

Words to Deeds – Bringing Healthcare to the Streets: How Two Programs Reduce Recidivism by Caring for the Most Vulnerable

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Kathleen Lacey, LCSW
Level:
Room: Cypress
CE: CPA/BBS/BRN (1.5)

Narrative

StreetHealth and the Citywide Community Response Team are two innovative programs that provide a high level of wraparound services to people with behavioral health conditions, which may lead to a reduction in incarceration. StreetHealth is Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless' backpack street medicine team, which provides behavioral health care, substance use treatment and physical medicine to people who are houseless in Alameda County. We will discuss the importance of public psychiatry, and why health care should be brought directly to people who are living on the streets. The details of our backpack medicine team will be explored, including our MAT and LAI programs. We will also discuss our importance of our community partners, including law enforcement.

The Citywide Community Response Team provides short term intensive case management to adults that have been identified as high priority by San Francisco's Department of Public Health as well as works out of Psychiatric Emergency Services at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital to support with effective discharge planning. We will discuss program design and creative interventions utilized with adults that have struggled to engage in traditional care models, are homeless and are not necessarily interested in treatment but are cycling through emergency systems and the jail.

Bio

Aislinn Bird, MD, MPH

Aislinn Bird is a psychiatrist with the Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless Program. She co-founded StreetHealth, a backpack medicine team providing low-barrier psychiatric and substance use disorder treatment to those experiencing homelessness in downtown Oakland, California, encampments. She also works at the TRUST Clinic, an integrated care clinic serving those experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless. Aislinn graduated from the UCSF Public Psychiatry Fellowship in June 2017, and completed psychiatric residency at Stanford University, where she served as a chief resident. Prior to obtaining her MD at UC Irvine and a MPH and California State University Long Beach, she was an elementary school teacher, worked as a case manager at Community Focus-UCSF, and volunteered at the Haight Ashbury Free Medical Clinic in San Francisco. In her free time, she can be found backpacking, spending time with friends and family, or unwinding on a long bike ride.

Alison Livingston, LMFT

Alison Livingston is the Director of University of California San Francisco's Citywide Stabilization Program that provides intensive case management to adults that are struggling to engage in treatment and stabilize in the community often due to severe mental illness and substance use. She implemented the Citywide Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program which

serves adults that are court ordered to treatment and the Citywide Community Response Team which serves high priority adults that have struggled to engage in care, are homeless and justice system-involved. She has spent most of her career working with adults with co-occurring diagnosis that are court mandated to treatment either via civil or criminal justice process. With over 10 years working in community mental health and focusing on populations that struggle to engage in treatment she has become focused on programs and interventions that are able to effectively stabilize adults struggling with high acuity and difficulty living in the community safely.

Kathleen Lacey, LCSW

Kathleen Lacey is the Director of University of California San Francisco's Citywide Case Management Forensic Program that provides assertive community treatment to 400 criminal justice-involved individuals with mental illness in the community. She was instrumental in implementing San Francisco's successful response to the state of California's first Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction Grant. A founding member of San Francisco's Behavioral Health Court, she provides clinical expertise to the courts and the community. With over 25 years' experience working in the criminal justice system and 20 years focused on the needs of individuals with serious mental disorders, she has expanded the focus of treatment to include: an emphasis on cultural and gender specific services; a comprehensive Dialectical Behavior Therapy program; a Full Service Partnership Program through San Francisco's Mental Health Services Act funds; a comprehensive Supported Employment program; mental health services for the San Francisco Sheriff Department's No Violence Alliance Program and at the Community Assessment Services Center of the Adult Probation Department; and the creation of a Misdemeanor Behavioral Health Court in SF. She graduated from Gonzaga University in 1989 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy and Speech Communications; received her Master's in Social Welfare from the University of California, Berkeley in 1997 and has practiced as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker since 2001.

Learning Objectives

- Participants will be able to identify the importance of public psychiatry and list two public psychiatry fellowships.
- Participants will be able to describe a psychiatry backpack street medicine program, including a MAT and LAI programs.
- Participants will be able to describe the connection between mental illness, homelessness and arrest.
- Participants will be able to list essential elements of engaging vulnerable populations in treatment.