

MAKING THE DIFFERENCE

Addressing Older Adult Homelessness in Alameda County

Friday, May 31, 2024 • Nile Hall, Preservation Park, Oakland

AGENDA

9am – Welcome & Opening Remarks

Speaker: Supervisor Keith Carson, Alameda County Board of Supervisors, District 5

Speaker: Wendy Peterson, Director, Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County

9:20 – Key Note and Plenary

Aging Among the Homeless: Causes, Consequences and Solutions

Keynote: **Margot Kushel**, MD, Professor of Medicine, University of California San Francisco, Director of UCSF Center for Vulnerable Populations; Director UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative

Panel I: Solving Senior Homelessness

Panelists: Torionna Nichols, Street Outreach Coordinator, St. Mary's Center • Vernon Dailey, Senior Ambassador, St. Mary's Center • Norma Johnson, Senior Outreach Ambassador, St. Mary's Center • Thania Tapia Sanchez, Lead Case Manager, DayBreak Adult Care

Moderator: Sharon Cornu, Executive Director, St. Mary's Center

11:00 – Discussion Café – Small Group Breakouts

12:00 – Lunch

12:30 – Afternoon Opening Remarks & Plenary

Speaker: Assemblymember Mia Bonta, California Assembly District 18

Panel II: Adapting Systems to Serve Older Adults

Panelists: Donna White Carey, MD, MS, Interim Medical Director, Alameda Alliance for Health • Alexis Chettiar, PhD, ACNP-BC, CEO & Founder, Cardea Health • Lindsay Haddix, Executive Director, East Bay Housing Organizations • Logan McDonnell, Director of Keep People Housed, Bay Area Community Services • Jeannette Rodriguez, Deputy Director for Housing and Homelessness Services, Alameda County Health • Michelle Starratt, Housing Director, Housing & Community Development Department, Alameda County Community Development Agency • Cheryl Winter, MPH, LICSW, Associate Director, Corporation for Supportive Housing

Moderator: Karen Grimsich, Aging and Family Services Administrator, City of Fremont

1:55 – Summation and Close

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**Find full bios for our speakers and conference materials at
our website: tinyurl.com/mvytsr9k.**

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About our Honored Guests

Supervisor Keith Carson

Supervisor Keith Carson serves as a member of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors – representing the 5th District – on a platform dedicated to inclusive and accessible government. The 5th District includes the cities of Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Piedmont, and large portions of Oakland, namely the West Oakland, North Oakland, Rockridge, and Montclair neighborhoods, as well as portions of the Dimond, Bella Vista, and San Antonio districts.

Supervisor Carson works to bring together people who have a wealth of talent and creative resources to address our shared problems within the numerous areas including access to health care, ending poverty, homelessness, crime, improving business retention, and addressing the scarcity of jobs in our communities.

Supervisor Carson chairs several Alameda County committees and organizations including the East Bay Economic Development Alliance (East Bay EDA), one of the largest business organizations consisting of a public/private partnership serving the San Francisco East Bay. Their mission is to establish the East Bay as a world-recognized location to grow businesses, attract capital and create quality jobs. He is also the Chair of the Alameda County Budget Work Group Committee, the Alameda County Personnel, Administration and Legislation Committee, and the Alameda County Health Committee.

Supervisor Carson represents the Alameda County Board of Supervisors on the Board of Directors for numerous organizations including: the Executive Committee of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), a 58-county statewide Board of Supervisor's organization; Board Member for the National Association of Counties (NACO); and Treasurer of the National Organization of Black County Officials (NOBCO). He is a member of the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC), the Alameda County Employees Retirement Association (ACERA) and the Bay Area Council Economic Institute.

Supervisor Carson attended the John F. Kennedy School of Law and earned a Master of Public Administration from California State University Hayward and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Business Administration from the University of California, Berkeley. Keith is married to Maria Carson and is the father of two adult children; he also has three grandchildren. He hails from Berkeley, California.

