relevant to the Council’s work toward improving health care and eliminating homelessness, contact Terri Woodmore, Communications Manager, at ttwoodmore@nhchc.org.

Visit us online for a sample of our recent media coverage.
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- HIV/AIDS
- Influenza
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- Rural Homelessness
- Veterans
- Women
Conditions and Diseases

Behavioral Health

Council Staff

Lily Catalano, BA
Clinical Manager

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Katie League, LCSW-C
COVID-19 Project Manager

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Houston, TX

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Conditions and Diseases

Cardiovascular Disease

Council Staff

Tineciaa Harris, MSPH, MS
Clinical and Quality Improvement Manager
Tineciaa Harris works to improve the clinical environment in health centers broadly through education, training, technical assistance, and policy with a focus on quality improvement. She operates on the national level in frequent partnership with both federal and non-profit organizations and leads initiatives that seek to improve health outcomes for people experiencing homelessness.

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Conditions and Diseases

Chronic Pain

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Professor of Medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham
Homewood, AL

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Conditions and Diseases

Cognitive Disability

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Conditions and Diseases
Cold-Related Injuries

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Behavioral Health Consultant, Project HOME, Healthcare Services Department
Philadelphia, PA

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Conditions and Diseases

Communicable Diseases

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Registered Nurse and Community Volunteer
Topeka, KS

Erin Ryan, MSW, MPH
Senior Vice President, The Night Ministry
Chicago, IL

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Conditions and Diseases

COVID-19

Council Staff

**Hugo Aguas, MA**  
Research Associate

Hugo Aguas works with the research team to research health outcomes using data driven methodologies. He collaborates with other community health partners throughout the country to develop educational materials pertaining to medical care for those experiencing homelessness; disseminates data; and provides ease-of-access to community partners throughout the nation.

**Barbara DiPietro, PhD**  
Senior Director of Policy

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Philadelphia, PA

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Conditions and Diseases

Diabetes

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Director of Research

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Darlene Jenkins, DrPH
Senior Director of Programs

Darlene Jenkins directs and coordinates the program areas of the Council and supports the work of the research, clinical and quality, and community engagement teams. As a public health practitioner, registered dietitian, and certified health education specialist, she provides training and technical assistance in the areas of health equity, social determinants of health, and diabetes prevention and management.
Conditions and Diseases
Diabetes (continued)

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HCH Community Experts

Eric Hunter
Videographer/Photographer, Ebenezer Baptist Church
Atlanta, GA

Christine Zacchei, MSS, LCSW
Behavioral Health Consultant, Project HOME, Healthcare Services Department
Philadelphia, PA

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Conditions and Diseases

Heat-Related Injuries

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Conditions and Diseases

HIV/AIDS

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Conditions and Diseases

Influenza

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Conditions and Diseases  
Mental Health (continued)
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Conditions and Diseases
Physical Disability

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Conditions and Diseases

Substance Use Disorder, Harm Reduction, and Medication-Assisted Treatment

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Conditions and Diseases

Substance Use Disorder, Harm Reduction, and Medication-Assisted Treatment (continued)

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Conditions and Diseases

Trauma

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Katherine Cavanaugh, MSW
Consumer Advocacy Manager

Katherine Cavanaugh staffs the National Consumer Advisory Board (NCAB), helps to coordinate consumer initiatives, and further develops Council relationships with local Consumer Advisory Boards (CABs).

Cindy Manginelli, BS
Director of Community Engagement

Cindy Manginelli directs the Council’s efforts to engage and create a diverse community of individuals, coalitions, and programs that directly address issues at the intersection of homelessness and health care. She also manages the Council’s ongoing work to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within the community of those who experience and address homelessness.

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Behavioral Health Consultant, Project HOME, Healthcare Services Department  
Philadelphia, PA

To request an interview with one of our staff or community experts, contact Terri Woodmore, Communications Manager, at twoodmore@nhchc.org
Conditions and Diseases

Tuberculosis

Council Staff

Courtney Pladsen, DNP, FNP-BC, RN
Director of Clinical and Quality Improvement

Courtney Pladsen leads initiatives to improve the delivery of primary care, substance use treatment, and mental health care nationally. She directs training and quality improvement initiatives, and contributes to research and policy recommendations on emerging clinical issues affecting people experiencing homelessness.

