

The Medford Transcript

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Gaeta speaks to Rotary Club

Medford - In April, Dr. Jessie Gaeta spoke with the Medford Rotary Club about healthcare for homeless.

She has found that homelessness is a disease, significantly decreasing the longevity of people's lives and that the number one reason for her patients being homeless is lack of affordable housing.

Gaeta is a physician advocate for Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance, which initiates solutions to end homelessness. As a physician advocate, Gaeta draws upon her specific knowledge of the health issues facing her homeless patients living on the streets and advocates for appropriate health care and housing resources to meet the needs of this population.

Gaeta is on staff at the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program and is a faculty member at Boston University Medical Center where she regularly attends on the inpatient medical ward that is largely responsible for the care of the sickest homeless people in Boston.

Her clinical experience with homeless patients has led to her interest in affecting housing policy as a strategy to improve the chronic illnesses and lives of her patients.

For more information on these organizations, visit www.mhsa.net or <http://www.bhchp.org/>.

