

10th Annual
Evidence-based Practices Symposium

**Building a Life Beyond
Homelessness**

August 11-12, 2020

EBP Symposium Bios

Jamie Almanza, MBA, has dedicated more than 20 years to uplifting vulnerable community members across California. Ms. Almanza is the CEO of Bay Area Community Services (BACS) and has provided strategic leadership to the agency since 2010. Ms. Almanza is an expert in the social impact sector, with a lens towards pushing for reform and optimizing infrastructure and scale so that our communities experience true social justice.

Benjamin Blake, MFT, Chief Clinical Strategy Officer, has over 30 years of clinical and leadership experience working with older adults, adults, youth, and families and is a renowned expert utilizing Wraparound approaches to service delivery in an untraditional way, including running San Diego's largest Full-Service Partnership.

Regina Bryan is the Housing and Resource Specialist at Capital Star Community Services in Sacramento California, specifically in the Transitional Age Youth - Full-Service Partnership (TAY FSP) program. Regina has personal lived experiences with homelessness, mental health recovery, and child welfare systems. Regina uses her experience to support others in navigating systems and linking to resources; this includes previous work in public schools aiding children and families experiencing homelessness in connecting to supporting programs. Regina also has a passion for public health and her previous experience as a Peer Health Educator allowed her to provide education about mental health and well-being to decrease stigma and promote access to mental health resources in Sacramento County. Regina currently serves on a task force for the Guardian Scholars Program at Sac State that address barriers to foster youth in education including housing and basic needs. Regina holds a Bachelor of Social Work degree from California State University, Sacramento.

Sasha Caine, JD, supports communities in their efforts to end homelessness by developing, implementing, evaluating, and strengthening coordinated entry systems and facilitating strategic planning processes and capacity-building to strengthen systemic responses. She analyzes housing inventory, program and system performance, and homeless population data and facilitates multilingual focus groups to collect consumer input to develop recommendations for system growth and improvement. She writes grant applications to increase programmatic and systematic capacity and function and drafts reports on the state of homelessness and supportive housing to engage new funders and partners. She designs and conducts trainings, provides technical assistance, and monitors programs to ensure regulatory compliance and promote use of evidence-based best practices.

Miriam Clark is a Program Manager I with San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) Program for Law Enforcement and Community Partners. Ms. Clark has over fifteen years of human services experience with San Bernardino County working in various departments including the Department of Aging and Adult Services In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority, Public Health and Children and Family Services. In 2012, Miriam began her career with DBH as a Social Worker II. In 2014, she promoted to Mental Health Education Consultant with the DBH Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) Program. In collaboration with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Miriam works to uphold the goals of the program by ensuring that first responders and community partners are well-prepared to successfully support and respond to community residents experiencing a behavioral health crisis. Through Miriam's leadership, the program partners with law enforcement entities and other county community partners, such as Probation and Fire, to educate their personnel on ways to recognize a behavioral health crisis, communicate appropriately, de-escalate, and most importantly, connect community residents and their families to appropriate resources. Miriam holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Liberal Studies from the University of California, Riverside, and a Master of Public Administration Degree from The University of La Verne. Miriam is a certified San Bernardino County Sheriff's Academy Instructor, Mental Health First Aid Instructor, and a certified CIT Coordinator through CIT International.

Kate Cordell, PhD., MPH, is a Behavioral Health Services Data Scientist and Researcher. Dr. Cordell integrates data systems to support a whole-person approach to care and builds solutions to put the person at the center. She implements insightful visualizations to track progress for a person and their care team. She builds models to convert data into decisions and decisions into positive outcomes. Dr. Cordell works to identify whether individuals and families are improving during care. She is especially interested in what works for whom. Every person and family have a story, often complex but also sewn with common thread. Dr. Cordell uses longitudinal analysis methods to model the changing patterns in these complex tapestries, hoping to identify the common elements of design. Dr. Cordell holds a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University, an M.P.H. in Biometry from the Graduate School of Public Health at San Diego State University and a Ph.D. from the School of Social Welfare at the University of California, Berkeley.