Bobby Watts, MPH, MS
Chief Executive Officer

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Homeless Services
Cold Weather Sheltering

Council Staff

Cindy Manginelli, BS
Director of Community Engagement

Cindy Manginelli directs the Council’s efforts to engage and create a diverse community of individuals, coalitions, and programs that directly address issues at the intersection of homelessness and health care. She also manages the Council’s ongoing work to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within the community of those who experience and address homelessness.

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HCH Community Experts

Patricia Brown, BA
Affiliate Faculty, University of Washington Oral Health Collaborative
Lynnwood, WA

Walter Herres
Founder & CEO, SHILO (Supporting the Homeless Innovatively Loving Others)
Edison, NJ

Brenda Konkel, JD
Executive Director, Madison Area Care for the Homeless
Madison, WI

Heidi Nelson, MHSA
CEO, Duffy Health Center
Hyannis, MA

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Homeless Services

COVID-19 Testing

Council Staff

Hugo Aguas, MA
Research Associate

Hugo Aguas works with the research team to research health outcomes using data driven methodologies. He collaborates with other community health partners throughout the country to develop educational materials pertaining to medical care for those experiencing homelessness; disseminates data; and provides ease-of-access to community partners throughout the nation.

Barbara DiPietro, PhD
Senior Director of Policy

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HCH Community Experts

Kelly Bruno, MSW
President & CEO, National Health Foundation
Los Angeles, CA

Josephine Ensign, DrPH, RN, ARNP
Professor, University of Washington
Seattle, WA

Frances Isbell, MS
CEO, Healthcare for the Homeless – Houston
Houston, TX

David Modersbach
Grants Manager, Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless Program
Oakland, CA

Natalia Rodriguez, PhD, MPH
Assistant Professor of Public Health, Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN

Erin Ryan, MSW, MPH
Senior Vice President, The Night Ministry
Chicago, IL

Elizabeth Torkington, BSN, RN, PHN
Street Health Outreach Director, Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center
Oakland, CA

Christine Zacchei, MSS, LCSW
Behavioral Health Consultant, Project HOME, Healthcare Services Department
Philadelphia, PA

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**Homeless Services**

**COVID-19 Vaccination**

**Council Staff**

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Research Associate

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**Katie League, LCSW-C**
COVID-19 Project Manager

Katie League works with the policy team to support the Council’s efforts surrounding the COVID-19 global pandemic. She works to identify and promote promising practices, common challenges, and key policy issues faced by the HCH community.

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Christine Zacchei, MSS, LCSW  
Behavioral Health Consultant, Project HOME, Healthcare Services Department  
Philadelphia, PA

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Emergency Preparedness (Severe Weather, Natural Disasters)

Council Staff

Courtney Pladsen, DNP, FNP-BC, RN
Director of Clinical and Quality Improvement
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Homeless Services

Emergency Preparedness (Severe Weather, Natural Disasters) (continued)

HCH Community Experts

Kristie Hartig, MSN, RN, PHN, CWOCN, CNE
Registered Nurse and Community Volunteer
Topeka, KS

Frances Isbell, MS
CEO, Healthcare for the Homeless – Houston
Houston, TX

David Modersbach
Grants Manager, Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless Program
Oakland, CA

Natalia Rodriguez, PhD, MPH
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Christine Zacchei, MSS, LCSW
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HCH Community Experts

Randle Loeb, MDiv, MS
People’s Advocacy Council, Stout Street Health Center, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
Denver, CO

Christine Zacchei, MSS, LCSW
Behavioral Health Consultant, Project HOME, Healthcare Services Department
Philadelphia, PA

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Katherine Cavanaugh, MSW  
Consumer Advocacy Manager

Katherine Cavanaugh staffs the National Consumer Advisory Board (NCAB), helps to coordinate consumer initiatives, and further develops Council relationships with local Consumer Advisory Boards (CABs).

