

National Health Care for the Homeless Conference

A large group of diverse people is gathered outdoors in a paved plaza area, many of whom are clapping. In the background, a sign reads "Health Care is a Human Right". The setting appears to be an urban courtyard or plaza with a modern glass and steel structure overhead. The overall atmosphere is one of a public gathering or protest.

2016 Report Back from
AAron and Paula

Universal Health Care

- Oregon has had something similar to ACA for 15 years using Medicaid.
- ACA designed to sell more insurance.
- Federal restrictions make it hard to pass state-wide Universal Health Care.
 - Pension systems overseen by Feds.
 - No state can deny private insurance companies
 - Presidential Executive Order is the only way out
- *Health Care for All* working on legislation 2020 ballot or initiative in Oregon



Empowerment in Consumer Governance

- Consensus decision making recommended by the National Consumer Advisory Board.
- Clinicians often recommend members.
- Slate of activities get people involved/engaged
- “My Voice Matters” shirts - Brochures – Fairs – Education – visiting shelters with gifts – Voter registration – Gala – Speaking engagements – NA/AA meetings - Transportation stipends - Special meals – Birthdays acknowledged – Neighborhood cleanups –Summer Solstice event, celebrating successes – Moving meetings occasionally to where the people are – Presentations to civil bodies – Surveys at Project Connects, Standdowns and other events.

Governing Boards

Makes decisions

Focus on budget,
organizational structure,
programs

Includes professional experts,
community stakeholders and
sample of population served

Advisory Boards

Offers recommendations

Focus on services, impacts

Representative sample of
population served

NATIONAL
HEALTH CARE
for the
HOMELESS
COUNCIL

Empowerment in Consumer Governance

How an issue is described (framed) can determine popular/political support

Frame: Rugged Individualism

Market Justice

Self-determination/self-discipline
Rugged individualism self interest
Benefits based on personal effort
Limited government intervention

Frame: Community Values

Social Justice

Shared responsibility
Interconnection/co-operation
Benefits assured
Court involvement necessary

Find Shared Values. A Rugged Individualist may respond well to “Circling the Wagons” as a frame, relating to “Community Values”

How to convey message

1. Values - Inspirational and forward looking - why your audiences should care.
(What we believe)
2. Problem - Frame as a threat to vision and values *(How are we falling short)*
3. Solution - Keeps audiences hopeful, restores values *(How to solve the problem)*
4. Action - Move audiences to action.

Trauma from a perspective for consumer providers and advocates

Trauma informed has to do with how best to interact with people that have experienced trauma. The key is recognizing it, and foremost “Do no Harm”.

Learning about healing and how to interact?
We need a training!

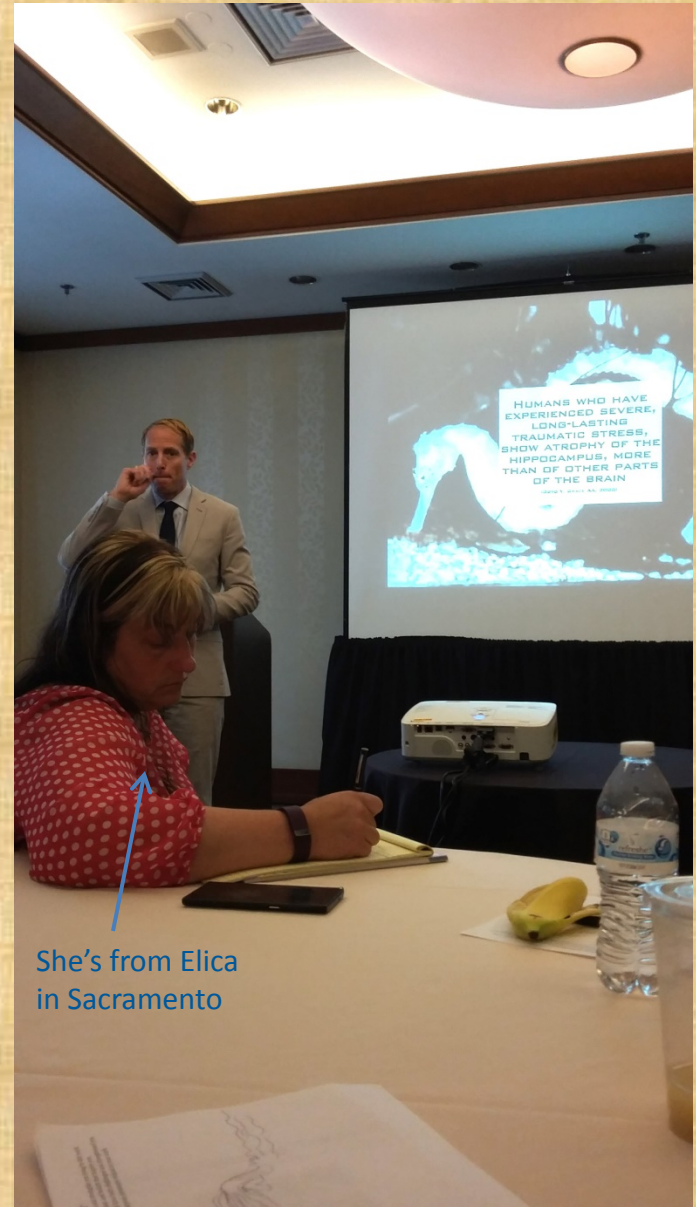
Trauma covers over the full vessel we already have.

Trauma causes loss of connection, creeps in and builds.

Be present to someone. Don't try to fix them or say “things will get better” or “I understand”

Avoid triggers. Safe environment. Give people benefit of doubt. Find level playing field. Eye contact and face to face can be confronting or intimate. Side by side at 45° leaves an escape route.

Believe in people's potential and recovery



No Safe Place – The Criminalization of the Homeless

Best to take laws against homeless people off the books; second best is to not enforce.

Gentrification leads to more criminalization and displacement.

Criminalizing creates an illusion of “doing something” but actually is harmful.

ALTERNATIVES

Housing – Services – Police training

Respite and release programs

More federal funding – Housing trust funds

Homeless Bill of Rights – Treat homeless people like people



ACTION STEPS

Organize Dispel Myths

Start early to stop new ordinances

Show costs to criminalization

Public information requests

Provide a better way - solutions



Paula's photos