

## **Words to Deeds: Creating a Pathway to Housing for the Justice Involved Population**

Lahela Mattox, MA

Tyler Fong

Morgan Chandler

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Curtis Howard

Sayone Thihalolipavan, MD, MPH

### **Level**

Introductory/Intermediate

### **Track**

Words to Deeds

### **CE**

CPA/BBS/CJER

### **Room**

Cardiff/Carlsbad

### **Bio**

**Lahela Mattox, MA**, has more than 20 years of experience in behavioral health, homelessness and housing, poverty programs and workforce development in both California and Hawaii. Since arriving in San Diego in December 2019, Lahela has supported RTFH in launching a regional Flexible Housing Pool and provided recommendations and fiscal guidance on housing focused solutions during the public health pandemic. She continues to focus on securing funding to support the work of the region, including a contract with the San Diego Port Authority to address unsheltered homelessness and direct funding from the State of California to implement an initiative to strengthen community connections through grassroots organizations focusing on families, the aging population, BIPOC and other marginalized populations who represent an especially vulnerable segment of the homeless population. Prior to joining RTFH, Lahela served as a Director with the State of California's Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC), now Cal ICH. She provided support to California's 44 CoC's and 13 largest cities and was instrumental in executing two State funding programs of \$1.2 billion and implementing the State's Housing First Policy. Her previous state experience includes the licensing of psychiatric facilities, AB403: Foster Care Reform and the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). Lahela is a respected professional leader, recognized for cultivating partnerships, leveraging resources and deploying technical assistance to local jurisdictions in addressing the homelessness crisis.

**Tyler Fong** has worked alongside vulnerable populations for over 16 years in the Bay Area, Los Angeles County, the Inland Empire and San Diego. Tyler is currently 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.

**Curtis Howard** is the Lead Organizer for the San Diego Chapter of All of Us or None (AOUON), a national organization that advocates for formerly incarcerated individuals and their families. Curtis is formerly incarcerated and formerly homeless, only recently being housed during the pandemic. Curtis has authored two books written in prison; “Cellmates” and most recently “Who’s Left” a book of struggles. Curtis is the founder of LIVEX, a lived experienced consultant specializing in the areas of homelessness, gangs, substance abuse and carceral logics. He currently works with the San Diego Regional Task Force on Homelessness in this capacity and recently joined the Board.

**Sayone Thihalolipavan, MD, MPH**, is a Board-Certified Preventive Medicine Physician who aims to work on the population level to address health-related issues. He has a strong interest in health equity and is mission-driven to improve the quality of life for all San Diegans via the Live Well San Diego Vision. Sayone works in the Medical Care Services (MCS) Department within Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) and helps lead HHS justice-involved health and harm reduction efforts. He aims to ensure that social drivers of health are addressed for the justice-involved population in support of their health and wellness, and that medical and behavioral health quality standards are met while individuals are in County care. The justice-involved population is also a key group that will benefit from California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM), that Sayone is assisting with through his work with MCSD. He also continues to work occasionally in the TB clinic. Sayone attended medical school and completed his residency in New York City. He previously worked at New York City’s Health Department from 2009 to 2015, where he was the Medical Director of the Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention and Tobacco Control and assisted with their Incident Command System and other efforts. In 2015, he came to San Diego to serve as the County’s Deputy Public Health Officer until 2019. In this role, he helped oversee Emergency Medical Services (until it was transitioned to MCS), implemented a naloxone distribution program, helped launch the Hepatitis C Elimination Initiative, and aided in Hepatitis A, Zika and meningococcal B outbreak responses.

### **Narrative**

There is a significant overlap of the homeless system and the criminal justice system, including both jails and prisons. Individuals who have been incarcerated are nearly ten times more likely to experience homelessness than the general population and the numbers are even greater for Black individuals. Successfully transitioning from a custodial environment to the community requires creating a continuum of services that begins while the individual is incarcerated, creates opportunities for immediate access to safe and stable housing, supportive services to end the cycle of homelessness and incarceration, and promotes overall community public safety goals.

This session will explain the importance of the CalAIM Justice Involved-1115 Waiver and how “in reach” is critical to successfully transition someone from a custodial environment. The county of San Diego will share how they are taking a data-driven approach to public safety and identify service gaps across the delivery system by utilizing the SAMHSA Sequential Intercept Model. They will describe how a community can implement a nationally recognized Flexible Housing Pool model that creates housing for justice involved individuals to reduce barriers and provide access to housing more quickly. This session will also discuss the importance of including people with lived experience to incorporate a better understanding of people’s experience with the system, how to address housing within each phase and addressing racial disparities.

### **Learning Objectives**

1. Explain the CalAIM 1115 waiver, its impact and implementation
2. Describe how data and the Intercept Model can inform policy, funding, and best-practices
3. Describe three components of a Flexible Housing Pool and how it can provide more equitable and accessible housing for justice involved people
4. Explain the importance of including people with lived expertise to incorporate a better understanding of people’s experience with the system, how to address housing within each phase and addressing racial disparities