Assemblymember Mia Bonta

Assemblymember Mia Bonta was elected to serve California's 18th Assembly District of the East Bay, including Alameda, Emeryville, and Oakland. Before being elected to the State Assembly, Mia served as the CEO of Oakland Promise and the School Board President in the City of Alameda.

Mia has seen firsthand the cracks in the systems that keep the community disadvantaged and lacking in resources. In the State Assembly, her focus is to uplift the most vulnerable in the community, she is committed to fighting homelessness, building more affordable housing, passing transformative criminal justice reform legislation, and combating the threat of climate change and is passionate about reproductive justice for all. Assemblymember Bonta's priority is to make California a more affordable, inclusive, and equitable place for all.

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About Our Keynote Speaker

Margot Kushel, MD

Margot Kushel, MD is a Professor of Medicine at The University of California, San Francisco, and Division Chief and Director of the UCSF Center for Vulnerable Populations, and Director of 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 and housing instability on health. She speaks at a local, state, and national level about issues of homelessness, and frequently 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.

About Our Moderators

Sharon Cornu

Sharon Cornu has served as Executive Director of St. Mary's Center since 2018, leading a process of renewal while staying true to the mission of developing a community of hope, healing and justice. She formerly served as deputy mayor in Oakland, a campaign consultant, and labor advocate. She is a grandmother and a Senior herself.

Karen Grimsich

Karen Grimsich, MPH, is the Administrator for the City of Fremont's Aging and Family Services Division, which provides supportive services to older adults in the Tri-City Community. The programs she manages range from general wellness and health promotion services to intensive case management and behavioral health interventions. She believes it is important to strengthen the community's role to be part of the solution in assisting older adults as they age.

About Our Morning Panelists

Vernon Dailey

Vernon Dailey is a Senior Ambassador at St. Mary's Center and is enrolled in Berkeley City College, striving to complete a Community Health Worker Certification Program. He is also a writer and vendor for the Street Spirit Newspaper with a drive for community engagement.

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Norma Johnson

Norma Johnson is a Senior Outreach Ambassador at St. Mary's Center and is enrolled in Berkeley City College, striving to complete a Community Health Worker Certification Program. Her passion is teaching life skills and mentoring others in her community.

Torionna Nichols

Torionna Nichols serves as the Street Outreach Coordinator at St. Mary's Center, using her passion of continuous learning, and giving back to her community to meet seniors where they are in their journey back into permanent housing. She is also a mentor, and certificated community health worker.

Thania Tapia Sanchez

Thania is a Rapid Response Case Manager dedicated to enhancing the well-being of seniors in Alameda County. She holds a BA in Psychology with a minor in Women's Studies from Mills College in Oakland, CA. With a background in customer service across the Bay Area and experience in supporting families with young children for their healthy development, Thania brings a diverse skill set to her role. Her passion for community involvement drives her advocacy efforts, particularly for marginalized individuals, reflecting her commitment to making a positive impact in the lives of others.

About Our Afternoon Panelists

Donna White Carey, MD, MS

Dr. Donna White Carey is revolutionizing the way we think about health. Her mission is to build a Generational Health Network with the goal to end the cycle of premature death in the Black community and across the Diaspora. Affectionately known as "Dr. Donna," she is a global health ambassador and has served on international missions to Zimbabwe, Botswana and Haiti. She is a dynamic public speaker and is regularly invited to lecture at churches, schools, corporations and community events.

Dr. Donna is currently the Interim Medical Director at Alameda Alliance for Health. She served as the first African-American Chief of the Division of Pediatrics at Alameda Health System and then became the first Chair of their Department of Pediatrics. As Chair, she initiated Pediatric Grand Rounds and developed a Safe Sleep Program that was the cover story of Oakland and Alameda magazines in October 2019. Dr. Donna is a past President of Sinkler Miller Medical Association and serves on several Boards and committees, including the Samuel Merritt University's Ethnic Health Institute.

