



## Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless

Quarterly Newsletter

July - September 2023

### In The Spotlight



#### ACHCH Welcomes New Medical Director Dr. Amy Garlin

Amy Garlin, MD is an Internal Medicine doctor and Infectious Disease specialist. She has worked as an HIV primary care and Street Medicine provider in Oakland and San Francisco since 2004. Between 2021 and 2023 she worked as a Medical Epidemiologist in Covid Response and as Medical Director of Communicable Disease Control for the City and County of San Francisco. As an Associate Clinical Professor at the UC

Berkeley School of Public Health she has taught clinical medicine to students in the UCB-UCSF Joint Medical Program and Public Health Immunology to interdisciplinary graduate students. Amy grew up in Alameda County, went to medical school at UCSF, and currently lives in Berkeley with her spouse and two daughters.

### Summer Solstice Celebration 2023

On June 21st, Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless proudly co-sponsored the Summer Solstice Celebration of the Strength and Resilience of People Experiencing Homelessness in Alameda County. This event took place in person at the First Presbyterian Church of Hayward in Castro Valley. The event ([video](#)) honored and celebrated the strength and resilience of people experiencing homelessness, in alignment with



homeless solstice celebrations nationwide.

Over 100 people, including people experiencing homelessness, homeless service providers, advocates, and awardees attended the event. They enjoyed a beautiful day with lunch, music by the band AstraLogik, speeches, and a raffle.

Most importantly, the Resilience and Determination Hero awards were presented to twelve people who were nominated by their peers and providers for the strength and example they have provided to others. Their speeches were truly a testament to the diversity, strength, and resilience of people

experiencing and formerly experiencing homelessness.



Recipients of this year's RAD Hero awards included:

- Sabrina Abong (nominated by OHCC Youth Advisory Board)
- Keith Arivnwine (nominated by St. Mary's Senior Center)
- Darlene Auau (nominated by Lifelong Medical Care Street Health)
- Varon Brown (nominated by Lifelong/East Bay Community Project)
- Donald "Donnie" Clark (nominated by Tiburcio Vasquez Street Health)
- Greg Combs (nominated by First Presbyterian Church Hayward)
- Anna "Kate" Leland (nominated by First Presbyterian Church Hayward)
- Carol Mitchell (nominated by Bay Area Community Services)
- Leah Moore (nominated by Rising Into Self-Empowerment)
- Raul Rivas (nominated by Bay Area Community Services)
- Stephanie Semien (nominated by Love & Justice In the Streets)
- David Smith (Nominated by Building Opportunities for Self Sufficiency)

Thank you to the speakers:

- Kawal Ulanday, Master of Ceremonies; HCSA Office of Homeless Care & Coordination
- April Anthony; ACHCH Community & Consumer Advisory Board
- Tami Rossell; Alameda Health System Co-Applicant Board



- Sahra Nawabi, Tammy Nguyen, Hanna Moore; OHCC Youth Advisory Board
- Melissa Moore; Rising into Self-Empowerment
- Ashley Strasburg; District 4 Representative for Supervisor Nate Miley



Thank you to everyone that contributed:

- Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless Consumer/Community Advisory Board
- Alameda Health System Homeless Co-Applicant Board
- Alameda Health System Foundation
- Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center
- Lifelong Medical Care
- Alameda County Office of Homeless Care and Coordination
- Bay Area Community Services
- Abode Housing, Inc.
- Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley (District 4)
- Alameda County Supervisor Elisa Márquez (District 2)
- Artist Leon Kennedy
- AstraLogik
- Gerard Leynes Caterer

An extra special thank you to Aaron Horner, Saundrea Mabrey, and the staff at First Presbyterian Church of Hayward in Castro Valley who graciously hosted the Summer Solstice event.



**ACHCH Presented at the  
California Street Medicine Symposium**

Aislinn Bird, MD presented at the 5th Annual California Street Medicine Symposium in Los Angeles on August 18, 2023.

This conference brought together street medicine teams, people with lived expertise, community organizations, health plans, and community members to discuss street medicine best practices, the current state of street medicine in California, and goals for the future.



Dr. Bird was on a Street Medicine Panel with Dr. Ashraf Elmashat of USC and Dr. Coley King of Ventura County. They discussed the rewards and unique challenges of being street psychiatry providers, best practices regarding diagnosing in the field and how to increase access to psychiatric care on the streets.

## Oaklandside Article: Helping East Bay Residents Avoid Overdose, without Judgment



As part of Amplify Oakland, an Oaklandside series of first-person stories shared by Oaklanders in their own words, ACHCH Commission and ACHCH Consumer Community Advisory Board (CCAB) member, **Sabrina Fuentes** shared her personal and professional journey.

