



Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless

Quarterly Newsletter

July - September 2020

In The Spotlight

ACHCH Welcomes New Staff



Alex Quintanilla joins Health Care for the Homeless as a Behavioral Health Clinician. He is a Spanish-speaking, bi-cultural licensed clinical social worker (LCSW). He received a BA in political science, a BA in history, and completed his master's in social work at UC Berkeley.

Alex has worked in community-based organizations focusing on families who were homeless in the Bay Area. He provided case management services at Compass Family Services, Catholic Charities, and was the director of Compass SF HOME. He also worked at A Better Way, Inc. and at UCSF Child Adolescent Services as a mental health clinician focusing on providing mental health services for families within San Francisco's child welfare system and families receiving Medi-Cal. Alex trained clinicians in facilitating groups within the San Francisco Unified School district utilizing the Fuerte Curriculum. His personal history as an undocumented immigrant from El Salvador and a survivor of a home with domestic abuse as a child influences his work, interest, and his commitment to the field.

Program Highlights

Aislinn Bird, MD ACHCH Psychiatrist, **Seth Gomez**, PharmD, BCPP Senior Pharmacist, and **Kerry Abbott**, Director of HCSA Office of Homeless Care and Coordination submitted a paper to the Street Medicine Institute symposium committee for the 16th annual **International Street Medicine Symposium**. Their proposal, titled "Integrating Street Medicine into Multi-jurisdictional Health Care Systems," has been selected. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, ISMS 16 will be completely virtual.

David Modersbach, ACHCH Grants Manager and **Lucy Kasdin**, LCSW, ACHCH Director presented at the **CSH Virtual Summit - Planning Beyond the Crisis 2020**. The session, titled "Intersections of Public Health and Homelessness," focused on the work of ACHCH as part of the Alameda County Public Health response to COVID-19.

Street Health Team



LtoR: Jared Bunde, Noemi Joves, Wilma Lozada, Elaine Colon, Andrea Zeppa, Dr. Aislinn Bird, Dr. Ted Aames

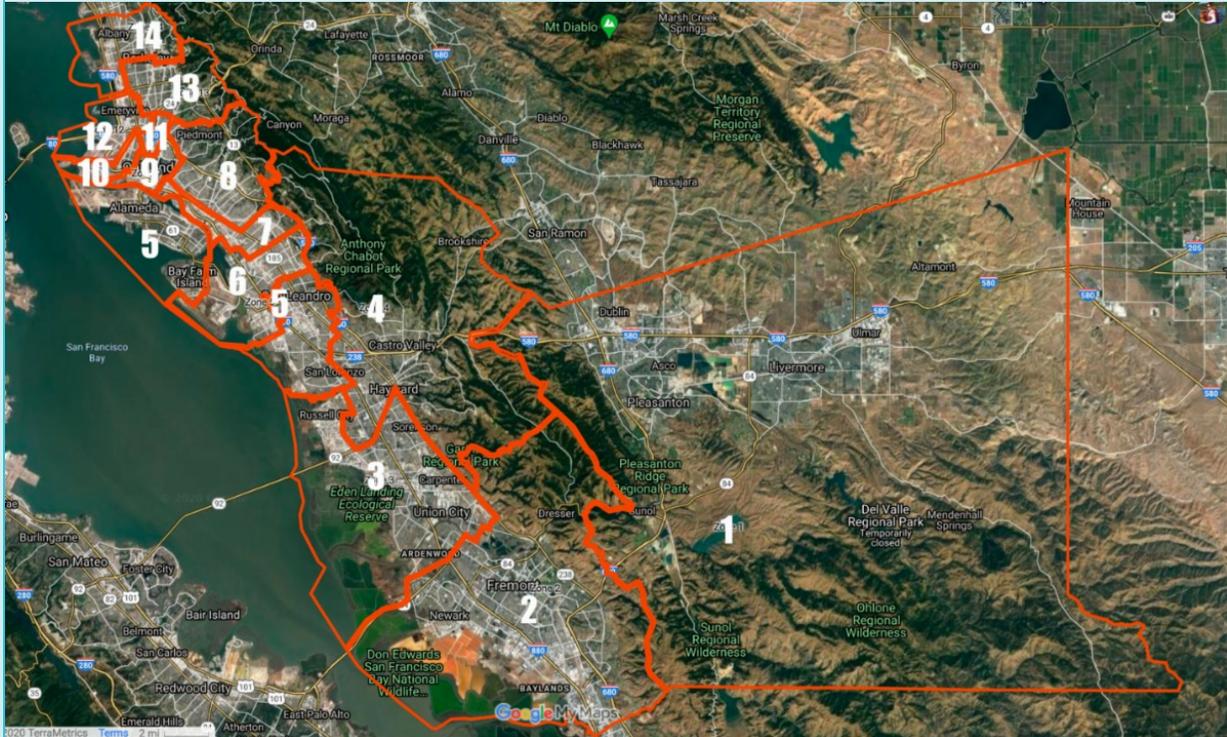
Street Health Expansion

Street outreach and engagement are critical components to respond to the homeless crisis in our community. Outreach "brings the front door" to our unsheltered residents, and engagement activities foster relationships that can allow individuals to consider coming inside and accepting services.