HCH Community Experts

Randle Loeb, MDiv, MS  
People’s Advocacy Council, Stout Street Health Center, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless  
Denver, CO

David Modersbach  
Grants Manager, Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless Program  
Oakland, CA

David Peery, JD  
Chair, Consumer Advisory Board, Camillus Health Concern  
Miami, FL

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Homeless Services

Medical Respite/Recuperative Care

Council Staff

Barbara DiPietro, PhD
Senior Director of Policy

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Julia Dobbins, MSW
Director of Medical Respite Care

Julia Dobbins leads our work on medical respite/recuperative care, assisting medical respite/recuperative care programs at all stages of development in communities of all sizes on matters of program design, financing, and best practices. She provides guidance and oversight for medical respite/recuperative care activities, including training, technical assistance, and resource and program development. She is the staff liaison to the Respite Care Providers’ Network (RCPN) and coordinates and facilitates the activities of the RCPN Steering Committee.

Courtney Pladsen, DNP, FNP-BC, RN
Director of Clinical and Quality Improvement

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Caitlin Synovec, OTD, OTR/L, BCMH
Medical Respite Manager

Caitlin Synovec is an occupational therapist with clinical experience working with adults experiencing homelessness to improve quality of life and engagement in their preferred communities. As the Medical Respite Manager, she works with the Director of Medical Respite on projects of the National Institute for Medical Respite Care (NIMRC) and the Respite Care Providers’ Network (RCPN).

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Chief Executive Officer

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HCH Community Experts

Kelly Bruno, MSW
President & CEO, National Health Foundation
Los Angeles, CA

Brett Dennis-Duke, MA
Researcher/Mental Health Specialist, Harvard University/Edward Thomas House Medical Respite
Seattle, WA

Josephine Ensign, DrPH, RN, ARNP
Professor, University of Washington
Seattle, WA

Leslie Enzian, MD
Medical Director, Edward Thomas House Medical Respite, Harborview Medical Center
Seattle, WA

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Homeless Services

Outdoor Encampments

Council Staff

Hugo Aguas, MA
Research Associate

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D. Michael Durham, MTS
Community Engagement Manager

Michael Durham is responsible for strategic relationship-building and increasing representation of marginalized communities in all of the Council’s work. Leaning on these relationships, he coordinates the Council’s largely peer-to-peer technical assistance program, which provides support to health centers and other organizations serving people experiencing homelessness. He also supports the CEO in certain racial equity initiatives.

Katie League, LCSW-C
COVID-19 Project Manager

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Cindy Manginelli, BS
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Courtney Pladsen, DNP, FNP-BC, RN
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HCH Community Experts

Brenda Konkel, JD
Executive Director, Madison Area Care for the Homeless
Madison, WI

David Peery, JD
Chair, Consumer Advisory Board, Camillus Health Concern
Miami, FL

Erin Ryan, MSW, MPH
Senior Vice President, The Night Ministry
Chicago, IL

Elizabeth Torkington, BSN, RN, PHN
Street Health Outreach Director, Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center
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Research Associate

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Tineciaa Harris, MSPH, MS
Clinical and Quality Improvement Manager

Tineciaa Harris works to improve the clinical environment in health centers broadly through education, training, technical assistance, and policy with a focus on quality improvement. She operates on the national level in frequent partnership with both federal and non-profit organizations and leads initiatives that seek to improve health outcomes for people experiencing homelessness.

Darlene Jenkins, DrPH
Senior Director of Programs

Darlene Jenkins directs and coordinates the program areas of the Council and supports the work of the research, clinical and quality, and community engagement teams. As a public health practitioner, registered dietitian, and certified health education specialist, she provides training and technical assistance in the areas of health equity, social determinants of health, and diabetes prevention and management.
Outreach (continued)

Katie League, LCSW-C
COVID-19 Project Manager

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HCH Community Experts

Ellen Bassuk, MD
Founder, C4 Innovations
Needham, MA

Brett Dennis-Duke, MA
Researcher/Mental Health Specialist, Harvard University/Edward Thomas House Medical Respite
Seattle, WA

Josephine Ensign, DrPH, RN, ARNP
Professor, University of Washington
Seattle, WA

Kristie Hartig, MSN, RN, PHN, CWOCN, CNE
Registered Nurse and Community Volunteer
Topeka, KS

Walter Herres
Founder & CEO, SHILO (Supporting the Homeless Innovatively Loving Others)
Edison, NJ