Amanda Cowan, MSc, studied in the UK, obtaining her undergraduate degree in sociology & social work from Royal Holloway, University of London. While working for the National Health Service on alcohol liaison and harm reduction pilot programs she went back for her Masters in addiction and mental health at Kings College, University of London, focusing her dissertation on the link between opiate use disorder and ability to accurately assess emotional states.

Julie DeRose, LMFT, ATR, is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and a Registered Art Therapist. She has over 20 years of experience as a mental health professional working in outpatient, psychiatric hospital, residential treatment, and emergency shelter settings. While on staff at Cedars Sinai Medical Center, she specialized in adolescents and family treatment. Her work with the homeless began over 15 years ago and includes positions at Covenant House California, St Joseph Center, and most recently as Chief of Programs, Permanent Housing Services at The People Concern. It is in these position that she has implemented programs to successfully house homeless individuals and families.

Ciara DeVozza, MSW, graduated with a master's degree in Social Work from Smith College and has ten years of experience working in homeless and mental health services. She has worked in both in and outpatient psychiatric settings, shelters, homeless outreach, and permanent supportive housing. Her focus has been working with chronically homeless individuals with severe mental illnesses, substance use disorders, and medical complications. Her work with street homeless individuals began with her work at The Center for Urban Community Services' psychiatric women's shelter program in New York City, and continued at Boston Health Care for the Homeless as a part of the medical "street team." Currently she is the Program Director of the C3 street-based engagement program in Los Angeles' Skid Row, which focuses on supporting and housing the most vulnerable residents of Los Angeles.

Dr. Noemi Doohan, MD, PhD., is the Public Health Officer for Mendocino County and a board-certified family medicine physician. She has been involved in the creation of 3 Street Medicine Programs over the last 15 years: Doctors Without Walls-Santa Barbara Street Medicine; Street Medicine Coachella Valley; and Adventist Health Ukiah Valley Street Medicine. She has practiced medicine as a primary care clinician and hospitalist. She is a cohort 18 California Health Care Foundation fellow with a fellowship project that focuses on innovative solutions to the co-occurring epidemics of homelessness and addiction.

Mitchell Dumpson is a Youth Lead for AWhA Grand Challenge Sacramento Dream Team

- Youth Advocate for California Coalition of Youth
- Lived experience with Homelessness
- Sacramento Youth Council Member
- Homeless Youth Task Force member
- Working on Best Practice Guidelines and Equity Approval Rating Tool
- Former Emergency Medical Technician and Certified Nurse's Assistant

Mitchell's experiences with homelessness has led him on a path working towards ending youth homelessness. Mitchell helps people that have walked the same mile in the same shoes and prevents young adults from having to try and build a life living on the streets. Mitchell believes everyone you meet can teach you something if you're willing to listen. People experiencing homelessness live with different perspectives of life, and we will need these perspectives to truly change the world.

Carol Alynn Gausvik, MSW, has been working in homeless services for 10 years. She completed a Bachelor of Social Work at the University of Calgary, and in her last semester discovered a passion for homeless services. After her BSW she provided prevention case management, assisting to stabilize families who were imminently at risk of entering shelter. She went on to complete her MSW at the University of British Columbia. Alynn focused her MSW on housing policy, with her research on youth hidden homelessness, and her internship developing policy for youth housing interventions. After her

MSW Alynn managed a small housing first program that integrated an existing street outreach team with a new grant for housing placement and subsidy allocation. Currently Alynn oversees the engagement component of Coordinated Entry System in the San Fernando Valley. This service area is one of eight in LA County and has close to 8000 people experiencing homelessness on any given night. Alynn believes that housing first is the answer to ending homelessness and has been practicing problem solving since before it was a buzz word. Her work at LAFH includes oversight of street outreach Multi-Disciplinary teams, walk in centers for families and individuals, prioritization and matching of households to resources, and intake and documentation services.

Dr. Rick Goscha is Sr. Vice President for the California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions. Dr. Goscha has 30 years of experience in behavioral health including the provision of clinical services, supervision and program management, agency executive leadership, research and evaluation, and policy development. Dr. Goscha previously worked as the Director for the University of Kansas Center for Mental Health Research and Innovation, recognized nationally and internationally for their work around the Strengths Model and other recovery-oriented, evidence-based practices for people with serious mental illnesses. Dr. Goscha's extensive work around building systemic infrastructures that support recovery-oriented practices, enhancing skill-development through field mentoring, making use of data to guide program improvement efforts, and using client-centered leadership practices, have translated to positive outcomes for behavioral health organizations.

