MEDIA BUREAU

Housing IS Health Care

August 2021
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 twoodmore@nhchc.org.

Visit us online for a sample of our recent media coverage.
Conditions and Diseases

- Behavioral Health
- Cardiovascular Disease
- Chronic Pain
- Cognitive Disability
- Cold-Related Injuries
- Communicable Diseases
- COVID-19
- Diabetes
- Heat-Related Injuries
- Hepatitis
- HIV/AIDS
- Influenza
- Mental Health
- Oral Health
- Physical Disability
- Reproductive Health
- Substance Use Disorder, Harm Reduction, and Medication-Assisted Treatment
- Trauma
- Tuberculosis

Policy and Issues

- Access to Substance Use Treatment
- Appropriations
- Health Care System
- Health Equity
- Health Justice
- Housing Policy
- Human Trafficking
- Hunger and Food Insecurity
- Immigration
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Medicaid and Health Care Financing
- Medicaid Outreach and Enrollment
- Medicaid Expansion
- Race and Racial Disparities
- Single-Payer Health Care (Medicare-for-All)
- Social Determinants of Health
- Suicide

Homeless Services

- Cold Weather Sheltering
- COVID-19 Testing
- COVID-19 Vaccination
- Emergency Preparedness (Severe Weather, Natural Disasters)
- End-of-Life Care
- Homeless Mortality and Tracking
- Medical Respite Care (also known as Recuperative Care)
- Outdoor Encampments
- Outreach
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Prevention and Response to Infectious Diseases
- Program Management
- Shelters
- Showers and Hygiene
- Street Medicine
- Telehealth
- Training and Technical Assistance
- Transitional Care

Special Populations

- Children, Youth, and Families
- Immigrant/Migrant Populations
- Justice-Involved Populations
- LGBTQIA+
- Minority Health
- Older Adults
- Persons with Disabilities
- Rural Homelessness
- Veterans
- Women
Conditions and Diseases

Behavioral Health

Council Staff

**Lily Catalano, BA**
Clinical Manager

Lily Catalano coordinates the work of the Health Care for the Homeless Clinicians’ Network and develops resources to improve access to and quality of health care for people experiencing homelessness.

**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.

**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

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

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

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

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

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

Charita McCollers, BSW, MSWA/LCSW  
Social Worker, Lincoln Community Health Center – HCH Clinic  
Durham, NC

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

Cognitive Disability

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.

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

Charita McCollers, BSW, MSWA/LCSW
Social Worker, Lincoln Community Health Center – HCH Clinic
Durham, NC

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

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

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
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

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

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
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

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

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

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

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

Barbara DiPietro directs the policy and advocacy activities for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. This includes conducting policy analysis, providing educational materials and presentations to a broad range of policymakers and other stakeholders, coordinating the Council’s policy priorities with national partners, and organizing staff assistance to the Policy Committee and the National Consumer Advisory Board.

**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.

**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.
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

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

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

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
Conditions and Diseases

Diabetes

Council Staff

**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.

---

**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.
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.

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

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

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
Conditions and Diseases

Heat-Related Injuries

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

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

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

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

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
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

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

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

HIV/AIDS

Council Staff

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

Courtnay 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

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
Conditions and Diseases

Influenza

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.

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

Lily Catalano, BA
Clinical Manager

Lily Catalano coordinates the work of the Health Care for the Homeless Clinicians' Network and develops resources to improve access to and quality of health care for people experiencing homelessness.

Barbara DiPietro, PhD
Senior Director of Policy

Barbara DiPietro directs the policy and advocacy activities for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. This includes conducting policy analysis, providing educational materials and presentations to a broad range of policymakers and other stakeholders, coordinating the Council’s policy priorities with national partners, and organizing staff assistance to the Policy Committee and the National Consumer Advisory Board.
Conditions and Diseases

Mental Health (continued)

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.

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

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.
Conditions and Diseases
Mental Health (continued)

HCH Community Experts

Ellen Bassuk, MD
Founder, C4 Innovations
Needham, MA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**

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

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

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).

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

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

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

Council Staff

Lily Catalano, BA
Clinical Manager

Lily Catalano coordinates the work of the Health Care for the Homeless Clinicians’ Network and develops resources to improve access to and quality of health care for people experiencing homelessness.

Barbara DiPietro, PhD
Senior Director of Policy

Barbara DiPietro directs the policy and advocacy activities for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. This includes conducting policy analysis, providing educational materials and presentations to a broad range of policymakers and other stakeholders, coordinating the Council’s policy priorities with national partners, and organizing staff assistance to the Policy Committee and the National Consumer Advisory Board.