Eric Hunter
Videographer/Photographer, Ebenezer Baptist Church

Frances Isbell, MS
CEO, Healthcare for the Homeless – Houston
Houston, TX

Brenda Konkel, JD
Executive Director, Madison Area Care for the Homeless
Madison, WI

Jay Levy, MSW, LICSW
Regional Manager, Eliot Community Human Service
Northampton, MA

David Peery, JD
Chair, Consumer Advisory Board, Camillus Health Concern
Miami, FL
Homeless Services
Outreach (continued)

Natalia Rodriguez, PhD, MPH
Assistant Professor of Public Health, Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN

Erin Ryan, MSW, MPH
Senior Vice President, The Night Ministry
Chicago, IL

Elizabeth Torkington, BSN, RN, PHN
Street Health Outreach Director, Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center
Oakland, CA

Christine Zacchei, MSS, LCSW
Behavioral Health Consultant, Project HOME, Healthcare Services Department
Philadelphia, PA

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Permanent Supportive Housing

Council Staff

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Senior Director of Policy
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Founder, C4 Innovations
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Eric Hunter
Videographer/Photographer, Ebenezer Baptist Church
Atlanta, GA

Frances Isbell, MS
CEO, Healthcare for the Homeless – Houston
Houston, TX

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CEO, Healthcare for the Homeless – Houston
Houston, TX

Stefan Kertesz, MD, MSc
Professor of Medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham
Homewood, AL

Jay Levy, MSW, LICSW
Regional Manager, Eliot Community Human Service
Northampton, MA

Randle Loeb, MDiv, MS
People’s Advocacy Council, Stout Street Health Center, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
Denver, CO

Jessica Mowry, MSW, LICSW
Assistant Director, Leased Housing and Rental Services, RIHousing
Providence, RI

David Peery, JD
Chair, Consumer Advisory Board, Camillus Health Concern
Miami, FL

Christine Zacchei, MSS, LCSW
Behavioral Health Consultant, Project HOME, Healthcare Services Department
Philadelphia, PA

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Prevention and Response to Infectious Diseases

Council Staff

Courtney Pladsen, DNP, FNP-BC, RN
Director of Clinical and Quality Improvement

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HCH Community Experts

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Professor, University of Washington
Seattle, WA

Kristie Hartig, MSN, RN, PHN, CWOCN, CNE
Registered Nurse and Community Volunteer
Topeka, KS

Natalia Rodriguez, PhD, MPH
Assistant Professor of Public Health, Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN

Christine Zacchei, MSS, LCSW
Behavioral Health Consultant, Project HOME, Healthcare Services Department
Philadelphia, PA

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Program Management

Council Staff

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Community Engagement Manager

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Street Health Outreach Director, Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center
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Christine Zacchei, MSS, LCSW
Behavioral Health Consultant, Project HOME, Healthcare Services Department
Philadelphia, PA

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Homeless Services

Shelters

Council Staff

Hugo Aguas, MA
Research Associate

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Seattle, WA

Kristie Hartig, MSN, RN, PHN, CWOCN, CNE
Registered Nurse and Community Volunteer
Topeka, KS

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Miami, FL

Erin Ryan, MSW, MPH
Senior Vice President, The Night Ministry
Chicago, IL

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Homeless Services

Showers and Hygiene

Council Staff

D. Michael Durham, MTS
Community Engagement Manager

Michael Durham is responsible for strategic relationship-building and increasing representation of marginalized communities in all of the Council’s work. Leaning on these relationships, he coordinates the Council’s largely peer-to-peer technical assistance program, which provides support to health centers and other organizations serving people experiencing homelessness. He also supports the CEO in certain racial equity initiatives.

