



Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless

Quarterly Newsletter

April - June 2022

In The Spotlight

ACHCH Welcomes New Staff



Janice Talley
Specialist Clerk II



Felix Thomson, RN
Shelter Health Team Nurse



Diane Del Pozo, RN, BSN, MPH
Shelter Health Team Nurse



Stacey Perry, MPA
Operations Manager

Ambassadors

ACHCH received funding from the National Health Care for the Homeless Council to hire Ambassadors.

The Ambassador Project will focus on increasing COVID-19 vaccination rates among people experiencing homelessness. The ambassadors will focus on addressing barriers to accessing health care and low levels of trust in the medical system due to previous experiences of trauma or stigma.

We are excited to welcome our Ambassadors to the team!



April Anthony



Davida Small



Dina Murray-Hoem

**National Health Care for the
Homeless Conference**

At the National Health

Seattle, WA
May 10-13

HCH2022

Toward Health & Belonging

Care for the Homeless conference in May, ACHCH and our community partners will have a strong presence. Members from the ACHCH Commission and Community & Consumer Advocacy Board (CCAB) will be in attendance and have the opportunity to

learn and network with the health care community.

ACHCH will be collaborating with community partners for the following presentations:

Start and Sustain Homeless Mortality Reporting and Use Mortality Data to Direct Policy Change

David Modersbach, Grants Manager, Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless program; Neil Greene, PhD Candidate, University of New Mexico; Dr. Pia Valvassori, Clinician Health Care Center for the Homeless; Anita Córdova, Chief Advancement Officer, Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless; Rachel Biggs Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless

Depot (Long-Acting) Buprenorphine: An Underutilized Yet Critical Tool Amidst the Opiate Epidemic

Seth Gomez, Senior Pharmacist, County Health Care for the Homeless; Jason Reinking, TRUST Clinic, LifeLong Medical Care; Maria Zimmerman, TRUST Clinic, Lifelong Medical Care

Mortality & Palliative Care

Rina Breakstone, Psychosocial Services Manager, LifeLong Medical Care - Trust Health Center; Matthew Fowle, University of Washington

Tenant-Led Approach to Overdose Prevention in Supportive Housing

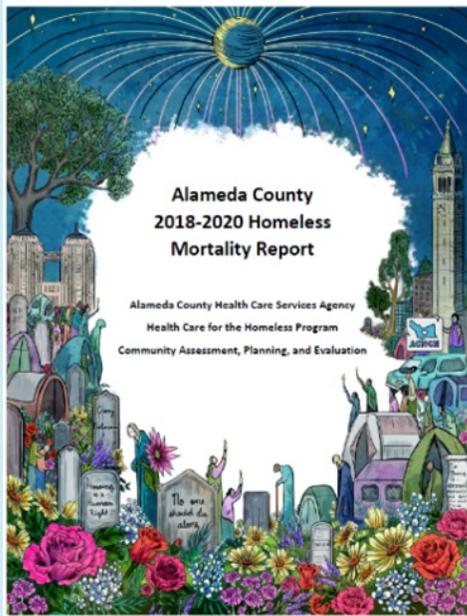
Porsha Dixon, National Harm Reduction Coalition; Katie Burk, Managing Consultant Facente Consulting; Brenda Cantero, National Harm Reduction Coalition; Kristen Marshall, National Harm Reduction Coalition; Laura Guzman, Sr. Director of Capacity Building & Community Mobilization National Harm Reduction Coalition (NHRC)

Effective Community Partnerships for Homeless Emergency & COVID Response

Poster Presentation: Sabrina Fuentes and David Modersbach

Other conference topics will cover Safety & Security, Behavioral Health, Anti-Racism, Chronic Disease Management, and Supporting Survivors of Interpersonal Violence. To learn more about the conference, please visit their [website](#).

