Addressing Tuberculosis Among People Experiencing Homelessness

Thursday, April 17, 2014
1:00 pm EST
U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

Liz Osborn, Management and Program Analyst, USICH
Today’s Webinar

- We have reserved time at the end for Q&A
- Due to the high number of participants, you are in “listen only mode”
- A recording of today’s webinar and the presentation slides will be posted on www.usich.gov
TB Among People Experiencing Homelessness

- Homelessness is a public health issue
  - TB is known to be associated with crowded living conditions and for those living in poverty
  - TB rates are 10 times higher for people experiencing homelessness compared to the general population
  - Best solution is making instances of homelessness rare and brief
  - Also a need to mitigate the health risks to people currently experiencing homelessness.
Purpose

- Overview of work being done at the national and local level to prevent and address TB among people experiencing homelessness and those working with homeless populations
- Provide examples of how some practitioners have successfully addressed TB and established screening programs
Presenters

- John Lozier, Executive Director, National Health Care for the Homeless Council
- Donna Wegener, Executive Director, National Tuberculosis Controllers Association
- Krista Powell, Medical Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Julie Higashi, TB Controller, San Francisco Department of Public Health
- Kate Shuton, Shelter Health and Homeless Family Coordinator, San Francisco Department of Public Health
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Welcome and Introduction

John Lozier, Executive Director
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
www.nhchc.org
Homelessness and Poor Health are closely associated

- Pre-existing problems that precipitate homelessness
- Barriers to health care
- Violence and environmental exposures
Tuberculosis

- A major killer worldwide
- A disease of poverty
- Airborne transmission
- Preventable, treatable, curable
- Danger of drug resistance
Essential Partners in TB Control

- Public Health TB Control Programs
- Shelters
- Primary Care
  - Health Care for the Homeless
ADDRESSING TUBERCULOSIS AMONG PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Donna Hope Wegener, Executive Director
www.tbcontrollers.org
TB Public Health Programs

• Essential Partners in TB Control
  ▪ Legislative mandate to protect the public’s health
  ▪ Reporting authority
  ▪ Expertise in diagnosing and treating TB
    • Conduct contact investigations
    • Administer DOT

▪ Every state has funded TB program
Accessing TB Public Health Programs