



HOUSING IS A HEALTH CARE ISSUE

## AHCJ FALL SUMMIT

November 2-3, 2023 | Oakland, Calif.

# WELCOME TO OAKLAND



AHCJ Fall Summit  
Nov. 2-3 | Oakland, Calif.

## Local Host



California  
Health Care  
Foundation

## Sponsors



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## Waterfront Hotel

10 Washington St  
Oakland, Calif. 94607-3799

## We're here because homelessness is a health issue

When AHCJ started discussions around the theme for this year's fall summit, we sought a subject matter that has remained relatively unexplored by journalists: the intersection of homelessness and health.

An alarming number of people across the U.S. – particularly older adults and those in communities of color – are on the precipice of losing their homes. Being without housing not only heightens vulnerability to communicable diseases, but also exacerbates pre-existing chronic health issues.

And nearly one-third of all people in the U.S. experiencing homelessness reside in California, according to the Public Policy Institute of California.

Journalists play a vital role in addressing this issue by not only reporting on the issue of homelessness itself but by centering the narratives and lived experiences of the people directly impacted. It's a complex and deeply human issue, and these stories deserve to be told with empathy and dignity. By amplifying voices of those experiencing homelessness, journalists can challenge stereotypes and misconceptions.

The words we use matter.

Moreover, responsible journalism should extend beyond merely highlighting the problem to actively exploring potential solutions, whether they involve policy changes, community initiatives, support services or other innovative ideas. When journalists take this holistic approach, they contribute to a more compassionate and informed society that is better equipped to work toward lasting solutions.

During this 1.5 day event, you'll learn about:

- Factors that lead to housing loss.
- Efforts of "street teams" addressing critical health needs.
- Reporting on homelessness with empathy.
- Mental and behavioral health interventions for people experiencing homelessness.
- The efficacy of initiatives aimed at transitioning people into permanent housing.

You'll leave with an abundance of story ideas.

But most important, we hope you'll leave with a new perspective on how to cover this issue – aspiring to shed light on potential solutions, and reporting not just about people experiencing homelessness, but for them.

Special thanks to our local host, the California Health Care Foundation, and our sponsors, The Commonwealth Fund and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, for supporting this summit.

**Felice J. Freyer**  
President

**Kelsey Ryan**  
Executive Director

## HANDOUTS

Some of our panelists will have tip sheets, resource lists or other handouts available during the workshop. These materials will also be available – along with visual presentations – at [healthjournalism.org](http://healthjournalism.org) shortly after the workshop.

## CELL PHONES

While you might need to use your phones and electronic devices during the event, we ask that you mute them and, as much as possible, keep your use of them from distracting fellow attendees.

## WORKSHOP EVALUATIONS

After the workshop, we will send a link to an online evaluation form. We ask that you complete this form to help us continue to improve our programs.

**Wi-Fi Access:** Waterfront Meeting

**Password:** VESPER!!

We encourage attendees who are posting social media updates to use **#AHCJSummit**.

## AHCJ STAFF

- **Kelsey Ryan**, executive director
- **Katherine Reed**, director of education and content
- **Andrea Waner**, director of engagement
- **Melody Morgan**, development officer
- **Erica Tricarico**, managing editor
- **Kevin Ridder**, digital editor
- **Tina England**, membership manager and program design
- **Susan Cunningham**, events manager
- **Melissa Acton**, fiscal officer

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- **Margarita Birnbaum**, health equity
- **Karen Blum**, health IT
- **Joseph Burns**, health policy
- **Paul Gordon**, environmental health
- **Katti Gray**, mental health
- **Tara Helle**, infectious diseases & COVID-19
- **Mary Chris Jaklevic**, patient safety
- **Barbara Mantel**, freelance community correspondent
- **Liz Seegert**, aging
- **Kaitlin Washburn**, firearm violence and trauma

## AHCJ BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- **Deborah Schoch**, independent journalist, Long Beach, Calif. (at-large member)
- **Laura Beil**, independent journalist, Texas
- **Randy Dotinga**, independent journalist, San Diego, Calif.
- **Dawn Fallik**, associate professor, University of Delaware
- **Carrie Feibel**, senior editor, NPR, Washington, D.C.
- **Joyce Frieden**, Washington editor, MedPage Today, Washington, D.C.
- **Michele Cohen Marill**, independent journalist, Atlanta
- **Tammy Worth**, independent journalist, Kansas City, Mo.

