



Good morning, everyone.

It is wonderful to be here with you celebrating the incredible work that the Providers of Health Care for the Homeless do every day to serve the homeless residents of our City.

I am here, representing all of the federally qualified health centers (or FQHCs, for short) in New York State, to honor two remarkable individuals who both dedicated their careers to serving others and amassed huge legacies that will be remembered and will benefit underserved communities for many, many years to come.

Today I am proud to present the Providers of Health Care for the Homeless Award for Outstanding Service to John Lozier, a person well-known to many of you. This award, which has been given for many years, has just been renamed the Elizabeth Swain Award for Outstanding Service in memory of my boss, Elizabeth Swain, who passed away too soon just 2 months ago.

Before I present the award, I would like to say a few words about Elizabeth.

- Elizabeth Swain, President and CEO of the Community Health Care Association of NYS (CHCANYS) from 2005 until her passing in June, was a tireless advocate for the community health center movement who devoted her life's work to social and economic justice in health care, with a keen focus on challenges faced by the homeless and other special needs populations.
- Prior to arriving at CHCANYS, Elizabeth served for 12 years as Executive Director of the 45th St Clinic in Seattle, WA, where she founded programs for Homeless Families and Homeless Youth that were both nationally recognized for their success in addressing the health care, mental health and life obstacles faced by homeless people.
- Elizabeth was also a founder of the Community Health Plan of Washington, a large primary care network serving urban, rural and special population areas which became the health plan for Washington's publicly-funded patients receiving care at community health centers.
- These experiences as both a special needs provider and payer directly informed Elizabeth's work to expand CHCANYS' membership and governance to include wider representation by all HRSA community health center grantees, including homeless providers, thus establishing a stronger, more comprehensive voice to advocate for expanded access to primary care.
- Elizabeth provided a strategy for engaging policymakers in a more meaningful and effectual way, which has bolstered FQHC expansion efforts. During her tenure, the number of patients seen by New York State's FQHCs nearly doubled, and the number of FQHCs receiving federal funding to care for the homeless grew by two-thirds. Today, New York State's FQHCs see nearly 95,000 homeless patients each year.
- Elizabeth took great pride in the work she was able to do with Providers of Health Care for the Homeless, and the renaming of this award means so much to us, as it would have to her.

And now to present the Elizabeth Swain Award for Outstanding Service.

In a field marked by high levels of employee "burn-out," we must recognize those individuals who devote their careers to the provision of care to people experiencing homelessness. It takes a special kind of individual to weather decades of service to our most vulnerable neighbors. This is a field burdened by

defeat more often than it is emboldened in victory. It's one motivated by the presence of unjustified suffering and disadvantage. It's not driven by money or promises of prestige. Success in the field of homeless health care is defined by one's ability to become our clients' companion on the road to wellness. In acknowledging those who have given decades of their life to the service of others, we recognize the hope that we too may fully give ourselves to such work.

John N. Lozier has been Executive Director of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council since its founding in 1990 and oversees all aspects of the Council's activity in advocacy, training, technical assistance, research, peer support, organizing, and fund development.

Prior to his employment with the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, Lozier was director of services for the homeless for the Metropolitan Health Department in Nashville and Davidson County, with responsibility for development and operation of a specialized primary care clinic and a multiservice day center for homeless people.

Among other national-level involvements, Lozier has served on the

- Board of Directors of the National Coalition for the Homeless,
- The Caucus on Homelessness of the American Public Health Association, and
- The Homeless Health Care Committee of the National Association of Community Health Centers.

He has also served on Boards and Committees of numerous state and local organizations.

It is my great honor to present the Elizabeth Swain Award for Outstanding Service to John N. Lozier, tireless champion of health care for the homeless.