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## Homelessness

The short article below focuses on homelessness and is excerpted from the full-length article by Nooe and Patterson, with their permission. The full article can be accessed using the following reference:

Nooe, Roger M. and Patterson, David A.  
'The Ecology of Homelessness', *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 20:2, 105 – 152

From an ecological perspective, homelessness can be understood as the result of interactions among risk factors ranging from individual conditions to socio-economic structures and environmental circumstances (Toro, Trickett, Wall, & Salem, 1991; Baron, 2004; National Coalition for the Homeless, 2007). Homelessness manifests itself on a temporal continuum as situational, episodic, or chronic. Over time, homeless individuals may experience changes in housing status that include being on the street, shared dwelling, emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing and hospitalization and incarceration in correctional facilities. Episodes of homelessness result in individual and social consequences, which are commonly detrimental to individual well-being and negatively affect social interactions within the community (Phelan, Link, Moore, & Stueve, 1997; Saelinger, 2006; National Coalition for the Homeless [NCH], 2004; National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty [NLCHP], 1997.)

The intention of this article is to propose a broad conceptual model of homelessness that examines biopsychosocial risk factors associated with homelessness in relation to the constructs of temporal course, housing status, and individual and social outcomes. We employ an ecological perspective to situate and describe known biopsychosocial risk factors in a hierarchy of systems/domains. The goal is to transcend the classic debate that posited homelessness as the result of either individual or structural factors (Burt, Aron, Lee, & Valente, 2001; Fisher & Breakey, 1991; Calsyn & Roades, 2006; United States Conference of Mayors, 2007). Though framing the debate of the origins of homelessness within this artificial causal dichotomy may have served political and policy objectives, this reductionism does not advance an etiological understanding of homelessness reflective of the phenomenon's actual complexity nor does it foster robust, multi-systemic response options from communities, agencies, organizations, and practitioners.

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Moreover, homelessness cannot be understood or addressed by focusing solely on causal factors and ignoring its varying temporal dimensions, the spectrum of consequential individual and social outcomes, and the resulting limited housing options associated with homelessness. To view homelessness only from the perspective of why and how individuals and families became homeless is to see only half the picture. The conceptual model presented here is intended to articulate a *gestalt* of homelessness not only recognizing the constituent parts of the phenomenon but offering a map of the dynamic interactions of the elements of the model.