Thursday schedule at a glance
<b>7 a.m.</b> Registration opens
<b>7:15-8:15 a.m.</b> Breakfast available, Regatta Room
<b>8:45-9 a.m.</b> Welcome, Spinnaker Room
<b>9-9:15 a.m.</b> Exploring “person-first” language and homeless stigma
<b>9:15-10:30 a.m.</b> In their own voices: Elevating homeless stories
<b>10:45-11:45 a.m.</b> Building will for a mental health solution: A Q&A with Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg
<b>12-1:30 p.m.</b> Homelessness: Separating fact from myth, Regatta Room
<b>1:45-2:45 p.m.</b> Older and unhoused: Confronting the health needs of an aging homeless population
<b>3-4 p.m.</b> Somewhere to heal: Hospitals’ and physicians’ role in caring for homeless patients
<b>4-5 p.m.</b> How to treat a drug crisis on top of a homeless crisis
<b>5-6:15 p.m.</b> Reception, Chart Room

**8:45-9 a.m. Welcome and introductions**

- Kelsey Ryan, executive director for AHCJ

**9-9:15 a.m. Exploring “person-first” language and homeless stigma**

The words and images we choose have a profound impact on the way we think about and perceive people who are homeless and the issue of homelessness. This interactive session will get us started on that important conversation and its implications for journalists.

- **Facilitator:** Katherine Reed, director of education and content for AHCJ

**9:15-10:30 a.m. In their own voices: Elevating homeless stories**

If you’re covering homelessness, it’s crucial that you have sources who are homeless. They’ll make your stories better – and more accurate and complete. The founder of an advocacy organization and a reporter who has covered homelessness in California for many years will talk about why it’s important to include homeless people in your coverage, how to connect with sources, how to report on vulnerable people in a way that gives them agency and what unsheltered people think about the debate over what we should call homeless people.

- **Moderator:** Lisa Halverstadt, senior investigative reporter, Voice of San Diego
- Mark Horvath, founder and CEO, Invisible People

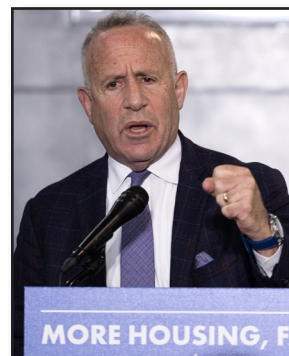
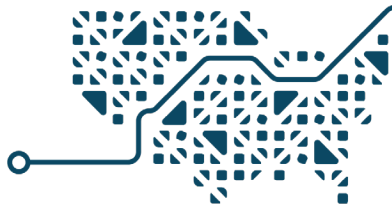


Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

**10:45-11:45 a.m. Building will for a mental health solution: A Q&A with Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg**

California has a history of trying – and too often failing – to house and treat people with serious mental illnesses. Can things change? Two decades ago, Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg co-authored the Mental Health Services Act, a 1% tax on millionaires that has now raised more than \$26 billion for county mental health services in California. Despite this and many other policy reforms, too many people with serious mental illnesses continue to dwell on sidewalks and under overpasses. In a conversation with Mayor Steinberg, we discuss this ongoing challenge. Why does the situation around the state seem to have grown worse, despite landmark legislation? What will it take for California to turn things around? And what lessons does the California experience have for other states?

- **Moderator:** Jocelyn Wiener, M.S., health reporter, CalMatters
- Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg, J.D.