Courtney Pladsen, DNP, FNP-BC, RN
Director of Clinical and Quality Improvement

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Bobby Watts, MPH, MS
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Caitlin Synovec, OTD, OTR/L, BCMH
Medical Respite Manager

Caitlin Synovec is an occupational therapist with clinical experience working with adults experiencing homelessness to improve quality of life and engagement in their preferred communities. As the Medical Respite Manager, she works with the Director of Medical Respite on projects of the National Institute for Medical Respite Care (NIMRC) and the Respite Care Providers’ Network (RCPN).
HCH Community Experts

Kristie Hartig, MSN, RN, PHN, CWOCN, CNE  
Registered Nurse and Community Volunteer  
Topeka, KS

Walter Herres  
Founder & CEO, SHILO (Supporting the Homeless Innovatively Loving Others)  
Edison, NJ

Brenda Konkel, JD  
Executive Director, Madison Area Care for the Homeless  
Madison, WI

Heidi Nelson, MHSA  
CEO, Duffy Health Center  
Hyannis, MA

David Peery, JD  
Chair, Consumer Advisory Board, Camillus Health Concern  
Miami, FL

Erin Ryan, MSW, MPH  
Senior Vice President, The Night Ministry  
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Homeless Services
Street Medicine

Council Staff

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Philadelphia, PA

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Telehealth

Council Staff

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Bronx, NY

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Training and Technical Assistance

Council Staff

Alaina Boyer, PhD
Director of Research

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Julia Dobbins, MSW
Director of Medical Respite Care

Julia Dobbins leads our work on medical respite/recuperative care, assisting medical respite/recuperative care programs at all stages of development in communities of all sizes on matters of program design, financing, and best practices. She provides guidance and oversight for medical respite/recuperative care activities, including training, technical assistance, and resource and program development. She is the staff liaison to the Respite Care Providers’ Network (RCPN) and coordinates and facilitates the activities of the RCPN Steering Committee.
Courtney Pladsen, DNP, FNP-BC, RN
Director of Clinical and Quality Improvement

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Needham, MA

Leslie Enzian, MD
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Seattle, WA

Jay Levy, MSW, LICSW
Regional Manager, Eliot Community Human Service
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Philadelphia, PA

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Transitional Care

Courtney Pladsen, DNP, FNP-BC, RN
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Policy and Issues

Access to Substance Use Treatment

Council Staff

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Regina Reed, MPH
Health Policy Manager

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Policy and Issues

Appropriations

Council Staff

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Policy and Issues

Health Care System

Council Staff

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Tineciaa Harris, MSPH, MS
Clinical and Quality Improvement Manager

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Houston, TX

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Homewood, AL
Policy and Issues

Health Care System (continued)

Brenda Konkel, JD
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Health Equity

Council Staff

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Eric Hunter
Videographer/Photographer, Ebenezer Baptist Church

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Policy and Issues
Health Equity

(continued)

David Peery, JD
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Natalia Rodriguez, PhD, MPH
Assistant Professor of Public Health, Purdue University
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Housing Policy

Council Staff

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Policy and Issues

Housing Policy (continued)

HCH Community Experts

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Policy and Issues
Human Trafficking

Council Staff

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Policy and Issues
Hunger and Food Insecurity

Council Staff

Hugo Aguas, MA
Research Associate

Hugo Aguas works with the research team to research health outcomes using data driven methodologies. He collaborates with other community health partners throughout the country to develop educational materials pertaining to medical care for those experiencing homelessness; disseminates data; and provides ease-of-access to community partners throughout the nation.

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Senior Director of Programs

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Hunger and Food Insecurity (continued)

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Founder & CEO, SHILO (Supporting the Homeless Innovatively Loving Others)  
Edison, NJ

David Peery, JD  
Chair, Consumer Advisory Board, Camillus Health Concern  
Miami, FL

Erin Ryan, MSW, MPH  
Senior Vice President, The Night Ministry  
Chicago, IL

Elizabeth Torkington, BSN, RN, PHN  
Street Health Outreach Director, Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center  
Oakland, CA

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Immigration

Council Staff

Courtney Pladsen, DNP, FNP-BC, RN
Director of Clinical and Quality Improvement

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Policy and Issues

Intimate Partner Violence

Council Staff

Cindy Manginelli, BS
Director of Community Engagement

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Regina Reed, MPH
Health Policy Manager

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Bobby Watts, MPH, MS
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Medicaid Expansion

Council Staff

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Policy and Issues

Medicaid Expansion (continued)

HCH Community Experts

David Peery, JD  
Chair, Consumer Advisory Board, Camillus Health Concern  
Miami, FL

Christine Zacchei, MSS, LCSW  
Behavioral Health Consultant, Project HOME, Healthcare Services Department  
Philadelphia, PA

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Race and Racial Disparities

Council Staff

Hugo Aguas, MA
Research Associate
Hugo Aguas works with the research team to research health outcomes using data driven methodologies. He collaborates with other community health partners throughout the country to develop educational materials pertaining to medical care for those experiencing homelessness; disseminates data; and provides ease-of-access to community partners throughout the nation.