ACHCH Releases First-ever Alameda County 2018-2020 Homeless Mortality Report



Over the past year, ACHCH has worked with our partners in the Community Assessment Planning and Evaluation (CAPE) program to develop a comprehensive data report on mortality among people experiencing homelessness in Alameda County between 2018-2020.

We hope that this will be the first of many homeless mortality reports and that the data can be used to direct countywide services to reduce mortality among people experiencing homelessness. The report was featured on the front page of the [New York Times](#). Download the report [here](#).

ACHCH Featured: Center for Health Care Strategies

ACHCH was featured in a Center for Health Care Strategies article, "**Forming Cross-Sector Partnerships to Improve Care for People Experiencing Homelessness.**"

Street medicine providers often face challenges navigating regulations and standards of care related to prescribing, dispensing, and administering medication outside of an office setting.

The article highlights the partnership between ACHCH and a local pharmacy to support dispensing medication on the street to support patient access to medications for addiction treatment.

ACHCH Supported Bright Young Minds Conference

In April, ACHCH psychiatry providers, Wale Arshad, NP and Aislinn Bird, MD, had the honor of presenting at the Bright Young Minds Behavioral Health Conference for Alameda County's Eden Area Regional Occupation Program high school students.

Since 2015, the Bright Young Minds Conference has been hosted by Alameda County Behavioral Health Workforce Development and FACES for the Future. The mission of this conference is to discuss behavioral health topics that are relevant to high-school aged youth and bring awareness of the wide variety of careers within behavioral health. One of the overarching goals of ACBH Workforce Development, which ACHCH supports, is to cultivate a diverse workforce for health professions where there are gaps or increased demand in service.

Part of the conference included small group mentoring panels, which Ms. Arshad and Dr. Bird participated in, alongside many Alameda County behavioral health providers. We discussed what inspired us to pursue careers within behavioral health, our educational journeys, the challenges and joys of our jobs, and recommendations for youth who are interested in this field. There was a wide variety of positions represented from case managers, therapists, psychiatry providers, and head leadership.

ACHCH is dedicated to cultivating the pipeline of diverse youth into health professions that serve the underserved, and we look forward to participating in next years' Bright Young Minds Conference.

Our COVID-19 Response

Looking Back: COVID-19 Two Years Later

While much of our community stayed home and sheltered in place, our healthcare and homeless provider community worked tirelessly from day one of the pandemic to keep our community safe.

Getting supplies out to the people: ACHCH and our amazing network of community partners distributed thousands supplies including masks, hand sanitizer, and gloves to individuals on the streets and in shelters.

(In photo: Melissa Moore, Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center Community Health Worker bringing supplies to the unhoused in Mid-County.)





Testing: Since April 2020, ACHCH has supported testing on the streets and in sheltered to support early detection and responses to COVID-19.

(In photo: Ghaly Ebid, ACHCH Registered Nurse bringing testing to the streets.)

Vaccinations: ACHCH has provided 5,951 vaccinations to homeless individuals in sheltered and unsheltered settings across the county. We remain committed to supporting low barrier access through our Community Care site visits.



(In photo (l-r): David Modersbach, ACHCH Grants Manager; Kari Jennings-Parriott, ACHCH Shelter Manager; Damon Francis, MD, AHS Homeless Health Center Medical Director; Lucy Kasdin, ACHCH Program Director; Catherine Hayes, MPH, FNP, Co-founder Cardea Health - First night of providing vaccines in late February 2021.)



(In photo: Wanda Johnson, DNP, MSN, PHN, CWOCN, FNP-BC - from AHS providing vaccinations to shelter residents in Fremont.)



(In photo: Jared Bunde, RN providing vaccines on the streets of Oakland.)

Project Roomkey: As part of a larger statewide effort called Project Roomkey, on March 26, 2020, Alameda County opened our first Isolation/Quarantine Hotel. I/Q hotels provides short-term isolation/quarantine housing for those with a positive COVID-19 test, active symptoms of COVID-19, or those who have had close contact to someone with COVID-19.