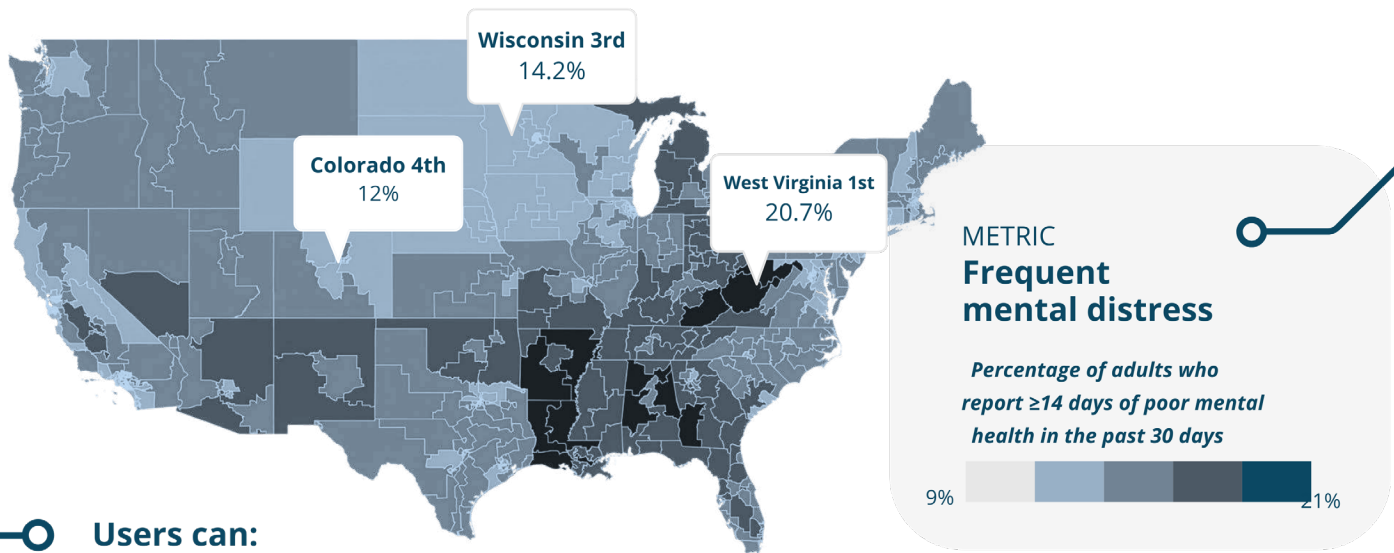
# Congressional District Health DASHBOARD



## New Online Tool Provides Health Snapshots of All 435 U.S. Congressional Districts

The Congressional District Health Dashboard developed by researchers at NYU Grossman School of Medicine, in partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, will help policymakers, advocates, journalists, and others dig into congressional district-level data, identify priorities, and drive action.

### Comparing Mental Distress Across Congressional Districts



#### Users can:



Explore rigorous, non-partisan data on health, education, poverty, and more by congressional district



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[www.CongressionalDistrictHealthDashboard.org/subscribe](http://www.CongressionalDistrictHealthDashboard.org/subscribe)



Support provided by





**12-1:30 p.m.**  
**Homelessness:  
 Separating fact from myth,  
 Regatta Room**

In the groundbreaking study, the California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness, a team led by Dr. Margot Kushel unearthed

answers to the questions of who becomes homeless, why they become homeless, and what happens to them once they are homeless. Dr. Kushel will talk about the findings from the study, the largest representative study of homelessness in the U.S. in 30 years, and her other work, including a randomized controlled trial of permanent supportive housing – all suggestive of how we might get to an end to this crisis.

- **Keynote speaker:** Margot Kushel, M.D., director, UCSF Center for Vulnerable Populations

**1:45-2:45 p.m. Older and unhoused: Creatively confronting the health needs of an aging homeless population**

The proportion of homeless adults ages 50 and older has skyrocketed. And the stress of being homeless causes accelerated aging. That means both medical and housing interventions must move beyond a focus on mental illness and substance use and address geriatric conditions such as imbalance, frailty and dementia. We'll talk about solutions but also hear about research that can guide prevention: How does the housing of seniors become precarious, and what do they individually experience when transitioning into and out of extended-stay hotels, assisted living and other home environments?