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

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

HCH Community Experts

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

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

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

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

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

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
Conditions and Diseases

Trauma

Council Staff

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.

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.

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

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

**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

**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

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

**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

---

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

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.

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

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

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.
Homeless Services

Cold Weather Sheltering (continued)

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

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

Barbara DiPietro directs the policy and advocacy activities for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. This includes conducting policy analysis, providing educational materials and presentations to a broad range of policymakers and other stakeholders, coordinating the Council’s policy priorities with national partners, and organizing staff assistance to the Policy Committee and the National Consumer Advisory Board.

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

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

**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

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

COVID-19 Vaccination

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

Barbara DiPietro directs the policy and advocacy activities for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. This includes conducting policy analysis, providing educational materials and presentations to a broad range of policymakers and other stakeholders, coordinating the Council’s policy priorities with national partners, and organizing staff assistance to the Policy Committee and the National Consumer Advisory Board.

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.

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

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

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

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

Emergency Preparedness (Severe Weather, Natural Disasters)

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

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.
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
Assistant Professor of Public Health, Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN

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
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

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

To request an interview with one of our staff or community experts, contact Terri Woodmore, Communications Manager, at twooodmore@nhchc.org
Homeless Services

Homeless Mortality and Tracking

Council Staff

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).

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

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

To request an interview with one of our staff or community experts, contact Terri Woodmore, Communications Manager, at twoodmore@nhchc.org
Medical Respite Care (also known as Recuperative Care)

Council Staff

Barbara DiPietro, PhD
Senior Director of Policy

Barbara DiPietro directs the policy and advocacy activities for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. This includes conducting policy analysis, providing educational materials and presentations to a broad range of policymakers and other stakeholders, coordinating the Council’s policy priorities with national partners, and organizing staff assistance to the Policy Committee and the National Consumer Advisory Board.

Julia Dobbins, MSW
Director of Medical Respite Care

Julia Dobbins leads our work on medical respite, assisting medical respite 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 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

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.
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

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

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

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

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.

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

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.

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.
Homeless Services

Outdoor Encampments (continued)

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

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

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
Oakland, CA

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

Homeless Services

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.

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

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

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.

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.

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.
Homeless Services
Outreach (continued)

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

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

Council Staff

Barbara DiPietro, PhD
Senior Director of Policy

Barbara DiPietro directs the policy and advocacy activities for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. This includes conducting policy analysis, providing educational materials and presentations to a broad range of policymakers and other stakeholders, coordinating the Council’s policy priorities with national partners, and organizing staff assistance to the Policy Committee and the National Consumer Advisory Board.

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.

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

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

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

Frances Isbell, MS
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

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

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

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

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

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

Program Management

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.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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.

**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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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.
Showers and Hygiene (continued)

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
Chicago, IL

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

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

**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

**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
Homeless Services
Telehealth

Council Staff

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

Barbara DiPietro directs the policy and advocacy activities for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. This includes conducting policy analysis, providing educational materials and presentations to a broad range of policymakers and other stakeholders, coordinating the Council’s policy priorities with national partners, and organizing staff assistance to the Policy Committee and the National Consumer Advisory Board.

**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.

**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

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

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

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

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

To request an interview with one of our staff or community experts, contact Terri Woodmore, Communications Manager, at twoodmore@nhchc.org
Homeless Services
Training and Technical Assistance

Council Staff

**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.

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

Barbara DiPietro directs the policy and advocacy activities for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. This includes conducting policy analysis, providing educational materials and presentations to a broad range of policymakers and other stakeholders, coordinating the Council’s policy priorities with national partners, and organizing staff assistance to the Policy Committee and the National Consumer Advisory Board.

**Julia Dobbins, MSW**  
Director of Medical Respite Care

Julia Dobbins leads our work on medical respite, assisting medical respite 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 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.
Homeless Services
Training and Technical Assistance (continued)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Access to Substance Use Treatment

Council Staff

Barbara DiPietro, PhD
Senior Director of Policy

Barbara DiPietro directs the policy and advocacy activities for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. This includes conducting policy analysis, providing educational materials and presentations to a broad range of policymakers and other stakeholders, coordinating the Council’s policy priorities with national partners, and organizing staff assistance to the Policy Committee and the National Consumer Advisory Board.

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.