Dr. Goscha is an internationally-renown speaker and author. In addition to numerous published articles, book chapters, keynote speeches, and presentations, he is the co-author, along with Charles Rapp, of the Strengths Model: A Recovery-Oriented Approach to Mental Health Services (published by Oxford University Press), now in its third edition.

Brenda Grealish has over 20 years of State of California experience and is currently serving as the Chief of the Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Division, where she is responsible for overseeing the planning, implementation, and evaluation of DHCS mental health and substance use disorder services, programs, and policies relating to Medi-Cal. Additionally, she served as Acting Deputy Director, Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services/Behavioral Health, from February 1, 2018, through August 4, 2019. Prior to this, Ms. Grealish served as Chief of the former Mental Health Services Division. Ms. Grealish has experience in planning, organizing, and directing program operations and policy formulation for both Medi-Cal and non Medi-Cal community mental health services, as well as administration of the Specialty Mental Health Services 1915 (b) waiver and the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration mental health block grant. Ms. Grealish earned a master's degree in Psychology from the California State University, Sacramento, and a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of California, Davis. As MCBHD Chief, Ms. Grealish serves as the central point for policy development and interpretation for Medi-Cal behavioral health services.

Marissa Guerrero, LMFT, is the Director of Community Services at Capital Star Behavioral Health in Sacramento County where she oversees 3 Transition Age Youth (TAY) programs: Full Service Partnership Transition Age Youth (FSP TAY), Consultation Support Engagement Team for Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSET for CSEC), and Youth Help Network (YHN). She has more than a decade of experience in mental health, working in residential and community-based settings, prior to her positions of providing program oversight in Santa Clara and Alameda Counties. Marissa has supported adolescents involved within the juvenile justice system, as well as in the child welfare and foster care system. Marissa holds a Bachelor of Arts degree, double majoring in Behavioral Science and Sociology from San Jose State University. She obtained her Master of Arts in

Counseling Psychology from John F. Kennedy University and is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist.

Christine Haworth earned her BS and MA in occupational therapy from the University of Southern California. She has 10+ years of clinical experience, primarily in community based mental health with disenfranchised adolescents. She currently lectures within the Occupational Therapy Department at San Jose State University and works at OTTP-SF on their IPS pilot program for transitional age youth with mental health diagnoses. As an occupational therapist, Ms. Haworth also served in the Peace Corps in Paraguay, where she worked to facilitate social skills development within juvenile detention facilities, developed programs to enhance community awareness of disabilities, and established programs for female empowerment. She is also the co-author of a dynamic assessment of occupational performance skills called the Double OT, which has been acquired by a publisher. She and her colleagues are in the process of conducting research on the assessment tool and have presented on it both nationally and internationally.

Heather Hocking, MSW, is the Director of Community Services at Jewish Family Service of San Diego. Heather has worked in social services for 15 years and is passionate about empowering people through providing access to information, resources and opportunities. Heather has been involved with the Safe Parking Program since November 2018 and has played a part in helping over 230 families back into permanent housing. Heather graduated with her Master of Social Work from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Percy Howard, III, LCSW is the President and CEO for the California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions. Over the past eight years of his tenure at CIBHS, Percy has been a catalyst in improving the organization's ability and infrastructure to implement recovery-oriented and family-directed Evidence-Based Practices in California. During his 33-year work history, Percy has worked for County Behavioral Health and Child Welfare Systems, Private Healthcare providers, Non-Profit CBOs and in Juvenile Justice Settings. Some of the roles he has occupied include Clinical Director, Program Director, Program Analyst, Child Welfare Supervisor, private practice Psychotherapist and Family Reunification Social Worker. His years of experience as a licensed clinician along with extensive program creation and management expertise has served him well in his current leadership role at CIBHS.

