

University of Massachusetts Medical School

Community Health Clerkship  
**Health Advocacy**

**COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS: A VALUED HEALTH ACCESS LIAISON  
 HOMELESSNESS**

<b>Advocacy Organizations</b>	
What are some Local organizations that do advocacy work?	Mercy Hospital – Healthcare for the Homeless
What are some State level organizations that do advocacy work?	Massachusetts Coalition for Homelessness
What are some National level organizations that do advocacy work?	National Coalition for Homelessness
What are some International organizations that do advocacy work?	Homeless International
<b>Advocacy Issue</b>	
Looking at the State, National, and/or International level, at the websites or information from the organizations above, what is a major area of advocacy at this time? <i>Try to choose an advocacy issue that will in some way affect the local community.</i> Advocacy specifically refers to promoting legislation, policies or specific budgetary appropriations that positively affect a health issue. This may occur through decreasing barriers to accessing health services, providing an infrastructure conducive to effective health promotion programs, or directly increasing the resources and infrastructure of the public health system.	Housing the chronically homeless
What specific law, policy or appropriation is being advocated for?	H.R. 1427, Federal Housing Financial Reform Act of 2007- known as the Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSE) regulatory reform bill
Who is doing the advocating? (Which organizations?)	National Housing Trust Fund
Who is being lobbied?	
Whom will this issue affect?	Chronically homeless who need housing
Were they or will they (in your opinion) be successful?	Potentially
Why or why not? What do they need to be more successful?	There are already a number of state-funded projects that are trying to meet the same needs. The problem is that the issue of homelessness is one that people want to ignore and not spend money on.
What are the consequences if they are not successful?	Increased number of homeless people. With homeless families, this will prevent children’s needs from being met – food, clothes, education, stability

If they are not successful, what other strategies can be used to achieve the same goal?	Focus more on state-level or city-wide projects
How can physicians and/or nurses be involved in this advocacy issue?	Support clinics who are gaining the trust of homeless men and women, since that is the way that they will find out about housing projects, such as Housing First in Springfield, MA.