

*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
U.S. Department of Labor*

Improving Access to Mainstream Services for People Experiencing Chronic Homelessness

*Olympia, Washington
Evergreen College
April 28 - 30, 2004*

Background Information

Resource Persons

Paul Carlson, the Interagency Council on Homelessness Coordinator for Region X, is responsible for providing coordination and liaison with State and local governments and Federal agencies in their collective efforts to combat homelessness in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Carlson served as Strategic Advisor on homelessness and supportive housing for the City of Seattle, Mayor's Office of Housing. He was responsible for administering the Sound Families Initiative program funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. This regional program funds housing with supportive services for families in transition out of homelessness. Previously, he worked for Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, developing housing resources for persons with severe mental illness. He has served on numerous local and regional housing boards, as well as on the National Shelter Plus Care Steering Committee that advises the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development on its national rent subsidy program. Mr. Carlson received his baccalaureate from Dickinson College, St. Andrews University, attended Princeton Theological Seminary, and received a Master of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary.

Representative Jeannie Darneille represents the 27th Legislative District, which encompasses North, Northeast, and East Tacoma, and part of Fife. A dedicated community leader, she currently serves on the boards for Tacoma Community House, the Pierce County Human Services Coalition, and the Breast Cancer Resource Center. Jeannie worked for a decade in colleges and universities before directing non-profit human services programs at the YWCA and Emergency Food Network. She has served as the Pierce County AIDS Foundation Executive Director since 1989. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Western Washington University and her Master of Education from Colorado State University.

Deborah Dennis, M.A. is Vice President for Technical Assistance at Policy Research Associates in Delmar, New York. She is the project manager on PRA's contracts and subcontracts related to homelessness and housing, including the National Resource Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness (since 1988), the Health Care for the Homeless Information Resource Center (since 1996), the CMHS Supported Housing Initiative, the CMHS/CSAT Homeless Families Program, and the PATH Technical Assistance Program. She has written extensively on the

housing and support service needs of persons who have been homeless and who have behavioral health disorders. Prior to joining PRA in 1988, she worked as a research scientist in the New York State Office of Mental Health, where she evaluated programs for people with serious mental illnesses who were homeless.

Jamie Hart, Ph.D., M.P.H., Practice Area Director at Health Systems Research, Inc., has vast experience in training, technical assistance, facilitation, systems integration, curriculum design, evaluation, and cultural competency. Dr. Hart's work has consistently focused on integrating systems and improving access to health care for underserved populations, particularly for certain racial and ethnic populations, persons facing co-occurring disorders, and persons who are homeless. In her role as Project Director for the Homeless Policy Academies, she facilitated Federal Interagency Planning Committee efforts, designed and facilitated pre-Academy site visits for a majority of the 45 States and Territories involved in the project, served as a State team facilitator at the meetings, currently manages the day-to-day operations for the contract and coordinates the provision of technical assistance to all participating States. Dr. Hart also served as the Deputy Project Director of Substance Abuse and Infectious Disease: Cross-Training for Collaborative Systems of Prevention, Treatment and Care, a collaborative project funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Health Resources and Services Administration, providing resources for training, technical assistance, and systems integration to infectious disease, substance abuse, mental health, and public health practitioners. Dr. Hart holds a Master of Public Health in health behavior and health education, and both a Master of Arts and Ph.D. in African American history.

W. Walter Liang was appointed by U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao as her representative for Region X covering the States of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska due to his extensive experience working with diverse communities.

Prior to being named Department of Labor Representative, Liang was a Congressional appointee to the U.S. Census Monitoring Board as the western regional representative. He also served in California as a gubernatorial appointee and liaison to the Asian community. Under President George H. W. Bush, he was appointed to the Small Business Administration. He was also appointed to serve as Assistant State Treasurer for the State of California. Liang has served six years on the National Board of Governors of the American Red Cross.

In addition to a number of private sector leadership positions, Liang served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, has been a member of numerous boards and advisory councils, and has received various awards for his work in public service. Liang is a graduate of California State University at Sacramento.

Chris Oliver, M.S.W., is the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 20 Homeless Coordinator. The States that are included in VISN 20 are Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. In this area Mr. Oliver is responsible for the coordination, grant oversight and outcomes management of VA funded Homeless programs at eight VA Hospitals and in the four-state area. Mr. Oliver has been working with homeless veterans since the inception of the Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) program in 1987 in Walla Walla, Washington. The

primary mission of the HCHV programs is to end homelessness among veterans, one veteran at a time. Currently, the VA, through the continuum of services offered in its homeless programs, offers residential and rehabilitation services to over one thousand veterans in VISN 20 everyday. Chris has been employed by the Department of Veterans affairs for the past 23 years. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Washington State University and his Master of Social Work from Eastern Washington University. He is a member of the Washington State Coalition for the Homeless, the Walla Walla County Homeless Coalition and serves as a board member for various community service organizations.

Tom Pearson currently serves as the Director Veterans Employment and Training Service, U. S. Department of Labor. He was born in Washington and has lived within thirty miles of Olympia most of his life. A graduate of William Winlock Miller High School, Tom served three years in the Army. He was hired by the Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) in 1991 to serve as Assistant Director of the VETS program in Washington State. In 1999, he was promoted to the position of Director.