Kate Jones, MA, SOAR Case Manager, has over 16 years of experience working with Veterans and other individuals experiencing homelessness, serious mental illness, physical disabilities and co-occurring disorders. Kate joined Interfaith in 2019 as part of the SOAR Program. Kate was the SOAR Agency Lead at her previous agency in Memphis, TN and has completed approximately 100 SOAR applications with a 99% approval rating. She is a US Navy Veteran and served in the Arabian Gulf during Desert Storm. Kate holds a BA from the University of Missouri, Columbia and an MA from Memphis Theological Seminary.

Kathryn Kaminski, MA, coordinates the Continuum of Care board and works with CoC membership to develop and implement policies to advance the goal of making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring in Santa Clara County. She is responsible for ensuring that CoC policy and decision making, including policies related to the local coordinated entry system is transparent, community-driven, and in compliance with federal and local regulations.

Megan Kurteff-Schatz, MSW, MPP, is the founder and president of Focus Strategies, a national consulting and technical assistance firm dedicated to assisting communities reduce and end homelessness. Since 2006, Focus Strategies has assisted several States and more than 50 communities on projects which typically include assessing the impact of homeless system investments; delivering recommendations on optimizing system and program design elements; analyzing data to identify disparities and providing technical assistance to address them; and supporting affordable housing developments from pre-development through operation. Megan frequently speaks with community and elected leadership about systems change efforts to reduce homelessness and regularly presents at national forums on solutions to homelessness. She holds an Executive Leadership credential from University of California at Davis and two master's degrees in Social Work and Public Policy from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

Margot Kushel, MD is a Professor of Medicine at University of California San Francisco, and Director of the UCSF Center for Vulnerable Populations, and the UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative. She is a practicing general internist at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital. Margot's research focuses on the causes and consequences of homelessness and housing instability, with the goal of preventing and ending homelessness and ameliorating the effects of homelessness on health. She speaks at a local, state and national level about issues of homelessness, and provides testimony to legislative bodies. She received her AB from Harvard College, her MD from Yale and completed residency, chief residency and fellowship in internal medicine at UCSF.

Karen Lauterbach is the Director of Community Programs and Advocacy at Venice Family Clinic, a leading community health center in Los Angeles that provides comprehensive primary health care services to more than 28,000 patients each year. In her current position, she is jointly responsible for leading the clinic's engagement with lawmakers and policymakers on public policy issues as well as directing the clinic's ongoing effort to connect with the community and ensure that the clinic's 28,000 patients have access to health coverage. Karen currently serves on the State DHS Medi-Cal Children's Health Advisory Panel and as the co-chair of the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County's (CCALAC) Policy Advisory Group. She participates in statewide and local coalitions that focus on improving access to health care. Karen holds an undergraduate degree in law and society from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Kendra Mackey, LCSW, Clinical Services Manager, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in California since 2011. Kendra has been working in the social work field for over 20 years. She has been with Interfaith Community Services since 2017. In her role as the Clinical Services Manager, Kendra oversees the SOAR program, Veterans Behavioral Health clinicians and Outreach Services for those experiencing homelessness. Kendra has worked in a variety of settings with individuals experiencing severe mental illness, substance abuse and homelessness. She has experience in both direct services as a case manager and therapist as well as in program management. Kendra has studied and supported implementation of services within multiple models of care including; Clubhouses, Assertive Community Treatment, Co-occurring Disorders, Gender Responsive Services and Trauma informed Care. Gaining experience in person centered perspectives early on in her career, Kendra remains committed to the dignity and worth of individuals in all the services that she provides.

Gina Mittal, MSW, MPH, is the Director of Integrated Services at Jewish Family Service of San Diego. In her role at JFS, she works with a variety of case management programs, some of which are piloting the CTI model. She has worked in the nonprofit field for over 10 years. Prior to JFS, Gina worked in a national mentoring program and at United Way of Massachusetts Bay & Merrimack Valley, where she

focused on family engagement and early childhood education. Gina graduated with her Master of Social Work and Master of Public Health from Boston University.