Alaina Boyer, PhD
Director of Research
Alaina Boyer provides oversight and guidance for the research activities of the Council, which include quality improvement projects and providing educational resources for health care clinics that serve individuals experiencing homelessness. She coordinates and facilitates the Research Committee and Practice Based Research Network initiatives, which are currently focused on improving health outcomes and providing quality care across systems for vulnerable populations.

D. Michael Durham, MTS
Community Engagement Manager
Michael Durham is responsible for strategic relationship-building and increasing representation of marginalized communities in all of the Council’s work. Leaning on these relationships, he coordinates the Council’s largely peer-to-peer technical assistance program, which provides support to health centers and other organizations serving people experiencing homelessness. He also supports the CEO in certain racial equity initiatives.

Tineciaa Harris, MSPH, MS
Clinical and Quality Improvement Manager
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Senior Director of Programs

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Videographer/Photographer, Ebenezer Baptist Church

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Policy and Issues

Single-Payer Health Care (Medicare-for-All)

Council Staff

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Denver, CO

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Philadelphia, PA

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Policy and Issues

Social Determinants of Health

Council Staff

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Research Associate

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Caitlin Synovec, OTD, OTR/L, BCMH
Medical Respite Manager

Caitlin Synovec is an occupational therapist with clinical experience working with adults experiencing homelessness to improve quality of life and engagement in their preferred communities. As the Medical Respite Manager, she works with the Director of Medical Respite on projects of the National Institute for Medical Respite Care (NIMRC) and the Respite Care Providers’ Network (RCPN).
Bobby Watts, MPH, MS
Chief Executive Officer

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Registered Nurse and Community Volunteer
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Walter Herres
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Edison, NJ
Policy and Issues
Social Determinants of Health (continued)

Eric Hunter
Videographer/Photographer, Ebenezer Baptist Church
Atlanta, GA

Frances Isbell, MS
CEO, Healthcare for the Homeless – Houston
Houston, TX

Brenda Konkel, JD
Executive Director, Madison Area Care for the Homeless
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Policy and Issues

Suicide

Council Staff

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Homewood, AL

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Special Populations
Children, Youth, and Families

Council Staff

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People’s Advocacy Council, Stout Street Health Center, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
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Special Populations
Minority Health

Council Staff

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Research Associate

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HCH Community Experts

Patricia Brown, BA  
Affiliate Faculty, University of Washington Oral Health Collaborative  
Lynnwood, WA

Josephine Ensign, DrPH, RN, ARNP  
Professor, University of Washington  
Seattle, WA

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Eric Hunter  
Videographer/Photographer, Ebenezer Baptist Church  
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Special Populations

Minority Health (continued)

Randle Loeb, MDiv, MS
People’s Advocacy Council, Stout Street Health Center, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
Denver, CO

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Special Populations

Older Adults

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Special Populations
Older Adults (continued)

HCH Community Experts

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Durham, NC
Special Populations

Older Adults (continued)

David Peery, JD
Chair, Consumer Advisory Board, Camillus Health Concern
Miami, FL

Erin Ryan, MSW, MPH
Senior Vice President, The Night Ministry
Chicago, IL

Christine Zacchei, MSS, LCSW
Behavioral Health Consultant, Project HOME, Healthcare Services Department
Philadelphia, PA

To request an interview with one of our staff or community experts, contact Terri Woodmore, Communications Manager, at twoodmore@nhchc.org
Caitlin Synovec, OTD, OTR/L, BCMH
Medical Respite Manager

Caitlin Synovec is an occupational therapist with clinical experience working with adults experiencing homelessness to improve quality of life and engagement in their preferred communities. As the Medical Respite Manager, she works with the Director of Medical Respite on projects of the National Institute for Medical Respite Care (NIMRC) and the Respite Care Providers’ Network (RCPN).