Regina Reed, MPH
Health Policy Manager

Regina Reed is responsible for representing the interests of the Council to policymakers and organizational partners in Washington, D.C., working with the Policy Committee to advance the Council’s advocacy agenda, developing policy positions and analyses, and mobilizing member organizations, service providers, and other advocates to end poverty and 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

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

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

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

**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

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

Appropriations

Council Staff

Barbara DiPietro, PhD
Senior Director of Policy

Barbara DiPietro directs the policy and advocacy activities for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. This includes conducting policy analysis, providing educational materials and presentations to a broad range of policymakers and other stakeholders, coordinating the Council’s policy priorities with national partners, and organizing staff assistance to the Policy Committee and the National Consumer Advisory Board.

Regina Reed, MPH
Health Policy Manager

Regina Reed is responsible for representing the interests of the Council to policymakers and organizational partners in Washington, D.C., working with the Policy Committee to advance the Council’s advocacy agenda, developing policy positions and analyses, and mobilizing member organizations, service providers, and other advocates to end poverty and homelessness.

HCH Community Experts

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

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

Council Staff

Barbara DiPietro, PhD
Senior Director of Policy

Barbara DiPietro directs the policy and advocacy activities for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. This includes conducting policy analysis, providing educational materials and presentations to a broad range of policymakers and other stakeholders, coordinating the Council’s policy priorities with national partners, and organizing staff assistance to the Policy Committee and the National Consumer Advisory Board.

Tinecia Harris, MSPH, MS
Clinical and Quality Improvement Manager

Tinecia 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.

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.

Regina Reed, MPH
Health Policy Manager

Regina Reed is responsible for representing the interests of the Council to policymakers and organizational partners in Washington, D.C., working with the Policy Committee to advance the Council’s advocacy agenda, developing policy positions and analyses, and mobilizing member organizations, service providers, and other advocates to end poverty and 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

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

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

Stefan Kertesz, MD, MSc
Professor of Medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham
Homewood, AL
Brenda Konkel, JD  
Executive Director, Madison Area Care for the Homeless  
Madison, WI

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

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
**Health Equity**

**Council Staff**

**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.

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

Barbara DiPietro directs the policy and advocacy activities for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. This includes conducting policy analysis, providing educational materials and presentations to a broad range of policymakers and other stakeholders, coordinating the Council’s policy priorities with national partners, and organizing staff assistance to the Policy Committee and the National Consumer Advisory Board.

**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

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.
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.

Regina Reed, MPH
Health Policy Manager

Regina Reed is responsible for representing the interests of the Council to policymakers and organizational partners in Washington, D.C., working with the Policy Committee to advance the Council’s advocacy agenda, developing policy positions and analyses, and mobilizing member organizations, service providers, and other advocates to end poverty and 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Health Justice

Council Staff

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.

Barbara DiPietro, PhD
Senior Director of Policy

Barbara DiPietro directs the policy and advocacy activities for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. This includes conducting policy analysis, providing educational materials and presentations to a broad range of policymakers and other stakeholders, coordinating the Council’s policy priorities with national partners, and organizing staff assistance to the Policy Committee and the National Consumer Advisory Board.

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.

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.
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.

Regina Reed, MPH
Health Policy Manager
Regina Reed is responsible for representing the interests of the Council to policymakers and organizational partners in Washington, D.C., working with the Policy Committee to advance the Council’s advocacy agenda, developing policy positions and analyses, and mobilizing member organizations, service providers, and other advocates to end poverty and 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.
Health Justice (continued)

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

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

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

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

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

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
Housing Policy

Council Staff

Barbara DiPietro, PhD
Senior Director of Policy

Barbara DiPietro directs the policy and advocacy activities for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. This includes conducting policy analysis, providing educational materials and presentations to a broad range of policymakers and other stakeholders, coordinating the Council’s policy priorities with national partners, and organizing staff assistance to the Policy Committee and the National Consumer Advisory Board.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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
Human Trafficking

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.

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

**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

**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

---

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

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

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

Ellen Bassuk, MD
Founder, C4 Innovations
Needham, MA

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

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

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

Barbara DiPietro, PhD
Senior Director of Policy

Barbara DiPietro directs the policy and advocacy activities for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. This includes conducting policy analysis, providing educational materials and presentations to a broad range of policymakers and other stakeholders, coordinating the Council’s policy priorities with national partners, and organizing staff assistance to the Policy Committee and the National Consumer Advisory Board.

