



Learning Lab: Next Steps in Addressing Encampments

Thursday, May 16, 8:30 am to 12:30 pm
Arizona Grand Resort and Spa, Phoenix
Sonoran Sky Salon 5

Encampment sweeps have become an all-too-common response to unsheltered homelessness in many communities. Unfortunately, these forcible removals are rarely accompanied by permanent housing and only serve to destabilize people, disconnect them from housing and services, and do nothing to solve homelessness. This 4-hour session will feature updates on the status of encampment sweeps (and other criminalization measures) and USICH's All INside initiative, as well as new CDC research on the health care needs of unsheltered people living in encampments. A forthcoming NHCHC policy brief will also be discussed, which provides examples of communities taking interim strategies that better support unsheltered people. Finally, a moderated discussion will identify the action steps needed to move communities forward in constructively responding to encampments.

Agenda

Time	Discussion	Speakers
8:30-8:45 a.m.	Welcome, Introductions, Taking the Pulse	Bobby Watts , CEO, NHCHC
8:45-9:15 a.m.	Status of criminalization efforts and encampment sweeps , to include Supreme Court case Johnson v. Grants Pass recently heard on April 22	Will Knight , Decriminalization Director, National Homelessness Law Center
9:15-9:30 a.m.	Human impact of encampments and sweeps	Art Rios, Sr. , Central City Concern, Portland, OR Wesley Thomas , Miriam's Kitchen, Washington DC
9:30-10:00 a.m.	USICH All INside initiative and new guidance on encampments	Jeff Olivet , Executive Director, USICH Kent Forde (Federal Team lead in Phoenix, All INside initiative) and Tamara Wright (Senior Regional Advisor), USICH/Phoenix team
10:00-10:30 a.m.	Forthcoming NHCHC publication on interim strategies that better support unsheltered people (rather than criminalization/arrest) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss role of HCH Community and importance of health care services• Describe local strategies to increase safety and stability of unsheltered people	Barbara DiPietro , PhD, Senior Director of Policy, NHCHC
10:30-11:00 a.m.	BREAK	

Time	Discussion	Speakers
11:00-11:45 a.m.	<p>Present results of new encampment research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of encampment sweeps & arrests Health conditions Service use/needs 	<p>Caroline Waddell, PhD</p> <p>Jessica Sherman, PhD, MSN, FNP-BC, RN (she/her)</p> <p>Epidemic Intelligence Service Officers, Special Populations, Office of Readiness and Response, CDC</p>
11:45-12:25 p.m.	<p>Synthesize discussions and identify action steps needed to advance constructive solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using new resources to guide service delivery and policy advocacy Maximizing HCH Community's role as service providers, partners, and advocates Establishing cohesive voice given range of approaches nationally Including grassroots orgs and PWLE in discussions 	Facilitated discussion
12:25 -12:30 p.m.	Wrap up	Barbara DiPietro, PhD, Senior Director of Policy, NHCHC
12:30 p.m.	Adjourn	

Related reading:

- USICH (New): [19 Strategies for Communities to Address Encampments Humanely and Effectively](#)
- *Coming soon: NHCHC, 2024: Temporary Supported Communities: Strategies for Serving Unsheltered People*
- Supreme Court: [Johnson v. Grants Pass case](#), the [public health amicus brief](#), and [all the amicus briefs](#)
- NHCHC, 2022: [Impact of Encampment Sweeps on People Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- NHCHC, 2018: [Homeless Encampments: Roles for the HCH Community](#)
- Mayer, M., et al. (2024). [Encampment Clearings And Transitional Housing: A Qualitative Analysis Of Resident Perspectives](#). Health Affairs (open access).
- Goldshear, JL, et al. (2023): ["Notice of major cleaning": A qualitative study of the negative impact of encampment sweeps on the ontological security of unhoused people who use drugs](#). Social Science Medicine (open access).
- Barocas, J., et al. (2023). [Population-Level Health Effects of Involuntary Displacement of People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness Who Inject Drugs in US Cities](#). JAMA (paywall). Summary available [here](#).