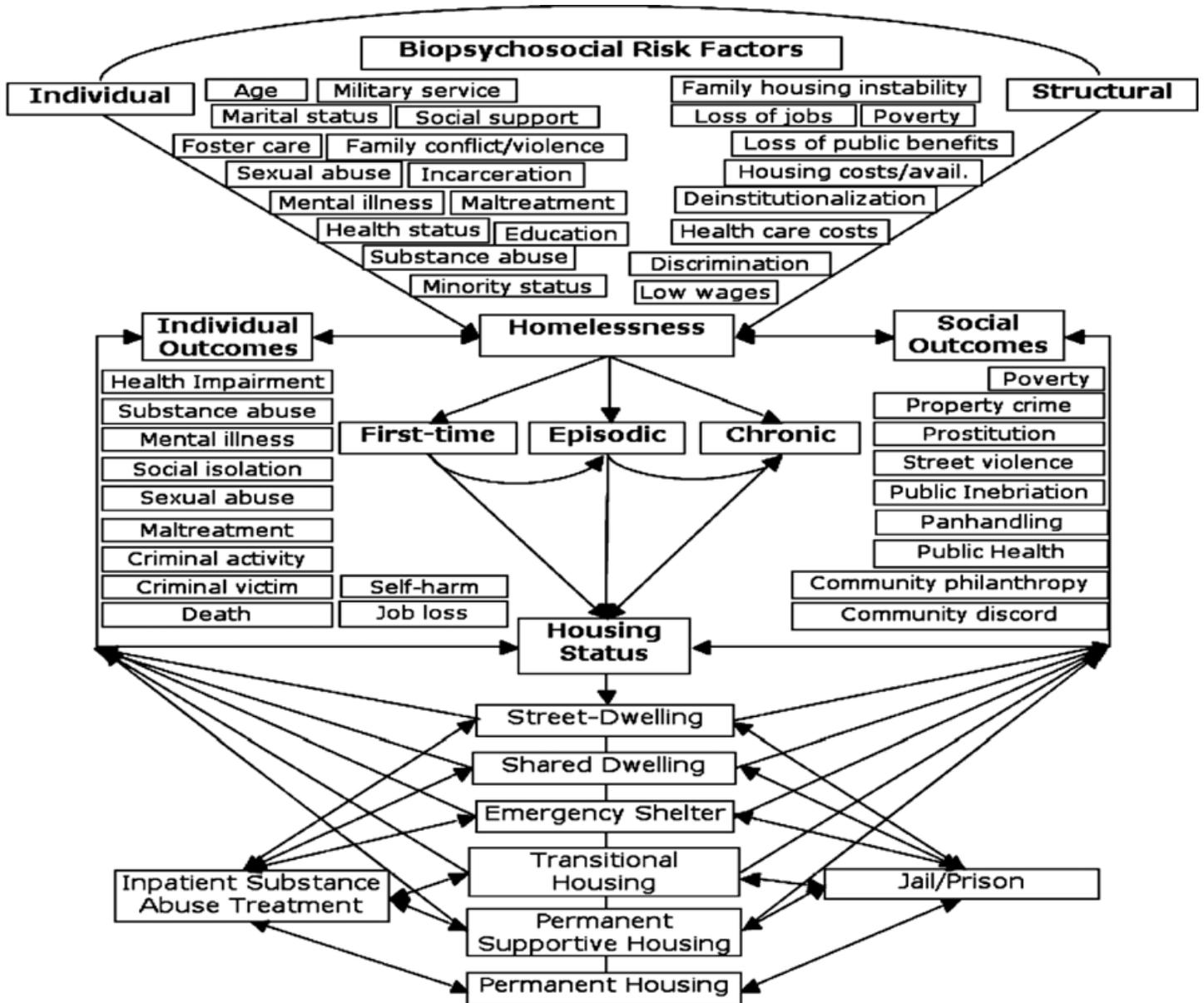


FIGURE 1 Ecological model of homelessness.

*Continued from page 2*

The proposed model is consistent with recognition of the complexity of homelessness. There are increasing attempts to analyze the transactional nature of factors contributing to homelessness (Burt et al., 2001; NCH, 2007; Coolen, 2006; Martijn & Sharpe, 2006; Toro et al., 1991). In our model, the four primary components are biopsychosocial risk factors (e.g., age, marital status, social support), individual outcomes (e.g., health impairments, substance abuse) and social outcomes (e.g., extent of poverty, criminal activity), the temporal dimension, and housing outcomes (e.g., street dwelling, shared dwelling). [Figure 1](#) illustrates this model of the ecology of homelessness (items within parentheses added by KAPA). It is intended to depict the dynamic relationship between the domains and elements of the model.

## Summary

In the United States, the efforts to prevent, remediate, and end homelessness extend from local governmental and faith-based endeavors offering food, clothing, employment, and housing to state and federal initiatives to coordinate care and provide suitable housing. The present-day national economic crisis is constraining the financial and material resources available to respond to homelessness while simultaneously increasing the number of individuals at risk of becoming homeless. Efficacious responses to homelessness require an appreciation of the complexity of homelessness; its multiple, interacting causes; diverse manifestations; variable duration; and costly financial and social consequences.

The ecological model of homelessness presented here attempts to represent the domains and complexity of this tragically persistent social phenomenon. Our ecological model, represented in [Figure 1](#), is a conceptual map depicting the relationships and interactions between the constituent elements of the model. Scientist and philosopher Alfred Korzybski famously said, "The map is not the territory." This insight is especially germane to the map presented in [Figure 1](#). No set of lines can portray the territory of the experienced realities of homelessness, its precursors, and its consequences. Instead, this ecological model of homelessness and its explication in this article is our effort to distill a large body of social science literature into a coherent and cogent map to guide individuals, agencies, and communities in their efforts to prevent and redress homelessness.



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## Continuing Education Opportunities Outside of KAPA

<b>June 2</b>	Clinical Supervision: Legal, Ethical and Risk Management Issues	Holiday Inn Select Downtown
<b>June 14</b>	Coding and Billing for Mental Health Services	Holiday Inn Select Downtown
<b>June 30</b>	Wisdom of the Dream: A Jungian Approach To Dream Interpretation	Holiday Inn Select Downtown
<b>August 4</b>	Bipolar: An Updated Slant on the Disorder	Holiday Inn Select Downtown

**Welcome to** the following psychologists who have joined KAPA recently. You may find them listed in the Membership Directory on the KAPA web site at [www.knoxvilleareapsychology.org](http://www.knoxvilleareapsychology.org)

**Dr. Laurel B. Goodrich**

**Dr. Michael C. Hawthorne**

**Dr. Emily Kirk**

**Dr. Mike Klitzke**

**Dr. Megan MacNamara**

**Dr. Lisa Oglesby**

**Dr. Cabot Young**

**Please remember** to keep us informed of any changes to your email address, business contact information, or website listing. Contact the administrative assistant at [ltoney5017@comcast.net](mailto:ltoney5017@comcast.net) to make changes.