Dr. Donna is also the Executive Pastor of True Vine Ministries. She initiated a quarterly women's forum entitled "Sista Talk," a weight loss program called "Fit for Life," and "Survivor Weekend," which focuses on cancer prevention. Dr. Donna has received numerous awards, honors and commendations, including "STEM Woman of the Year" by then-assemblymember Nancy Skinner and a Chairwoman Award from the Oakland African American Chamber of Commerce.

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Dr. Donna is a native of Tulare, CA. She graduated with honors from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History/Pre-Med and remained at UCLA to earn her Medical Doctorate (M.D.) degree. She completed her residency training at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in Oakland and completed a one-year fellowship in adolescent medicine at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). Dr. Donna also has a Masters of Science in Organizational Leadership and Entrepreneurship program from Grand Canyon University.

Dr. Donna is married to Pastor Zachary E. Carey and has two beautiful children.

Alexis Chettiar, PhD, ACNP-BC

Dr. Alexis Chettiar is a clinician, program builder, data scientist, and passionate advocate for vulnerable populations. Dr. Chettiar is the CEO and co-founder of Cardea Health, and a medical director for Project Roomkey/Homekey. She has extensive experience with safety net services and community-based care, particularly integrated medical/social programs such as PACE, HCBA, and other Medi-Cal waiver programs. While at Center for Elders' Independence, Dr. Chettiar built a Medi-Cal waiver program which successfully supported a large population of institutionally-frail individuals in remaining at home. Many of the beneficiaries of this program required long-term ventilators and feeding tubes, but were able to thrive at home with the support of in-home caregiving teams.

Dr. Chettiar has dedicated her professional life to creating programs that provide high-value care for individuals with complex, chronic illness and improve care for underserved populations. This is apparent in her current work with the Project Roomkey/Homekey where she oversees clinical services for medically-frail unsheltered individuals. Outside of work, Alexis loves bicycle travel and gardening. She recently rode a triplet (3-seat tandem) from Oregon to Montana with her teenage sons and hopes to ride the rest of the way across the country before her kids leave the nest.

Lindsay Haddix

Lindsay Haddix is the Executive Director at East Bay Housing Organizations. Lindsay has dedicated her entire career to solving the dual crises of homelessness and housing affordability, centering social equity and environmental sustainability in her work.

She was most recently the Housing Initiative Program Manager at Meta, formerly known as Facebook, where she focused on advancing the investment and policy priorities associated with the company's \$1 billion commitment to help address the affordable housing crisis in California.

Before Meta, Lindsay was at San Francisco's Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH), overseeing the real estate development of housing, shelters, and service sites, the San Mateo County Department of Housing, and nonprofit affordable housing developer BRIDGE Housing. She started her affordable housing career in New York City at the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) and later at the Housing Authority (NYCHA). Lindsay also served as an environmental education volunteer with the Peace Corps in Guatemala.

She earned a B.A. in Environmental Studies from Brown University and a Master's in City and Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Lindsay has been a renter her entire adult life and lives in San Francisco where she enjoys running along the Embarcadero, supporting local restaurants, and frequenting the SF Public Library.

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Logan McDonnell

Logan McDonnell has dedicated his life to serving the community. This need for service comes from growing up and seeing how equity gaps can lead to so many different issues surrounding health, socioeconomic opportunity, the criminal justice system and housing. He is a Westchester County, New York native and a nonprofit executive with over 10 years of experience in homeless services. He's worked as a fund development director, overseen multiple housing resource and wellness centers, guaranteed income and subsidy programming, as well as workforce development programming. Currently, he serves as the Director of Keep People Housed, the leading homelessness prevention program for Oakland and Contra Costa County, a program of Bay Area Community Services.