Street Health teams provide access to care from multi-disciplinary teams, bringing community health outreach workers, doctors, nurses, and social workers directly to people experiencing homelessness through regularly scheduled outreach services offered to unsheltered people living in homeless encampments, vehicles, and RVs. Street Health teams engage people living on the streets with highly accessible, patient-centered care. They strive to build relationships that lead to long-term health through connections to primary care, social services, housing, and other resources.

Based on the 2019 Point-In-Time Count, Alameda County was divided into 14 zones based on density of unsheltered homelessness. Each zone serves approximately 400-500 individuals, allowing for a staffing ratio of 1:140. The expansion will add five new Street Health Teams to our program for a total of 13 Street Health teams providing street-based care across Alameda County.

This expansion comes at a critical time, as Street Health teams play a vital role in our COVID-19 response, including supporting access and referrals to both prevention and outbreak response efforts under Project Roomkey.



Our COVID-19 Response

COVID-19 Community Testing

ACHCH leads shelter and street-based COVID-19 testing teams both in rapid response to COVID-19 cases and in providing Community Care testing to “hot spots.” To date, ACHCH and partners have provided over 1,000 COVID-19 tests in 60 different testing events with a positivity rate of 2.89%. ACHCH is also developing COVID-19 testing capacity among Street Health teams as well as developing our own COVID-19 testing team.



- We continually update our guidance and materials on our website to keep our community informed.
- Providers - please attend our weekly shelter and outreach provider calls.
- Visit our **website** for more information on COVID-19.

COVID Prevention

It's everyone's job



WASH HANDS



AVOID CROWDS



KEEP 6 FEET FROM OTHERS



WEAR MASK

PER CDC GUIDELINES



Shelter Activities



ACHCH continues our work with the shelters in Alameda County to address COVID-19 through ongoing Shelter Health services, on-site assessments, and distribution of supplies. ACHCH continues to facilitate weekly shelter provider calls with an average weekly attendance of 50

participants to provide ongoing training, education, and resource sharing. ACHCH has led COVID-19 rapid responses in 31 different instances with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases, including site visits, environmental scan, testing, direction, and coordination with Alameda County Public Health. We have distributed thousands of masks, hand sanitizer, and cleaning supplies to shelters across the county.

Visit our [website](#) to access the Shelter Health mobile van calendar.

Street Health & Encampment

Activities

ACHCH continues our work with county-wide outreach providers to coordinate outreach, distribute supplies, provide ongoing COVID-19 education, and expand field-based testing capacity. ACHCH facilitates a weekly outreach provider call with an average attendance of 55 participants. These calls remain a critical aspect of our response and allows us to plan, coordinate, and educate. ACHCH has led rapid responses in 18 street encampments with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 outbreak situations throughout the county. Our response includes environmental assessments, mobilization and direction of outreach providers and partners, and support of residents to access Operation Comfort hotels. ACHCH has distributed thousands of masks, hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies, and protective gear to outreach providers and residents of county-wide encampments.



Outbreak Response



Planning with homeless outreach partners, shelters, city and county staff, ACHCH developed and leads a COVID-19 Homeless Outbreak Rapid Response model:

- Environmental Scans - situational assessments of community conditions - conducted to inform response to each outbreak
- Guidance and partnership from Public Health Department
- Rapid Response testing & coordination with outreach

- Flexible Response: offering isolation/quarantine hotel through Project Roomkey - or "enhanced shelter-in-place" with deployment of increased support and supplies in coordination with city and outreach partners

ACHCH has led rapid responses to 49 incidents of suspected or actual COVID-19 outbreaks in congregate settings (31 shelter and 18 encampments). Most rapid responses include coordination and education of providers, staff, and residents, contact investigation, and a rapid testing response. ACHCH is leading ongoing rapid response and community care testing at potential "hot spots" and has provided 1,089 COVID-19 tests.



Onsite Dental Mobile Van Reopens!

Onsite Dental re-opened dental services to existing patients on June 17, 2020. In coordination with ACHCH and under the guidance of our consulting Dental Director, Bahar Amanzede, DDS, Onsite

Dental has updated their policies and procedures (according to ADA, CDC and the ACPHD guidelines) to ensure the lowest risk of contracting COVID-19 for staff and patients. On Fridays, they are only providing urgent and emergency dental care at their mobile dental van located at South Hayward Parish (27287 Patrick Avenue, Hayward, CA 94544).

Onsite Dental will resume non-urgent services when it is deemed safe and mandates are lifted by the ADA, CDC and ACPHD.

WE ARE GRATEFUL!

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations, your contributions are supporting thousands of Alameda County residents who are experiencing homelessness today.

JAN AMBROSINI & TIM STROSHANE
WINGSPAN SOLUTIONS
DIRECT RELIEF

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Mental Health Services Act (MHSAs)
Alameda County Behavioral Health

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