In The Spotlight

ACHCH Welcomes New Staff

Kari Jennings-Parriott joins Health Care for the Homeless as the Shelter Health Manager. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who has been working in community mental health and supporting under-served populations with access to housing for over 18 years in the Bay Area. She received a Master of Social Work from California State University, East Bay in 2009. Through her work at Health Care for the Homeless, Kari is committed to serving the unhoused community and working to create low barrier, high quality access to health care, both medical and mental health, for all people experiencing homelessness in Alameda County.

Wale Arshad is the program's new board certified Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner. She has a Master’s of Science in Public Health from Tulane University and Master's of Science in Nursing from UCSF Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner program. She has worked at North County Behavioral Mental Health Clinic where she served severely mentally ill patients by conducting psychiatric intakes, medication management, and conducted a Health and Wellness group. She has worked as a Community Health Planner for San Mateo County Health Policy and Planning Department where she primarily focused on supporting the implementation of school wellness policies, middle school youth development, the African American Community Health Advisory Committee (AACHAC), and the faith-based community. Wale has also worked as environmental scientist for United States Environmental Protection Agency.
Luella Penserga joins our team as the Deputy Director of the program. She has more than 25 years of expertise working in non-profit management, planning, and advocacy for uninsured and Medi-Cal populations. She has worked with a number of organizations including Alameda County HCSA and the Alameda Health Consortium/CHCN, and served on the boards of East Oakland Community Project and Asian Women’s Shelter. Luella believes that all people deserve access to comprehensive quality health care and safe, stable housing. She has a Master of Public Health from UCLA.

Our COVID-19 Response

Project Roomkey

California’s Project Roomkey is the first-in-the-nation initiative to secure hotel and motel rooms for people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic. Governor Gavin Newson secured FEMA approval for these hotel rooms, including wraparound supports such as meals, security and custodial services. Essential health care services are provided by the local government and community partners.

In Alameda County, ACHCH has played a key role in the development and ongoing operations of both programs under Project Roomkey, Operation Comfort and Operation Safer Ground. ACHCH staff support includes Seth Gomez, PharmD, BCPP providing coordination for pharmacy and medication services and authoring the alcohol policy and protocol for Operation Comfort. Other support services include telepsychiatry, referrals, medical screenings, and ongoing operational support as Alameda County continues to expand Project Roomkey sites in our community. The tremendous effort to develop and expand this critical resource has been achieved through partnerships across Health Care Services Agency, Social Services Agency, General Services Agency, Alameda Health System, and our community partners.

Shelter Activities

ACHCH is working with the shelters in Alameda County to address COVID-19 through on-site assessment, development of shelter guidance, coordination
and distribution of supplies, communication through weekly shelter provider calls, supporting physical distancing in shelters, and coordinating COVID-19 positive responses in shelters.

As of May 1st, ACHCH has distributed to shelters:

15,000 surgical masks
80 boxes of gloves
2,225 containers of hand sanitizer
50 thermometers
180 boxes of disinfectant wipes
36 gallons of bleach
8 cases of paper towels
1,500 PPE kits

ACHCH has:
- completed over 30 site visits to shelters in Alameda County
- hosted nine weekly COVID-19 calls to share information, new guidance, and address changes with 100 participants
- transferred 130 high risk shelter residents, during the shelter decompression, into Safer Ground housing
- carried out PPE and isolation housing referral trainings

Visit our website for more information on shelter health guidance.
Street Health & Encampment Activities

ACHCH is working with county-wide outreach providers to coordinate, report and map outreach sites, develop street outreach guidance, distribute supplies, communicate with outreach providers through weekly outreach provider calls, supporting physical distancing, COVID-19 education in encampment sites, and coordinating COVID-19 positive responses in street and encampment settings.

As of May 1st, ACHCH has distributed to outreach providers:

- 10,000 surgical masks
- 40 boxes of gloves
- 4,000 containers of hand sanitizer
- 30 thermometers
- 80 boxes of disinfectant wipes
- 1,000 PPE kits

ACHCH has:
- coordinated an encampment decompression resulting in 40 high risk unsheltered people screened and transported to Safer Ground housing
- developed a playbook for coordinated multi-agency COVID-19 positive response in street/encampment settings, which included infection control, contact investigation, and isolation referrals
- hosted nine weekly COVID-19 calls to share information, new guidance, and address changes with 100 participants
- created a map of outreach sites

Visit our [website](#) for more information on street health guidance.

ACHCH Community Consumer Advisory Board
ACHCH's Community Consumer Advisory Board (CCAB) meets monthly and helps to maintain a strong patient voice within ACHCH. All members of the CCAB have received services from ACHCH and have experienced homelessness at some point in their lives. One member of the CCAB serves on ACHCH's governing board. For more information, please contact David Modersbach at david.modersbach@acgov.org.

Visit the CCAB website for more information.

Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless
510-891-8950
384-14th Street
Oakland, CA 94612-3208

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)
Alameda County Behavioral Health