Health Care for the Homeless Network
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Public Health
Seattle & King County

Health Care for the Homeless Network
Governance Council Nominees
As of 8/17/26

previous GC member

Benjamin Miksch*
Senior Program Manager
Advocates for Human Potential
Des Moines, WA

Key Competencies: non-contracted partner, private sector/workforce

Benjamin Miksch works for Advocates for Human Potential (AHP) as a Senior Program Manager. AHP is a national consulting/technical assistance provider that primarily serves state and local governments in the development and implementation of behavioral health programs and systems. Across his career, he has worked on a very wide range of local, county, state, and federal policies related to affordable housing and homelessness. He sees how systemic racism and intersectional oppression are very real, very deeply embedded corruptions in our society, and being open to understanding the very different experiences people can have is crucial to understanding how services/systems are (or are not) working. He is deeply committed to the work of ending homelessness, which is always two parts - the long-term work of addressing the structural oppression and deprivation that causes homelessness, and the immediate work of addressing the current crisis and helping save lives and meet peoples' needs right now.

Candace Jackson
Chief of Community Engagement
Neighborcare Health
Seattle, WA

Key Competencies: CHC seat, contracted partner, hospital systems

Candace Jackson is the Chief of Community Engagement for Neighborcare Health. As a Black bi-racial woman who has lived experience with barriers to accessing basic needs across multiple systems, and as someone who has spent time within these same systems working to dismantle those barriers, she brings an ability to center the perspectives of people served by NCHN not only in word, but in practice. She also brings strengths in community engagement, strategic leadership, and building partnerships across healthcare, housing, behavioral health, and social service systems. Through her work with community health centers and underserved populations, she has experience advancing health equity, improving access to care, and aligning diverse stakeholders around shared goals. She would contribute knowledge in community-based healthcare, governance, cross-sector collaboration, and sustainable strategies that support people experiencing homelessness and housing instability.

Emily Johnson
Public Health Policy Advisor
City of Seattle, Human Services Department
Seattle, WA

Key Competencies: government agency rep

Emily Johnson currently serves as the Public Health Policy Advisor at the Seattle Human Services Department. As a white woman working in public health, she's aware of how her lived experience shapes how she understands issues and makes decisions. She is committed to advancing anti-racism and has done ongoing work to learn, unlearn, and relearn her relationship with whiteness and privilege. As a City of Seattle employee, she will bring her professional expertise in local government programs, budgets, and public policies related to public health, healthcare access, and behavioral health. Her strengths are finding connections across people and topics, elevating voices of those most impacted into policy conversations, and translating research and practice to inform policy and program development. She's worked on a variety of topic areas relevant to the HCHN Governance Council in her career – ranging from food access, reproductive healthcare, emergency shelter, economic mobility, and criminal legal system reform – and will bring insight from those intersectional topics to the Council. Additionally, with her engagement in mutual aid and food access initiatives in North Seattle, she'll leverage her on-the-ground perspectives of that specific geographic area to contribute to discussions about the broader HCHN network.

Kristina Sawyckyj*
Consumer Representative
Kenmore, WA

Key Competencies: North King County, consumer/lived-living experience of homelessness

Kristina Sawyckyj is currently completing her Master of Public Health at the University of Washington with an emphasis in Public Policy, and has been experiencing homelessness since November 2022. Her experiences with the healthcare system have often been challenging because many providers do not fully understand the realities of living without housing. She believes that healthcare providers can make a significant difference by approaching patients experiencing homelessness with patience, understanding, flexibility, and compassion. Recognizing the barriers and working with those most affected to overcome them leads to better health outcomes and more respectful, equitable care. Her greatest strength is her active involvement within the homelessness community. Because she is currently experiencing homelessness, she is alongside her unhoused neighbors every day—not just as an advocate, but as someone living the same realities. She believes that solutions are most effective when they are informed by the voices of those directly impacted, and is deeply committed to improving the lives of my unhoused neighbors and helping create practical, compassionate solutions.

LaMont Green, DSW, LSWAIC*
Co-Chair, Lived Experience Coalition
Lived Experience Coalition
Director of the Systems Alignment Innovation Hub
Technical Assistance Collaborative, Inc.
Seattle, WA

Key Competencies: non-contracted partner, community advocacy, non-profit social services, youth, behavioral health experience, veteran
Other Relevant Experience: lived experience non-consumer

Dr. LaMont Green, DSW, is a nationally recognized strategist and movement builder in racial equity, systems transformation, and community-driven policy reform. He brings both professional expertise and lived expertise to this important work. He holds a Doctorate in Social Work (DSW) from the University of Southern California, is

a member of the LGBTQ2S+ Community, a disabled Veteran, a person in recovery from addiction, and has personally experienced homelessness. He is also a Community Organizer with the Lived Experience Coalition of WA State, Vice President of the National Coalition for the Homeless, and serves as an alternate on the King County Health Board representing Consumers. These intersecting experiences humbly allow him to understand homelessness not just as a policy issue, but as a human one. He's seen how systems can unintentionally exclude or stigmatize people, and is committed to helping the Governance Council ensure that every decision reflects the realities of those we serve. He aims to center equity, compassion, and cultural humility in our work - uplifting the voices of people with lived experience, ensuring policies are both practical and inclusive, and bridging evidence-based practice with community wisdom.

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

Key Competencies: contracted partner, community advocate, health care clinicians, hospital systems

Dr. Leslie Enzian is a board-certified addiction specialist as well as a physician in internal medicine at Harborview Medical Center, and Medical Director of Seattle's Medical Respite Program since its opening in 1996. She has worked as a provider for people experiencing homelessness for over 3 decades, serving a diverse patient population. Her patients have shared countless experiences that have offered her insights into the struggles of living homeless and encountering bias and discrimination. She is invested in advocating for service provision for people experiencing homelessness, and would appreciate an opportunity to learn more about future plans for shelter and services, and to play a role in planning supportive programs to increase access to needed services.

Maria Arns*
Consumer Representative
Auburn, WA

Key Competencies: consumer/lived-living experience of homelessness

Maria Arns was an MA for 9 years and an LPN for 15 until she got injured on-the-job then lost her home. She has experienced homelessness at different points in her life, but is now housed. Growing up like she did, she developed a strong sense of community. In her opinion, the biggest challenges are transportation to appointments, no medical services, untreated behavioral health issues, and substance use. She is committed to serving our unhoused neighbors and has a heart for people and a strong desire to see them do better.

Okesha Brandon
Consumer Representative
Seattle, WA

Key Competencies: consumer/lived-living experience of homelessness

Okesha Brandon first experienced homelessness after high school, and at different points in her life. In her opinion, one of the biggest challenges is people who lack patience and empathy. People don't realize that you are carrying your whole life in a bag, and then comes everything else like feeling like you're not a human and a lot of other mental health things that torment you on the day to day, including being discriminated against by being a woman or BIPOC or both. Right now, her biggest obligation is to implement the importance of healing from within and being a catalyst to people starting their own journeys to self-worth and self-love. Other

strengths and interests she has are public speaking, sharing her story, and lifting up the voices of those unheard in hopes that people gain compassion for those who are not like them (also feeding people experiencing homelessness).