# Call for Nominations



The Board of Directors of the Knoxville Area Psychological Association is seeking nominations for the position of President Elect. Members may nominate themselves. Please consider this opportunity to support this wonderful local resource.

Please submit nominations or any questions to:

Joshua Williams, Ph.D.

President

[jw10ec@aol.com](mailto:jw10ec@aol.com)

(865) 909-0929

Currently we have the following nominations to vote for:

**Secretary Nominee: Robert Mindrup**

**Treasurer Nominee: Phil Johnson**

**CE Director Nominee: Ted Jones**

<b>KAPA</b>	Joshua Williams, President	909-0929	<a href="mailto:jw10ec@aol.com">jw10ec@aol.com</a>
	Malcom Spica, President-elect	531-9099	<a href="mailto:mspica@ameritech.net">mspica@ameritech.net</a>
<b>BOARD</b>	Victor W. Barr, Past-president	974-2196	<a href="mailto:vbarr@utk.edu">vbarr@utk.edu</a>
	Shana Hamilton-Lockwood, Sec	423-623-5301	<a href="mailto:drshanaphd@yahoo.com">drshanaphd@yahoo.com</a>
<b>CONTACT</b>	Steve McCallum, CE Coordinator	974-5405	<a href="mailto:mccallum@utk.edu">mccallum@utk.edu</a>
	James T. "Dale" Berry, Treasurer	670-0988	<a href="mailto:Jtdberry@yahoo.com">Jtdberry@yahoo.com</a>
<b>INFO</b>	Leslie R. Toney, Admin Assistant	694-5017	<a href="mailto:ltoney5017@comcast.net">ltoney5017@comcast.net</a>

## Announcement: Book Published By KAPA Member

### *The Elders Speak: Two Psychologists Share Their Lifetimes of Experience*

*Ellison C. Mitchell, Ph.D.    John E. Hoover, Ph.D.*

“With grace and wisdom and insight, **Ellison Mitchell** and **John Hoover** have written an approachable book about a subject matter often shrouded in mystery. Their casual yet confident writing style invites the reader into their closed-door world; reading *The Elders Speak* is much like eavesdropping on two masters of the trade swapping stories over dinner from a lifetime in the field. But, perhaps, the greatest strength of the book lies in **Mitchell** and **Hoover’s** willingness to expose their own search for psychological growth and awareness while helping patients do the same. *The Elders Speak* is laced with a vulnerability that makes every page reek with honesty.”

---Russell Schaumburg, Screenwriter, “*Tennessee*” (produced by Lee Daniels)

This book is available on **Lulu.com** and **Amazon.com**. You can also pick up a book at either office:

Eli Mitchell: 4877 Chambliss Ave.

John Hoover: 4428 Sutherland Ave.

## KAPA Classifieds

**Axiom Associates** announces availability of office space in the renovated Keller Building on Summit Hill Drive . The Keller Building is an historical building, located downtown adjacent to the Old City . **Axiom Associates** is an established practice group, composed of independent practitioners cooperating to develop and promote effective ways of delivering psychological services within and without managed care participation. Advantages include: central location with proximity to under-served areas of town, the charm and character of an historical building, association with an active practice group, flexible initial overhead costs, and complete office services, including the billing and secretarial services. For further information, please call Terry Molnar at 525-1099 x11.

**A nicely decorated office** in a prime location of West Knoxville is available for part time or full time rent. The price is quite reasonable and I would welcome anyone interested to come by and look it over. Please contact Lee Whitaker at 384-1007 for more information.

### Did You Know?

One of the many benefits of KAPA membership is free advertising in the KAPA Classifieds! Please contact Shana Hamilton-Lockwood, KAPA Secretary, at [DrShanaPhD@yahoo.com](mailto:DrShanaPhD@yahoo.com) for more details on how you can advertise in our next newsletter.