

Words to Deeds: Crisis Response – Someone to Come and Somewhere to Go

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Level

Intermediate

Track

Words to Deeds

CE

CPA/BBS/CJER

Room

Cardiff/Carlsbad

Bio

Brenda Grealish, MA, is currently the Executive Officer of the Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health (CCJBH), which is part of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Prior to joining CCJBH, she worked at the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), where she served in several positions, including Chief of the former Mental Health Services Division, and Assistant Deputy and Acting Deputy Director for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services. Prior to working at DHCS, she held several positions at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Office of Research, including Deputy Director, Research Manager III and Research Manager II. In her early career, she held several positions at the former California Department of Mental Health, including Research Program Specialist I and Research Analyst I/II. She earned a Master of Arts degree in Psychology from California State University, Sacramento.

Iain De Jong is a lifelong learner and is relentless in his pursuit to end homelessness. Iain is the President & CEO of OrgCode Consulting Inc. and the author of the *The Book on Ending Homelessness*. Involved in homelessness since the 1990s, Iain has held a series of leadership positions throughout his career spanning the non-profit, public and private sectors. Iain provides consultation and advisory services to dozens of non-profit organizations and governments annually in Canada, the United States and Australia. In 2015, Iain launched the Leadership Academy on Ending Homelessness and has worked with more than 800 leaders in the sector. Iain is a frequent keynote speaker, conference presenter and media commentator on homelessness, but his real passions are helping communities transform from managing homelessness to ending homelessness and engaging frontline staff and people with lived experience in that pursuit.

Luke Bergmann, PhD, is the Director of Behavioral Health Services for the County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency. Prior to this position, Dr. Bergmann worked for 9 years in New York City. He most recently served as Assistant Vice President over Behavioral Health at NYC Health + Hospitals, the nation's largest public hospital system. Before that, he served as Director of the Office of Program and Policy in the Bureau of Alcohol and Drugs at the NYC Department of Health. Luke has also held a variety of academic research and faculty positions, including at Oregon Health and Science University, The University of Michigan and the City University of New York. He was trained at the University of Michigan, where he earned a PhD in Social Work and Cultural Anthropology. He completed post-doctoral fellowships at UC San Francisco's Institute for Health Policy and UC Berkeley's School of Public Health.

Celeste Sweitzer, LCSW, is the Dignity Health Northern California Division Director for Behavioral Health. She has oversight of the behavioral health throughput for 13 hospitals, 3 behavioral health units and one EmPATH model CSU. She has worked for Dignity Health for over 20 years, working in Care Coordination as an LCSW and leader. Having worked for many years in the hospital and emergency rooms, her passion has always been with behavioral health. Her goals have always been to get the person who is in mental health crisis to the services they need in an efficient manner. She has spoken at the Hospital Association and Becker's Hospital review on the parallel process of working concurrently with the emergency room physician before medical clearance to get the patient's services started. She thoroughly believes that getting patients who are in crisis their treatment/services started at the right time will help avert potentially more severe crises.

Narrative

Experts in behavioral health crisis response and treatment will share groundbreaking efforts recently implemented in California to address the urgent needs of vulnerable individuals who suffer from mental illness(s) and/or substance use disorders (SUD). Specifically, leaders in San Diego who are implementing a Community Harm Reduction Team (C-HRT) and Harm Reduction Interim Shelter will discuss how they are providing outreach and engagement in the city of San Diego to individuals with SUD, or co-occurring mental health disorders, who are also experiencing homelessness, in order to connect them with interim shelter options, case management, system navigation, permanent housing, behavioral health services and medical care, meeting people where they are and developing a strong therapeutic alliance to reduce harms caused by substance use. In addition, leaders from Dignity Health, who recognized a community need to care for patients in acute psychiatric crisis, will present on the new Emergency Psychiatric Assessment, Treatment and Healing (EmPATH) crisis stabilization units based at Mercy San Juan Medical Center in Carmichael, California, which streamlines emergency department assessment of the health needs of mental health consumers and quickly transitions them out of emergency departments into a calming space that allows for the rapid assessment, support of behavioral health needs and linkage to other services.

Learning Objectives

1. Define and describe three core principles of Harm Reduction, and how these principles may be applied to strategic domains and bodies of work

2. Describe the operational structure of emergency psychiatric assessment, treatment, and healing (EmPATH) units
3. Discuss three actions needed to expand the use of Housing First principles and EmPATH units in California