Gillian Morshedi, JD, is a Staff Attorney for HomeBase. Her primary areas of focus and expertise are Coordinated Entry planning, development, and implementation and housing and healthcare coordination and integration, including building partnerships and leveraging mainstream health and other resources to better serve people with housing and behavioral and primary health needs. As a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) technical assistance provider, Gillian was the primary Staff Attorney responsible for designing, planning, producing, and facilitating the HUD-sponsored Housing and Healthcare Systems Integration (H2) action planning sessions held in 20 states around the nation in 2014-2016, as well as overseeing and delivering implementation support for all 20 communities. She is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Homeless and Housing Resource Network (HHRN), SAMHSA's training and technical assistance center that shares knowledge and best practices for preventing and ending homelessness. Over the past year, she has been working with The Arlene & Michael Rosen Foundation to help develop their Safe Haven Clinic Initiative and support California communities to better serve people experiencing both homelessness and substance use disorder through enhanced innovation.

Kory Oberlies, MPA, is a Division Director I for the San Bernardino County Probation Department's Day Reporting Centers, Mental Health Supervision Unit, and Collaborative Treatment Courts. He serves as the department's liaison with the San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health's CHOICE (Choosing Healthy Options to Instill Change and Empowerment) Program ensuring probationers receive services for mental health and substance use disorders. Mr. Oberlies is an active member of the Probation CIT Committee supporting working collaborative partnerships and behavioral health training to all Probation Officers and Probation Corrections Officers. He has served as a dedicated Probation Officer for over 22 years and has experience in both adult and juvenile supervision, juvenile placement and wraparound services, warrant apprehension, and as the Domestic Violence Program Coordinator. He was a key contributor to the development of the Probation Department's K9 unit and co-authored the department's evidence and asset forfeiture process. Mr. Oberlies holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and a master's degree in Public Administration.

Pixie Pearl (Fae/Faem/Faer) holds a Masters of Social Work degree from California State University, Sacramento, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Human Services. Pixie has experienced homelessness 4 times in faer life due to homophobia and lack of affordable housing. [Fae](#) lived experience and education drove faem to lead the launch of Sacramento's first LGBTQ+ focused shelter and formal host homes program for youth experiencing homelessness. Pixie is also the youth service provider representative on the Sacramento CoC (Continuum of Care) Advisory Board, and is a member of Sacramento's Dream Team for the A Way Home America Grand Challenge, a two year national initiative to end homelessness for LGBTQ+ youth and youth of color, setting the path to ending homelessness for all youth.

Sharon Rapport, As the Director for California State Policy at the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH), Sharon Rapport advances a California policy agenda across multiple issues affecting people experiencing homelessness. Most recently, Ms. Rapport was appointed to Governor Newsom's Council of Regional Homeless Advisors. Ms. Rapport has been instrumental in passing CSH-sponsored

legislation, including legislation to create a Medicaid benefit for housing-based services (through AB 361 (Mitchell), the Health Homes Program), a streamlined process for building supportive housing (through AB 2162 (Chiu)), a program to fund housing and services for homeless child-welfare-involved families (Bringing Families Home), a ballot initiative to repurpose existing bonds to create thousands of apartments affordable to veterans experiencing homelessness or poverty (through AB 639 (J. Perez), the Veterans Housing & Homelessness Prevention program), and a program providing grants to counties to fund rental assistance for chronically homeless Medi-Cal beneficiaries (through AB 74 (Chiu), Housing for a Healthy California). Ms. Rapport has not only collaborated with agencies and stakeholders to implement new programs, she has provided technical assistance to the Department of Health Care Services in proposing funding for housing and services for California's 1115 Medicaid Waiver, facilitating the creation of the Whole Person Care pilot, and to the Department of Housing & Community Development to implement a \$2 billion housing bond (No Place Like Home). She has been appointed to multiple decision-making bodies, including an appointment to the CalAIM/Medi-Cal Healthier California For All Work Group on Enhanced Care Management and In Lieu of Services, the Executive Steering Committee for the Adult Reentry Grant, and the 1115 Medicaid Waiver Stakeholder Committee. She served on the Board of Housing California for six years, where she was elected President of the Board from 2017-18. Prior to joining CSH, Ms. Rapport worked as a Congressional Fellow for U.S. Senator Jack Reed (D-RI), focusing on housing and judiciary issues, and previously managed a large legal office as a Hearing Office Director for the Office of Hearings & Appeals.