- **Moderator:** Carrie Feibel, senior editor, NPR Science Desk
- Benjamin Henwood, Ph.D., L.C.S.W., professor of social policy and health, University of Southern California
- Terri Lewinson, Ph.D., M.S.W., associate professor, Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice

**3-4 p.m. Somewhere to heal: Hospitals' and physicians' role in caring for homeless patients**

What can hospitals and health care providers do to smooth the path out of the hospital or clinic for patients who are experiencing homelessness? Experts will delve into innovative models being used to provide shelter, resources and ongoing support to unhoused patients after a hospital visit. We'll talk about why wrap-around care is so vital for a population that is more likely to have chronic health conditions. And we will explore the many barriers to this kind of care, from the bedside to state legislatures and beyond.

- **Moderator:** Isabella Cueto, chronic disease reporter, STAT
- Armen Henderson, M.D., M.B.A., assistant professor of medicine, University of Miami
- Hemal Kanzaria, M.D., M.Sc., professor of emergency medicine, University of California, San Francisco
- Sarah Stella, M.D., associate professor of medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine

**4-5 p.m. How to treat a drug crisis on top of a homeless crisis**

Substance use treatment has long been inaccessible for people who are homeless. As fentanyl overtakes less deadly drugs in use by all populations, homeless people are disproportionately affected. Public health agencies and nonprofits are working to figure out how to increase access to treatment to stem the rise in fatal overdoses. This session will explore those efforts and why substance use disorder is so prevalent among people living outside.

- **Moderator:** Molly Harbarger, editor of Project Homeless, The Seattle Times
- JoAnn Hemstreet, L.C.S.W., clinical director, Homeless Health Care Los Angeles
- Juliana DePietro, M.P.H., overdose prevention manager, Central City Concern
- Sean Soth, director of health integration & innovation, Evergreen Treatment Services

**5-6:15 p.m. Welcome from the California Health Care Foundation and Reception, Chart Room**

### Friday schedule at a glance

**7-8 a.m.** Breakfast available, Regatta Room

**8:15-8:30 a.m.** Welcome back and thoughts from yesterday, Spinnaker Room

**8:30-9:30 a.m.** What the streets are saying: Lessons in street medicine

**9:45-11 a.m.** How to house: Lessons from Houston and beyond

**11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** Toolkit from the trenches: Reporting on homelessness with sensitivity

### **8:15-8:30 a.m. Welcome back and thoughts from yesterday**

### **8:30-9:30 a.m. What the streets are saying: Lessons in street medicine**

Living on the streets is deadly. Chronic disease, mental illness and substance use disorders subtract nearly 30 years of life from people who are unsheltered and unhoused. Too often, they face insurmountable barriers to accessing health care. Enter street teams: medical and social services professionals equipped with backpacks full of first aid supplies and a grim determination to roll back the detrimental health effects of homelessness. In this session, you'll hear about the lesson these providers learned that many policymakers are just picking up on now – that the best way to help is to “go to the people.”

- **Moderator:** Kristen Hwang, M.J., M.P.H., health reporter, CalMatters
- Brett Feldman, M.S.P.A.S., P.A.-C., director of street medicine, Keck School of Medicine of USC
- Dez Martinez, executive director, We Are Not Invisible
- Joseph Becerra, community health worker, certified addiction treatment counselor and certified clinical supervisor, USC Street Medicine
- Liz Frye, M.D., M.P.H., vice chair, Street Medicine Institute

### **9:45-11 a.m. How to house: Lessons from Houston and beyond**

Starting in 2011, more than 100 organizations serving the homeless in the Houston area have coalesced around one strategy: housing. That effort, which has cut the region's homeless population by two thirds, has had a measurable impact on the health of people who were once homeless. But housing is just one tool regions use to address homelessness; many also pour funding into emergency shelters. This session will focus on how to think about where to direct limited funding and how history, structural racism and tight housing markets should be considered when coming up with plans to combat homelessness.