The VETS National Office funds grants to assist homeless veterans with employment and training needs. The funds for housing are very limited since VETS is a division of the U. S. DOL and mandated by law and Congress to provide employment programs. At this time VETS funds three homeless programs in Washington State.

In his spare time, Tom volunteers as a soccer coach and enjoys the company of his grandchildren.

Jack Peters serves as Director of Community Planning and Development for the Seattle Regional Office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. His responsibilities include management and administration of HUD's Community Planning and Development Programs in the State of Washington. These programs include formula awards such as the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership, Housing Opportunity for Persons with Aids and the Emergency Shelter Grants.

Jack also manages several competitive grant programs including the McKinney Act Supportive Housing for Homeless Persons (Transitional and Permanent), Shelter Plus Care and SRO Moderate Rehabilitation. This portfolio encompasses nine Continuum of Care Planning Organizational units that assist over 300 homeless projects. This provides an annual award level of \$30 million.

Jack has served as a HUD Representative to the State Advisory Council on Homelessness since its inception, as well as other Statewide policy advisory boards involving economic development, environmental quality, community planning and affordable housing and technical assistance.

Prior to accepting the Seattle position, Jack worked in HUD Offices in Chicago, Illinois; Detroit, Michigan and Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Senator Debbie Regala from the 27th Legislative District is a life-long resident of Tacoma, Washington. Debbie is actively involved in the community. She has served on numerous

boards and committees in the Tacoma/Pierce County Area. Currently, Debbie is a member of the Board of Directors of the Sexual Assault Center of Pierce County and the Tacoma/Pierce County Chapter of the American Leadership Forum. She also serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Nature Conservancy of Washington.

Since her election to the Senate, she has served on the following committees: Children and Family Services, Corrections; Natural Resources, Energy and Water, and Ways and Means. Senator Regala is also a member of the Legislative Ethics Board, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee, and the Select Committee on Pension Policy. In addition, she also serves on the Washington Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect as well as the Correctional Industries Board.

Debbie graduated from the University of Puget Sound with a degree in foreign languages and education. She and her husband, Leo, have three children and two granddaughters.

David M. Wertheimer, M.S.W., M.Div., Principal Consultant with Kelly Point Partners (KP2), has worked in a variety of capacities in the human services arena for more than two decades. KP2 works to improve the lives of persons living with multiple disabilities and promote increased effectiveness and efficiency among public and private sector service systems. KP2 provides consultation, training and technical assistance on a broad range of human service system issues, with a focus on systems integration initiatives involving mental health, chemical dependency/substance abuse and criminal justice systems. Between 1990 and 2000, Mr. Wertheimer served in King County (Seattle, Washington) government developing and managing mental health services for persons with chronic and severe mental illnesses. From 1993 to 1997 he directed the King County ACCESS Project, a federally funded research and demonstration project focused on homelessness and mental illness. From 1997 to 2000, Mr. Wertheimer oversaw the integration of King County's mental health and substance abuse treatment systems as Systems Integration Administrator for the Department of Community and Human Services. In this capacity he developed a regional initiative to promote excellence in public sector services.

As a clinician, Mr. Wertheimer has developed sub-specialties in working with sexual minorities and counseling persons experiencing post-traumatic stress. He served as Executive Director of the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project (AVP) from 1985 to 1990, establishing the first clinical services on the east coast for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender survivors of bias-related violence, sexual assault and domestic abuse. The AVP remains the largest social service agency in the United States providing specialized services to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender crime victims. Mr. Wertheimer is a graduate of Haverford College, Yale University Divinity School and the University of Connecticut School of Social Work. He serves on numerous boards and advisory groups, including the Board of Directors of the Downtown Emergency Service Center (Seattle), Christopher Housing (Seattle), and Enquiry, Inc. (Langley, WA).

Carol Wilkins, M.P.P. is the Director of Intergovernmental Policy with the Corporation for Supportive Housing, where she works to develop and support the implementation of policy solutions to end long-term homelessness for people who have complex health needs and multiple barriers to employment. She has more than 20 years of experience in public finance, human services and policy work, including work with the California Legislature's Office of the Legislative Analyst, the State Assembly Ways and Means Committee, as Deputy Mayor of

Finance in San Francisco, and as Finance Director for the San Francisco Housing Authority. She is the author of “Building a Model Managed Care System for Homeless Adults with Special Needs: the Health, Housing and Integrated Services Network” in *Current Issues in Public Health* and co-author of the chapter “Making Homeless Programs Accountable to Consumers, Funders and the Public,” presented at the 1998 National Symposium on Homelessness Research and published by HUD and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She was a member of the expert panel convened by the General Accounting Office on homelessness and barriers to using mainstream programs.

Phyllis Wolfe, M.A., L.C.S.W. is a Special Expert in the Homeless Programs Branch, Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She has over 25 years of direct work in support of individuals that are homeless that includes policy, program, practice, research and advocacy.