Lonnie Resser, MPH, is a Health Program Analyst for the West and South LA Regional Health Office with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, where she is responsible for identifying and addressing public health issues specific to the West Los Angeles Region. Ms. Resser has previously worked as a Health Educator with the Department of Public Health in the Division of HIV and STD Programs, facilitating theory-based health education trainings, and with the Division of Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health, creating, implementing, and evaluating a text message-based health education program called Choose Health LA Moms. Prior to working with the Department of Public Health, Ms. Resser was the Event and Volunteer Coordinator for A Window Between Worlds, a nonprofit dedicated to using art as a healing tool for survivors of trauma. Ms. Resser received her BS degree in Health: Science, Society and Policy with a minor in Women's and Gender Studies from Brandeis University, and received her MPH with a concentration in Community Health Sciences from UCLA's Fielding School of Public Health.

Jason Robison is the Program Director of SHARE! the Self-Help and Recovery Exchange. He has worked in Non-profit management for 17 years, focusing on education, recovery, housing and health. SHARE! provides safe places for people to recover, including two self-help recovery centers which host 130 self-help support groups each week, a Peer-run Respite Home, SHARE! Collaborative Housing - affordable, resident-run houses - and referrals to more than 12,000 self-help support groups in Los Angeles County.

Elyssa Rosen, LCSW made her way to homeless services 9 years ago when completing an internship with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) where she assisted many clients who were without stable housing. Elyssa received her bachelor's in psychology from the University of California, Berkeley before earning her master's in social Welfare at University of California, Los Angeles. She began her professional career as a MSW at San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Center, Inc. where she assisted in implementing mental health programs that specifically assisted Adults experiencing homelessness and oversaw the first street based Multi-Disciplinary Team in the San Fernando Valley

funded by LA County Department of Mental Health. As the Director of Engagement at LA Family Housing Elyssa currently is overseeing Coordinated Outreach and Street Based Multi-Disciplinary Team efforts in multiple Service Areas in LA County and assists outreach staff in providing best practices to anyone experiencing homelessness.

Deputy Sheriff Steven Scranton began his law enforcement career in 2011 with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. He is currently assigned to the Training Division as the Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) Deputy and is co-located with the San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health. As the CIT Deputy, Deputy Scranton has received extensive training in mental health laws and communicating with people suffering from behavioral health conditions. Deputy Scranton serves as a CIT instructor and has completed numerous presentations to first responders and members of the community on de-escalation and W&I 5150 laws. Deputy Scranton also serves as a member of the Sheriff's Department's CIT Committee and is a liaison between the Sheriff's Department and the behavioral health community. During his nine years with the Sheriff's department, Deputy Scranton has been assigned to Glen Helen Rehabilitation Center as a Classification Deputy where he developed an inmate fire program, Victorville Station, West Valley Detention Center, and Victor Valley Station where he held special assignment as a Field Training Officer and a CPS/APS Deputy. Deputy Scranton is born and raised in San Bernardino County. After high school, Deputy Scranton joined the United States Marine Corps where he served as an infantry assaulted. He was deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2007 and was deployed again in 2009 as part of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Deputy Scranton completed his active duty service in 2010 and was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps in 2013.

Felicia Skaggs, MS, is the Clinic Administrator III for RISE, RISE Expansion, PATH and Assist programs for Ventura County Behavioral Health. Felicia has been in the mental health field for over 20 years, with most of her career in Kern County. Felicia has worked in a variety of settings within the mental health field during her career. She has managed supportive housing projects for seriously mentally ill individuals, programs for individuals with dual diagnosis of substance use disorders, and mental health disorders Felicia was part of the Kern County Mobile Evaluation Team in its initial stages, being dispatched by law enforcement to go on crisis calls in the community. Felicia has also worked in developing programs in collaboration with the Kern County Sheriff's department to provide substance use disorder treatment inside the county jail. In 2015 Felicia began working with VCBH to manage the RISE program which is a grant funded program to outreach and engage difficult populations. This role requires Felicia to interface and work collaboratively with law enforcement, businesses, faith-based organizations, schools, and other community-based organizations. While working with VCBH, Felicia has developed collaborations with Law Enforcement, which was instrumental in the award of additional grant monies to create the RISE expansion where case managers are paired with officers full time to manage clients who are high utilizers of emergency services. Felicia is a trainer with CIT Academy in Ventura County and is a member of CIT International.