He is a graduate of Florida A&M University where he majored in Criminal Justice and minored in Social Work. He holds a Certificate in Professional Fundraising from UC Berkeley, and a Certificate of Specialization in Leadership and Management from Harvard Business School. He sits on the nonprofit boards of Community Forward SF and The Glide Foundation, Co-chairs the Continuum of Care's Housing Stability and Homelessness Prevention Committee, serves on 1Degree's Stay Housed Bay Area Advisory Committee and Alameda County's Homelessness Prevention Strategy Team. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. as well as the 100 Black Men of the Bay Area, and on the weekends, he mentors at-risk youth in East Oakland through the OK Program.

Jeannette Rodriguez

Jeannette Rodriguez is the Deputy Director of Housing for Alameda County Health's Housing and Homelessness Services (H&H) and is responsible for developing, implementing, and overseeing programs and services operated within H&H. Prior to joining H&H, Jeannette managed a portfolio of federal and state homelessness funding within the county's Housing and Community Development Department. Jeannette has over 23 years of public service and nonprofit management experience.

Michelle Starratt

Michelle Starratt, with 30 years of career experience in housing and community development in progressively responsible leadership roles, brings compassion to her role as Alameda County's Housing Director. She has led large-scale initiatives that enhance community programs and address public needs, successfully raising funding for housing and special needs programs through research, grant writing, and program development. She ensures successful deployment of local, state and federal funds to maximize funds and deliver results to those in need.

Michelle returned to the County in March of 2020 just as the COVID-19 Pandemic began after spending eighteen months at UC Berkeley as their Director of Housing Development. During the pandemic, she successfully implemented the County-wide Emergency Rental Assistance Program, providing more than 9k households with funds to cover rent. She oversaw the reorganization of HCD, and successfully implemented the Measure A1 Affordable Housing Bond Programs.

Prior to UC Berkeley, Michelle spent 20 years working for Alameda County's Housing and Community Development Department and 8 years as the Deputy Director. In her career, Michelle has focused on public funding for housing development that focus on special needs tenants, including those with HIV/AIDS, Mental health Issues and those who have been homeless.

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Cheryl Winter, MPH, LICSW

Cheryl Winter brings to her work a deep knowledge of supportive housing and healthcare integration with significant experience in cross sector partnerships, Medicaid benefit design and implementation and provider capacity building. As the Associate Director of CSH's California Policy Team, Cheryl's work focuses on the integration of supportive housing services with healthcare systems, promoting the inclusion of people with lived expertise, state policy and program design efforts, and Medi-Cal policy analysis and implementation. Over the past twelve years, Cheryl has worked with hundreds of housing and homeless service providers as they navigate Medicaid/Medi-Cal contracts, billing, and service delivery.

Prior to focusing on California, Cheryl served as a CSH consultant for five years providing technical assistance to communities working to expand access and ensure fidelity to quality supportive housing. Her work focused on healthcare partnerships, systems analyses and innovative service funding opportunities that grow the pipeline of supportive and affordable housing projects, develop cross-system efficiencies, and enable providers to gain the tools they need to deliver quality supportive housing services. As the Associate Director of Consulting at CSH, Cheryl oversaw the CSH Quality Certification Program that evaluates and certifies high performing quality supportive housing projects across the United States. Cheryl also served as lead designer and instructor for CSH Medicaid Academies for supportive housing and homeless service providers becoming Medicaid providers. She also worked with states completing Supportive Housing Services Medicaid Crosswalks and data analyses targeting high utilizers of crisis health systems.

Prior to joining CSH, Cheryl worked as the Director of Integrated Health for Pathways to Housing DC, where she managed programming that integrated supportive housing, primary care, and behavioral health services. Cheryl also served as the Director of Quality Improvement, overseeing Medicaid quality assurance, claims submissions, staff training, and quality improvement initiatives. As a Health Policy Fellow at the Missouri Foundation for Health, Cheryl focused her research on health equity and the social determinants of health. Cheryl is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker and holds Master's degrees in Public Health and Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis.

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