Shortly after, on April 2, 2020, Alameda County opened their first Safer Ground site. Safer Ground provides non-congregate shelter emergency housing resources for individuals experiencing homelessness at high-risk of developing acute disease or complications from a SARS-CoV-2 infection (COVID-19) and who would benefit from physical distancing and non-congregate shelter as a precautionary measure.

To date more than 3,192 individuals have been served by the Isolation/Quarantine (I/Q) hotels, ensuring that those without a safe place to isolate or quarantine safely have access to medical care and in turn protecting our shelters from wider outbreaks. Safer Ground has served 2,570 individuals to date, with 1,366 transitioning into housing.



(In photo: Harrison Alter, MD, MS, FACEP volunteering at a shelter site conducting screenings for Safer Ground to support shelter decompression.)



(In photo: Shannon Smith-Bernardin, PhD, MSN, RN and Seth Gomez, PharmD, BCPP are working to develop the now nationally recognized managed alcohol program for Project Roomkey.)



In photo: Alameda Health System Mobile Van team providing medical care to residents of Safer Ground and I/Q hotels.

Outbreak Response: ACHCH has responded to 438 outbreaks of COVID-19 in both shelters (332) and streets (106).



In photo: LifeLong Medical Street Health responding to an outbreak on the streets of Oakland.



In photo: Alameda County Fire Department supporting an outbreak response in a Hayward shelter.

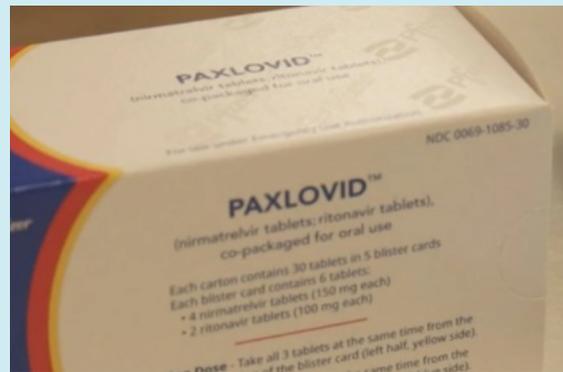
International Seafarers: In July 2021, local advocates and unions informed ACHCH that it was not possible for international seafarers at Port of Oakland to get vaccinated. In response, ACHCH partnered with community providers to vaccinate international seafarers. We joined them to provide vaccinations onboard ships and supported efforts at other ports across the country to initiate seafarer vaccinations.

In photo: ACHCH staff boarding ship to provide vaccinations.



Test-to-Treat

Test to Treat, an initiative through HRSA, will allow for quicker administration of COVID-19 antiviral pills. People with a variety of health conditions can decrease their chance of severe COVID-19 by getting early treatment with a COVID-19 medication. Those who are eligible will be able to take a test and receive medication right away if they test positive.



While COVID-19 antivirals are currently only authorized for people with confirmed mild-to-moderate COVID-19 who are at high risk of developing a severe case, given the high vulnerability and comorbidities of the homeless population this treatment is a key additional resource to prevent severe disease and death.

In January 2022, the I/Q hotels gained the capacity to provide antiviral medications, and in March and April Street Health teams across our community implemented these services, bringing this resource to our unhoused community.

Community Care Vaccine Sites

ACHCH continues to provide low barrier access to the COVID-19 vaccine through Community Care sites.

Please visit our website for the [vaccine site schedule](#).

ACHCH Monthly Provider Training Series

Every fourth Wednesday of the month, ACHCH offers trainings for shelter and outreach providers in Alameda County. Trauma Stewardship, Hoarding Disorder, De-escalation, and Treating Clients with Psychosis are just a few of the topics that are presented. To view previously recorded trainings, visit our [website](#).

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for the Homeless**
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Oakland, CA 94612-3208



**Mental Health
Services Act (MHSA)**
Alameda County Behavioral Health

[Visit ACHCH](#)

[ACHCH Partners](#)