It is a powerful testimony from an exceptional advocate, peer, mom, case manager, and friend to so many.

ACHCH celebrates Sabrina and her impact on our community. Read the full article [here](#).

## COVID-19 AND RESPIRATORY ILLNESS GUIDANCE

Updated Guidance for Homeless  
Shelters and Service Providers

Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless (ACHCH) continues to



work closely with our partners in the Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) to coordinate and update our response. Positive cases (or “case counts”), hospitalizations, outbreaks, and wastewater monitoring all inform countywide responses to COVID-19. County Health Officer and ACHCH guidance will be posted on our webpages and actionable updates to guidance will be emailed to our provider community.

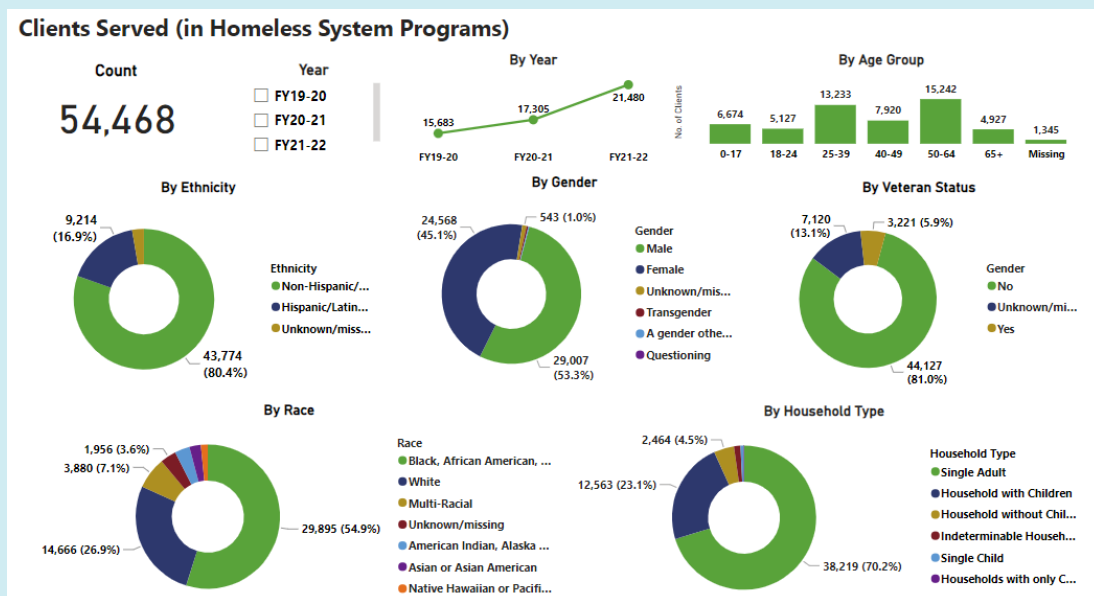
COVID-19, as well as other airborne respiratory illnesses such as influenza, RSV, colds, and many other viruses can spread among shelter and homeless services participants and staff. As we collectively work to ensure safer, healthier living environments in shelters and homeless programs, we recognize that COVID-19 is an ongoing presence, just like flu, RSV, and colds. Our shared goals are to prevent serious illness and death from respiratory diseases and support the health and wellness of all shelter residents and staff.

Please visit our **website** to view the updated ACHCH COVID-19 and Respiratory Illness Guidance.

## Office of Homeless Care and Coordination (OHCC) Data Dashboard

The Office of Homeless Care and Coordination (OHCC) has just launched a series of data dashboards allowing users to explore information about the homelessness response system in Alameda County by race/ ethnicity, age, gender, household type and Veteran status. The site also includes data about funding for homeless programs and services.

Visit the OHCC **website** for more information.



**Nominations for ACHCH  
G.G. Greenhouse Community  
Hero Award 2023**



As we enter the fall and look toward the end of 2023, Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless (ACHCH) would like to express our deep gratitude to all of our community partners who have served and supported people experiencing homelessness over the past year.

As has become tradition over the last four years, ACHCH would like to especially salute a few notable Community Heroes who have gone above and beyond to support our community.

### **Do you have a Community Hero you would like to salute?**

If so, we'd like to know who they are, their contribution to the community, and how they have distinguished themselves. This could include a program, a colleague, a volunteer, or anyone you believe should be acknowledged for their contribution.

Please send your nominations (full name, organization, email address, and a brief description of their heroism) to Kathy Barron at [kathryn.barron@acgov.org](mailto:kathryn.barron@acgov.org) **by November 10th.**

## **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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**Mental Health  
Services Act (MHSa)**  
Alameda County Behavioral Health

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