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Council Staff

Darlene Jenkins, DrPH
Senior Director of Programs

Darlene Jenkins directs and coordinates the program areas of the Council and supports the work of the research, clinical and quality, and community engagement teams. As a public health practitioner, registered dietitian, and certified health education specialist, she provides training and technical assistance in the areas of health equity, social determinants of health, and diabetes prevention and management.

Cindy Manginelli, BS
Director of Community Engagement

Cindy Manginelli directs the Council’s efforts to engage and create a diverse community of individuals, coalitions, and programs that directly address issues at the intersection of homelessness and health care. She also manages the Council’s ongoing work to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within the community of those who experience and address homelessness.

Courtney Pladsen, DNP, FNP-BC, RN
Director of Clinical and Quality Improvement

Courtney Pladsen leads initiatives to improve the delivery of primary care, substance use treatment, and mental health care nationally. She directs training and quality improvement initiatives, and contributes to research and policy recommendations on emerging clinical issues affecting people experiencing homelessness.

HCH Community Experts

Kristie Hartig, MSN, RN, PHN, CWOCN, CNE
Registered Nurse and Community Volunteer
Topeka, KS

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Special Populations

Veterans

Council Staff

Courtney Pladsen, DNP, FNP-BC, RN
Director of Clinical and Quality Improvement

Courtney Pladsen leads initiatives to improve the delivery of primary care, substance use treatment, and mental health care nationally. She directs training and quality improvement initiatives, and contributes to research and policy recommendations on emerging clinical issues affecting people experiencing homelessness.

HCH Community Experts

Patricia Brown, BA
Affiliate Faculty, University of Washington Oral Health Collaborative
Lynnwood, WA

Walter Herres
Founder & CEO, SHILO (Supporting the Homeless Innovatively Loving Others)
Edison, NJ

Eric Hunter
Videographer/Photographer, Ebenezer Baptist Church
Atlanta, GA

Stefan Kertesz, MD, MSc
Professor of Medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham
Homewood, AL

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Special Populations

Women

Council Staff

Tineciaa Harris, MSPH, MS
Clinical and Quality Improvement Manager

Tineciaa Harris works to improve the clinical environment in health centers broadly through education, training, technical assistance, and policy with a focus on quality improvement. She operates on the national level in frequent partnership with both federal and non-profit organizations and leads initiatives that seek to improve health outcomes for people experiencing homelessness.

Darlene Jenkins, DrPH
Senior Director of Programs

Darlene Jenkins directs and coordinates the program areas of the Council and supports the work of the research, clinical and quality, and community engagement teams. As a public health practitioner, registered dietitian, and certified health education specialist, she provides training and technical assistance in the areas of health equity, social determinants of health, and diabetes prevention and management.

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Director of Community Engagement

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Director of Clinical and Quality Improvement

Courtney Pladsen leads initiatives to improve the delivery of primary care, substance use treatment, and mental health care nationally. She directs training and quality improvement initiatives, and contributes to research and policy recommendations on emerging clinical issues affecting people experiencing homelessness.
Bobby Watts, MPH, MS  
Chief Executive Officer

Bobby Watts is the chief executive officer of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, which supports Health Care for the Homeless programs and medical respite providers with training, technical assistance, sharing of best practices, research, publications, and an active policy and advocacy program working to eliminate homelessness. He has 30 years of experience in administration, direct service, and implementation of homeless health services, beginning as a live-in counselor at the New York City Rescue Mission. In February 2021, he was appointed as a member of the Biden-Harris Administration’s COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force.

HCH Community Experts

Ellen Bassuk, MD  
Founder, C4 Innovations  
Needham, MA

Josephine Ensign, DrPH, RN, ARNP  
Professor, University of Washington  
Seattle, WA

Walter Herres  
Founder & CEO, SHILO (Supporting the Homeless Innovatively Loving Others)  
Edison, NJ

Natalia Rodriguez, PhD, MPH  
Assistant Professor of Public Health, Purdue University  
West Lafayette, IN

Rebecca Winkel, PhD  
Director of Mental Health Services, Licensed Psychologist, Montefiore Medical Center, Homeless Program  
Bronx, NY

Christine Zacchei, MSS, LCSW  
Behavioral Health Consultant, Project HOME, Healthcare Services Department  
Philadelphia, PA

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