

Resolution 1
Mississippi Nurses' Association
106th House of Delegates
Biloxi Convention Center
Biloxi, MS

Introduced by: **Lorraine Gaddis, PhD, RN, FNP-BC, Director, Council on Nursing Research on behalf of the MNA Board of Directors**

RESOLUTION: **Support Increasing Nurses Awareness of the Homeless Population and Health Risks Associated with Homelessness**

WHEREAS, Registered Nurses and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses are committed to the promotion of health and safety issues of the public; and

WHEREAS, the purposes of the Mississippi Nurses' Association include working for the improvement of health standards (Article 1; Section 2.A.); and

WHEREAS, the functions of the Mississippi Nurses' Association include representing nurses and serving as their state spokesperson with allied professional, community, governmental groups, and with the public (Article 1; Section 3.L.); and

WHEREAS, homelessness is closely connected to declines in physical and mental health; homeless persons experience high rates of health problems such as HIV infection, alcohol and drug abuse, mental illness, tuberculosis, and other debilitating conditions. Health problems among homeless persons result from various factors, including barriers to care, lack of access to adequate food and protection, and limited resources and social services¹; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi has over 1,700 homeless persons, including over 140 households with children ²; and

WHEREAS, the impact of homelessness on children, especially young children, is devastating and may lead to changes in brain architecture that can interfere with learning, cognitive skills, and social relationships³; and

WHEREAS the unrelenting stress experienced by the parents of these children, most of whom are women parenting alone, may contribute to residential instability, unemployment, ineffective parenting, and poor health³; and

Resolution 1, continued

WHEREAS, Homeless people are three to six times more likely to become ill than housed people.⁴

The Mississippi Nurses' Association, THEREFORE, RESOLVES, to increase awareness and advocacy of the homeless population in Mississippi and the health risks associated with homelessness, as appropriate, through publication of articles in the *MS RN*, information disseminated via email, and information disseminated during continuing education events. Such efforts demonstrate registered nurse advocacy for the health of all the people of the great state of Mississippi.

¹ AM. PUBLIC HEALTH ASS'N, [*Homelessness as a Public Health Problem*](#)

² HUD 2016 CONTINUUM OF CARE HOMELESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS HOMELESS POPULATION AND SUBPOPULATIONS REPORT

³ AMERICA'S YOUNGEST OUTCASTS: A REPORT CARD ON CHILD HOMELESSNESS. NOVEMBER 2014, AMERICANS INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH, THE NATIONAL CENTER ON FAMILY HOMELESSNESS, WWW.HOMELESSCHILDRENAmerica.ORG

⁴ National Health Care for the Homeless Council. *"The Basics of Homelessness."* Feb. 2008. <http://www.nhchc.org>.