Joe Smith is the Advocacy Director for Sacramento Loaves & Fishes. Before assuming this role, he served as Friendship Park's Assistant Director, also for Loaves & Fishes.

It is the Advocacy Director's responsibility to speak on behalf of the homeless and very poor at every opportunity, everywhere.

Before coming to Loaves & Fishes, Joe experienced 5 ½ years of living on the streets of Sacramento, San Francisco, and Reno. This shared experience with the unhoused makes for a unique, powerful, and meaningful bond.

Joe can be found most days out and about on the campus of Loaves & Fishes or in the encampments along the American River Parkway, cultivating relationships with the people he serves.

Shannon Smith-Bernardin , PhD, RN, CARN, CNL, MSN, PHN, has worked in homeless health care since 2006, with expertise in sobering centers, respite/ recuperative care, and street-based engagement teams. With 12-years direct experience in sobering center operations and management, she is president and co-founder of the National Sobering Collaborative, a non-profit organization established to promote the formation and sustainability of sobering centers for the care of individuals with harmful, hazardous, and/or disordered substance use. Dr. Smith-Bernardin holds a doctorate from University of California-San Francisco and a master's from Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona. She is assistant adjunct faculty at UCSF School of Nursing, a member of the Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless Commission, and a Health Care Leadership fellow with the California Health Care Foundation.

Lawson Snipes Jr is a long-time resident of Davis where he has lived off and on since 1971, having arrived from the Watts area of Los Angeles by way of The York School for Boys to attend UC Davis. Embracing a community that embraced him and vowing to return there to retire one day, he did so in the rainy winter of November 2004. He soon discovered he could not afford to live in his own town. Housing vacancies were low, and costs were too high, and he had never financially recovered from a car accident in which the other guy had the car.

It was the inordinate number of panhandlers and genuinely homeless people sleeping in shelters, in bushes, in roadside tents, "squats" and within Davis Community Church campuses as well as downtown business storefronts that called him to community service. He wanted to do something for the homeless population; to make homelessness less of a hardship. After all, these people were in the same boat as he: "Couldn't afford to stay and couldn't afford to leave."

In April of 2005, Mr. Snipes was gifted \$400 by Davis Community Meals & Housing's Executive Director Bill Pride after pitching to him the idea to create a Homeless Street Sheet. The Street Sheet, called "The Spare Changer", gives community members the opportunity to make a contribution to someone in need and receive something of value in exchange. TSC Client Vendors are thus able to request and receive spare change from downtown passersby with dignity and provide TSC publications in exchange. Minus the printing costs, TSC Client Vendors keep any monies they receive. 'The Spange' distributes as a Monthly and will resume after the pandemic shelter in place orders are safely lifted.

Mr. Snipes reflects on The Spare Changer publication itself, as a "conduit between the 'haves' and 'have nots,' a means of providing employment for the unemployable and of being a voice for the unsheltered poor."

Mark Stadler, MS, has over 33 years of law enforcement experience; he became the Ventura County Law Enforcement Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Program Administrator in July 2015 after retiring as a Commander from the Ventura Police Department in California. Commander Stadler is a founding member of Ventura County's CIT program in 2001. He holds a bachelor's degree in Criminology and a master's degree in Organizational Management from the University of La Verne. He is a law

enforcement Medal of Valor recipient, a graduate of the California Peace Officer Standards and Training, Supervisory Leadership Institute, and Command College. He is an instructor at the Ventura County Criminal Justice Training Center and has been an Adjunct Professor for the University of La Verne since 2007.

Nikole Thomas, MPA, provides technical assistance and policy support to communities to facilitate their work to end homelessness. She facilitates community meetings, conducts stakeholder and constituency outreach and engagement, and supports development activities. She also engages in research and analysis, conducts presentations and trainings, and develops a wide range of materials to support best practice policy and programming.

