

## **Words to Deeds - Don't Light Your Treatment Dollars on Fire – Securing Supported Housing to Maximize Treatment Engagement**

### **Level**

Intermediate

### **CE**

CPA/BBS/BRN/CJER

### **Bio**

Lahela Mattox, MA

Lahela is the COO of RTH, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that serves as the lead planning, data and policy agency for San Diego's Continuum of Care. Lahela has more than two decades of experience at state, local government and non-profit, in behavioral health, homelessness and housing, poverty programs and workforce development in both California and Hawaii. Prior to joining RTH, Lahela served as a Director with the State of California's Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC). She worked with California's 44 CoCs and 13 largest cities and was instrumental in executing the \$500 million Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP), implementing the State's Housing First Policy and developing the \$650 million Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP).

Lahela is a respected professional leader, recognized for cultivating partnerships, leveraging resources and deploying technical assistance to local jurisdictions in addressing the homelessness crisis. Since arriving in San Diego in December 2019, Lahela supported RTH in launching a regional Flexible Housing Pool, provided recommendations and fiscal guidance on housing focused solutions during the public health pandemic and has secured additional state and local funding for initiatives to end homelessness in San Diego. Lahela holds an MA in Career Counseling from Chapman University and a BA in Psychology from Hawaii Pacific University. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family, hiking, paddle boarding, and dancing hula.

Tyler Fong

Tyler has worked alongside vulnerable populations for over 16 years in the Bay Area, Los Angeles County, the Inland Empire and San Diego. Currently, Tyler is the Senior Director of Program Initiatives at Brilliant Corners, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to using housing as a healthcare intervention/solution for individuals experiencing homelessness. While with Brilliant Corners, Tyler was one of the program architects for the Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool, a nationally recognized rental subsidy and housing administration program in Los Angeles that has housed over 8,000 Angelenos since 2013. Tyler currently provides oversight to similar programs in the Bay Area, Inland Empire and San Diego.

Judi Nightingale, RN, DrPH

Judi is an RN with a Doctorate in Public Health in Prevention. Her career started in Maternal-Child health. At 26, she started a new NICU at Riverside Community Hospital and has been in

administration ever since. Her career with Riverside County started as the nursing administrator over maternal-child inpatient areas. She was the Chief Nursing Officer of the County Medical Center for two years prior to her current position as the Director of Population Health for Riverside University Health System. Judi is passionate about providing care to underserved populations. She successfully applied for monies from DHCS to direct a program for transition in care out of incarceration where more than 13,000 clients have been screened and linked to resources to help them successfully reintegrate into society and reduce the rate of re-incarceration.

Rebecca Jester, LCSW

Rebecca joined PATH in August 2018 as a clinician in Whole Person Wellness before transitioning to serve as the Program Manager for Community Care Coordination (C3) in September 2019. Rebecca helped implement and develop the C3 program through her exceptional leadership and clinical skills. Under her leadership, C3 has demonstrated the effectiveness of intensive care coordination in reducing recidivism and increasing housing stability for those with serious mental illness leaving local jails. C3 now serves as a model for other re-entry programs in the community.

Rebecca is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Prior to arriving at PATH San Diego, Rebecca worked as a psychotherapist with children, adolescents and families in Los Angeles County. Rebecca holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communicative Disorders from California State University, Long Beach and a Master of Social Work from the University of Southern California.

Curtis Howard

Curtis Howard is a two-time published author and lived experience consultant in homelessness, re-entry, substance abuse, gangs, and carceral logics. He is currently the lead organizer for the San Diego Chapter of All of Us or None, a national organization that advocates for formerly incarcerated people and their families. Curtis resides in San Diego, California.

### **Narrative**

Individuals who have been incarcerated are nearly ten times more likely to experience homelessness than the general population. Successfully transitioning from a custodial environment to the community requires immediate access to safe and stable housing as well as supportive services to end the cycle of homelessness and incarceration. Individuals with mental health and/or substance use disorders are particularly vulnerable to cycling through the custody system and having multiple contacts with law enforcement. This workshop will highlight integrated approaches to housing and services, including an innovative approach implemented in San Diego. This program involves the San Diego Sheriff's Department working closely with a community-based organization to coordinate care and housing for people who are repeatedly incarcerated for short periods of time through the local jail system, are homeless and have mental health problems, to ultimately increase the number of days the individual remains in the community. This is achieved through immediate access to housing (even if temporary) upon release from jail and intensive care coordination to address behavioral and physical health needs. Strategies for leveraging funding available through

CalAIM and partnerships with Medi-Cal Health Plans to support health and housing among probationers will be shared and replicated in other communities throughout the State. Integrating funds across multiple revenue streams through a Flexible Housing Pool to provide immediate access to housing, as well as how this approach can be a critical community tool to demystify and simplify the often-overwhelming challenge of housing for people who are impacted by the justice system will be discussed.

**Learning Objectives**

Describe three components of a Flexible Housing Pool and how it can assist in housing individuals impacted by the justice system.

Identify three potential local revenue streams that may be options to begin a Flexible Housing Pool.

Explain two ways to leverage CalAIM funding to support approaches to providing health assessments and linkage to housing resources.

Describe two concepts of pre-release care coordination that “follows the person” post-release and assists them in accessing housing and services.