Regina Reed, MPH
Health Policy Manager

Regina Reed is responsible for representing the interests of the Council to policymakers and organizational partners in Washington, D.C., working with the Policy Committee to advance the Council’s advocacy agenda, developing policy positions and analyses, and mobilizing member organizations, service providers, and other advocates to end poverty and 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

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

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

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

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

Medicaid Outreach and Enrollment

Council Staff

Barbara DiPietro, PhD
Senior Director of Policy

Barbara DiPietro directs the policy and advocacy activities for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. This includes conducting policy analysis, providing educational materials and presentations to a broad range of policymakers and other stakeholders, coordinating the Council’s policy priorities with national partners, and organizing staff assistance to the Policy Committee and the National Consumer Advisory Board.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

Medicaid Expansion

Council Staff

Barbara DiPietro, PhD
Senior Director of Policy

Barbara DiPietro directs the policy and advocacy activities for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. This includes conducting policy analysis, providing educational materials and presentations to a broad range of policymakers and other stakeholders, coordinating the Council’s policy priorities with national partners, and organizing staff assistance to the Policy Committee and the National Consumer Advisory Board.

Regina Reed, MPH
Health Policy Manager

Regina Reed is responsible for representing the interests of the Council to policymakers and organizational partners in Washington, D.C., working with the Policy Committee to advance the Council’s advocacy agenda, developing policy positions and analyses, and mobilizing member organizations, service providers, and other advocates to end poverty and 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

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

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

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.
Race and Racial Disparities  
(continued)

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.

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

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

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

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

Eric Hunter
Videographer/Photographer, Ebenezer Baptist Church

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

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

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

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

Council Staff

Barbara DiPietro, PhD
Senior Director of Policy

Barbara DiPietro directs the policy and advocacy activities for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. This includes conducting policy analysis, providing educational materials and presentations to a broad range of policymakers and other stakeholders, coordinating the Council’s policy priorities with national partners, and organizing staff assistance to the Policy Committee and the National Consumer Advisory Board.

Regina Reed, MPH
Health Policy Manager

Regina Reed is responsible for representing the interests of the Council to policymakers and organizational partners in Washington, D.C., working with the Policy Committee to advance the Council’s advocacy agenda, developing policy positions and analyses, and mobilizing member organizations, service providers, and other advocates to end poverty and 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

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

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

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

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.

Barbara DiPietro, PhD
Senior Director of Policy

Barbara DiPietro directs the policy and advocacy activities for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. This includes conducting policy analysis, providing educational materials and presentations to a broad range of policymakers and other stakeholders, coordinating the Council’s policy priorities with national partners, and organizing staff assistance to the Policy Committee and the National Consumer Advisory Board.

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.
Policy and Issues

Social Determinants of Health (continued)

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.

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.

Regina Reed, MPH
Health Policy Manager

Regina Reed is responsible for representing the interests of the Council to policymakers and organizational partners in Washington, D.C., working with the Policy Committee to advance the Council’s advocacy agenda, developing policy positions and analyses, and mobilizing member organizations, service providers, and other advocates to end poverty and homelessness.

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).
Policy and Issues
Social Determinants of Health (continued)

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

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

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
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
Madison, WI

Charita McCollers, BSW, MSWA/LCSW
Social Worker, Lincoln Community Health Center – HCH Clinic
Durham, NC

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

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

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

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

Suicide

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.

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

Ellen Bassuk, MD
Founder, C4 Innovations
Needham, MA

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

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

To request an interview with one of our staff or community experts, contact Terri Woodmore, Communications Manager, at twoodmore@nhchc.org
Special Populations
Children, Youth, and Families

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.

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.
Special Populations
Children, Youth, and Families (continued)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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  
Madison, WI

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

To request an interview with one of our staff or community experts, contact Terri Woodmore, Communications Manager, at twoodmore@nhchc.org
Special Populations
LGBTQIA+

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

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

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

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

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
Special Populations

Minority Health

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.

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.
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

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

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

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

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

Eric Hunter
Videographer/Photographer, Ebenezer Baptist Church
Atlanta, GA
Randle Loeb, MDiv, MS
People’s Advocacy Council, Stout Street Health Center, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
Denver, CO

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

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

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

Older Adults

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.

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

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.
Special Populations

Older Adults (continued)

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

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

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

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

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

Charita McCollers, BSW, MSWA/LCSW
Social Worker, Lincoln Community Health Center – HCH Clinic
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).

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

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

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

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.
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

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