



Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless

Quarterly Newsletter

July - September 2021

In The Spotlight

ACHCH Welcomes New Staff



Tiffany Arnold
Psychiatrist Intern

Tiffany Arnold joins Health Care for the Homeless as a Psychiatric Intern. She graduated from LSU Medical School in Psychiatry, completed Addiction Psychiatry Fellowship at UCSF, and currently in Public Psychiatry Fellowship at UCSF. Tiffany's main interests are patient advocacy, mental health policies, increasing access to medications for opioid use disorder, and street health.

Dr. Tyler Evans, M.D.
Medical Director

Dr. Evans joins Health Care for the Homeless as the Medical Director. During the COVID-19 response, Dr. Evans held a number of positions, including the chief executive and medical officer for Curative Medical Associates, Inc., which worked with Curative, Inc. to provide the mass administration of COVID-19 vaccines

across the nation administering 2 million doses in 10 states with a focus on health equity. Prior to this, he was the deputy public health officer and chief of the COVID-19 vaccination branch at Marin County Health and Human Services Agency.



With training in tropical medicine/infectious disease, internal medicine, preventive medicine/public health, and epidemiology, Dr. Evans has worked extensively with vulnerable populations both in the US and abroad. In terms of populations, his life's work has focused on health equity, working with special populations, namely migrants (namely refugees, asylees and victims of human trafficking), the LGBTQ (with a special focus on transgender populations), the homeless, and Native Americans. He is currently focusing on the mental health needs of women affected by gender-based violence (including conflict-related gang rapes) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In terms of fields of medicine, most of his experience is in HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C, TB, neglected tropical diseases, travel medicine, as well as general primary care and community health.

Fairmont Housing Navigation Center Opens!



In August, the Fairmont Housing Navigation Center opened in an unincorporated area of Alameda County. The site provides housing navigation services and supports connections to medical care, substance abuse treatment, and counseling for participants within a low-

barrier environment, focusing on housing first. The innovative tiny home site is comprised of 34 private units.

Each unit offers central heating and cooling, kitchen, shower, private ADA-accessible bathroom, living room, and sleeping area. Residents will have access to the grounds with well-lit paved walkways, onsite program offices, and laundry facilities.

Fairmont Navigation Center will serve adults experiencing homelessness identified through the County's Coordinated Entry System (CES). They will receive intensive housing navigation support towards securing permanent housing. People from mid-county that have experienced long periods of homelessness and who are considered highly vulnerable, will be prioritized and matched.

Fifteen set-aside units will serve the medical respite population* and will be the first of this new interim housing resource within unincorporated Alameda County.

The Fairmont Navigation Center and Tiny Home Village is operated by Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (BOSS), a local nonprofit, representing a 50-year commitment to serving homeless and at-risk populations in the community.

*individuals experiencing homelessness who are too ill or fail to recover from a physical illness or injury on the street but are not ill enough to be in a hospital setting.



Program Highlights

ACHCH Street Health Team Presented at SAMHSA's Homeless and Housing Resource Center Webinar

On June 24th, ACHCH Street Health team members Aislinn Bird, MD, MPH, Psychiatrist and Wilma Lozada, Community Health Outreach Worker and Social Worker, along with Lawrence Lincoln, former street health patient, presented at SAMHSA's Homeless and Housing Resource Center webinar, "Street Medicine for Unsheltered Individuals: Serving People Where They Are."

Together with Brett Feldman, PA-C, the Director of USC Family Medicine Division of Street Medicine, they discussed the importance of breaking down barriers to health care by bringing services directly to where people live on the streets. The Street Health team reviewed the history of the ACHCH program from two contracted services in 2015 to our Street Health team which focused on behavioral health care in 2017 to our current program of 14 Street Health teams that cover all of Alameda County and provide a wide range of services from medical care to case management.

Dr. Aislinn Bird discussed Street Health's model and core components, which included developing and maintaining a consistent site schedule,

frequent outreach to help build rapport and trust, collaborating and partnering with outside organizations, and using data driven quality improvements to refine the program design.

Wilma Lozada shared her case management expertise, and the importance of making sure patients are document-ready for their housing opportunities. Lawrence Lincoln relayed his inspiring personal story, recounting the details of his own challenges being street homeless and engaging in substance use when he first started to work with the Street Health team. Through hard work, perseverance, and a ready-to-change mindset, Lawrence is now housed, substance-free, and is currently enrolled in San Francisco State University completing his B.A. in Creative Writing.

They all discussed their guiding principles of trauma-informed, patient-centered care, harm reduction, and the importance of building trust and respect with the people they serve. Overall, participants learned of the importance of utilizing multi-disciplinary teams to provide high quality, compassionate care to their most vulnerable neighbors directly where they live and were inspired to start street medicine teams in their own communities.

Extreme Weather & People Experiencing Homelessness

The Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless program is working to respond to extreme weather associated with climate change. Extreme weather will always disproportionately impact on people experiencing homelessness. At the moment, we're preparing for the real possibilities of wildfire smoke and impacts on air quality and health of unsheltered people, and the possibilities of extreme heat.

Extreme Heat Emergencies

We have learned much from our peers in Multnomah County, Oregon. With a week's meteorological warning, Multnomah was able to direct services for Portland and the other 12 cities of their county. Their "heat dome" crisis peaked on Monday, June 28th with all-time high 911 medical calls and hospitals reported two to five times the number of cardiac arrests. Because of rapid homeless-focused response, only a handful of the 54 heat deaths in Multnomah county were people experiencing homelessness. Please visit our [Heat Emergency Resources](#) webpage for updates.

Wildfire and Smoke Planning

We have been lucky this summer and fall with a strong marine layer protecting the Bay Area from wildfire smoke. ACHCH has been working with countywide partners to plan for rapid distribution of KN95 masks, if smoke levels increase, to protect unsheltered people. We are also working with the County to prepare cities to open cleaner air cooling centers where possible. Please visit our [Air Quality Emergency Resources](#) webpage for more

information.

Climate Change Impacts on People Experiencing Homelessness

ACHCH, led by its Consumer/Community Advisory Board (CCAB), is working with Alameda County in the development of a [Climate Action and Resilience Plan](#) to guide County efforts. The CCAB is hosting a focus group of people with lived experience to give relevant and meaningful input around the needs for the County to prepare appropriately for responses around extreme weather (heat, cold, floods, fires) that disproportionately affect unhoused people.

Our COVID-19 Response

Community Care Vaccine Sites



ACHCH has provided over 4,900 vaccines at over 260 events to date across Alameda County.

We are committed to maintaining low barrier access to the COVID-19 vaccine through Community Care sites.

Please visit our website for site location information: [ACHCH Community Care COVID-19 vaccine site schedule](#).

COVID-19 PPE Distributed



COVID-19 PPE DISTRIBUTION STATISTICS 2020-2021

DISPOSABLE
GLOVES

84,100

HAND
SANITIZER

1,847

FACE MASKS

53,335

FACE SHIELDS

502

DISINFECTING
WIPES/SPRAY

468

DISPOSABLE
GOWNS

680

GOGGLES

111

SHOE COVERS

646

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Mental Health
Services Act (MHSA)
Alameda County Behavioral Health

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