Sam Tsemberis, PhD., is a clinical-community psychologist who originated the “Housing First” program. He serves as CEO of the Pathways Housing First Institute and Executive Director of the VA-UCLA Center of Excellence for Training and Research on Veteran’s Homelessness. Housing First, the program he launched in 1992, is an evidence-based intervention that uses a consumer choice, psych-rehab philosophy, to engage, house, and keep housed individuals with long histories homelessness, mental illness, and addiction. Housing First operates with the belief that housing is a basic human right and in several randomized control trails has consistently demonstrated 75% to 90% housing stability rates compared to 30% to 40% for treatment as usual. Dr. Tsemberis provides training and consultation for agencies, cities, counties, and countries seeking to implement HF programs across the US, Canada, EU, Australia, and New Zealand. He has also served as expert witness in several state class action lawsuits where disability advocates use the Olmstead Supreme Court decision to demand the least restrictive housing and service settings for individuals with psychiatric disabilities. He has published articles, book chapters, and two books on these topics and his work has been recognized by the American Psychiatric Association, American Psychological Association (Distinguished Contribution to Independent Practice), and the Lieutenant Governor of Canada (Meritorious Service Cross).

Alexis Villegas, MPPA, is a Program Administrator at Ventura County Behavioral Health, Quality Improvement Department. She is involved in facilitating process improvement for client services and care, evaluates client outcomes to inform program decisions, and aids in implementing best practices. She garnered research experience at UCLA Semel Institute of Neuroscience and Human Behavior and CSU, Northridge examining cognitive effects of HIV and AIDS on neuropsychological outcomes. At her time at UCLA she gained experience in administering neuropsychological testing and medical screening to HIV+ participants. Alexis has been with VCBH for 3 years, she brings skills in research, evaluation, public policy, and legislative knowledge from her time at UCLA, CSUN, and CLU. She has a BA in Psychology from Cal State Northridge and is currently in graduate school for a master's degree in Public Policy and Administration where she is focusing on mental health and public health legislation.

Melissa Vollbrecht, LCSW, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and the Director of Project-based Housing at The People Concern. Melissa is dedicated to the goal of equitable access to real-life, quality client-centered services grounded in practices such as harm reduction and trauma-informed care for people with present or past experiences with homelessness. She has supported teams of housing case management staff in collaborating with developers and property managers during the launch, lease-up, and move-in phases for over 7 new supportive housing communities in Los Angeles County representing close to 500 new units.

Joe Weisbord has been working on ending homelessness, expanding affordable housing opportunities, and nurturing sustainable communities for over 30 years. He spent nearly 15 years at Fannie Mae leading strategic initiatives to increase homeownership opportunities, prevent foreclosures and address the affordable housing needs of underserved communities nationwide. He led Fannie Mae's national homelessness initiative, which invested in creation of over 7,800 units of supportive and affordable housing for homeless and at-risk individuals and families.

Previously, Weisbord led the Housing First! advocacy campaign, was a Vice President at Corporation for Supportive Housing, and provided technical assistance to community-based development and human services organizations. He began his career in the construction industry. He taught housing finance and policy in the graduate city and regional planning program at Pratt Institute for over 20 years.

Weisbord serves on the boards of the Center for Urban Community Services, the Center for New York City Neighborhoods and Gateway Housing. He is a founding board member of Hester Street and Funders Together to End Homelessness.

Susan White Wood, MPA, serves as the Housing Manger at Ventura County Behavioral Health where she oversees the delivery of appropriate housing services for persons living with mentally illness. She is also the lead for the state of California's No Place like Home voter initiative. Susan works with non-profit housing developers to build and maintain housing for those with mental illness and who are homeless. Prior to working with VCBH she worked with the Ventura County Health Care Agency in managing the Community Health Center and the Health Care for the Homeless Clinic. She received her bachelor's degree in Urban Planning from CSU Sonoma and a master's degree in Public Administration from CSU Northridge. Since 2001, Susan has worked for Ventura County where she has successfully managed multiple complex government programs, always in service to vulnerable populations.

Genevieve Williamson supports a wide variety of analytic projects, with a focus on system and program level quantitative analyses using HMIS, program budget, and program inventory information. Genevieve has played key roles in developing and implementing data collection and analysis plans for homeless Point-in-Time counts for three communities. She is also a key team member on many of Focus Strategies analytic projects, working on data mapping, data cleaning, and quality control. Genevieve is skilled in data analysis using Microsoft Excel, SPSS, and Stata. Genevieve earned her bachelor's degree in psychology, with a minor in sociology, from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and completed course work for a master's degree in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from California State University Sacramento.