- **Moderator:** R.A. Schuetz, housing reporter, The Houston Chronicle
- Thao Costis, M.B.A., executive director, Harris County Community Services Department
- Bill Pitkin, Ph.D., M.A., senior policy fellow, Urban Institute
- Mary Frances Kenion, M.P.A., vice president training and technical assistance, National Alliance to End Homelessness
- DeForrest Hancock, representative, Lived Experience Advisory Board, Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative

### **11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Toolkit from the trenches: Reporting on homelessness with sensitivity**

Second-hand trauma and ethical deliberations are a constant on the homeless beat. What are the key ethical questions to consider when interviewing and reporting on this vulnerable population? In this session, veteran reporters reflect on the challenges of reporting on homelessness, how and when to apply trauma-informed strategies, and the approaches that have worked – or not.

- **Moderator:** Katia Riddle, independent journalist
- Claire Collins, independent photographer and videographer
- Gale Holland, former staff writer, Los Angeles Times
- Lisa Halverstadt, senior investigative reporter, Voice of San Diego
- Molly Harbarger, editor of Project Homeless, The Seattle Times

**JOSEPH BECERRA**, M.S.P.A.S, PA-C, is a supervising street medicine community health worker, a certified addiction treatment counselor and a certified clinical supervisor who has worked with the underserved, incarcerated, at-risk youth and people experiencing homelessness for over 15 years. Becerra worked closely with the Department of Mental Health in the juvenile justice system and for a University of Southern California-Los Angeles study focusing on Intravenous drug users. Over the years, he has assisted with the development of two youth programs, a Boys & Girls home for children in need, methadone clinics, needle exchanges, and human trafficking prevention groups. In 2022, Becerra was named to the Clinician's Steering Committee for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council.

**CLAIRE COLLINS** is an independent documentary filmmaker based in Michigan. After studying photo and video journalism at the University of North Carolina, they spent five years on staff at the Los Angeles Times focusing on incarceration and mental health. They were a part of the team that produced "Hollywood's Finest," an intimate multi-year-long project examining intergenerational houselessness, pregnancy and motherhood. Their work has been recog-

nized by Picture of the Year, the Online News Association, a Los Angeles Emmy, the National Press Photographers Association, and the Los Angeles Press Club, among others.

**THAO COSTIS**, M.B.A., is the executive director of Community Services Department in Harris County, the nation's third most populous county. Addressing the housing, infrastructure, and public service needs of low- to moderate-income communities, the department administers the county's federal funds to strengthen the community and support disaster recovery activities. For 30 years, Costis was an integral part of Houston's homeless system development. She was CEO of SEARCH Homeless Services, a leading collaborative partner helping people move from the streets into jobs and safe, stable housing. From early in her career, Costis has been focused on building thriving communities for all.

**ISABELLA CUETO** is a chronic disease reporter at STAT. She joined STAT as the inaugural Sharon Begley Science Reporting Fellow in 2021. Before taking the leap into science journalism, Cueto covered local government in Florida, South Carolina and California.



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Photos courtesy of Mark Horvath/Invisible People

## Nonprofit gives a face to homelessness, one authentic story at a time

BY ERICA TRICARICO

Homelessness is a growing societal issue and health care crisis. Covering it responsibly requires empathy and sensitivity. Too often, the unfiltered stories of the actual human beings experiencing homelessness are lacking in news stories.

The nonprofit Invisible People is working to change that by giving homelessness a face, meaning not just sharing the political side of the issue but the stories of the people experiencing it daily. The advocacy organization's overarching mission is to help create meaningful change through storytelling, education, news and activism.

"We prioritize the voice of lived experience of homelessness. We also don't skirt around tough topics," Invisible Voices Founder Mark Horvath said. "We talk authentically and upfront about addiction, mental illness, criminalization and the growing homeless population. We strive to be the most trusted source, and to do that, we have to put effort into sharing stories as they really are."

Horvath can relate to the people he interviews because he was once one of them – unhoused and on the streets of California. He had worked in television but lost everything during the recession, including his home and health care coverage.

He decided to use his camera and interviewing skills to tell the stories of people experiencing homelessness. The work gave him a sense of purpose – a reason to get up in the morning.

When he started sharing the unedited stories on social media, they quickly gained a lot of traction and eventually funding followed to support the start of his organization in 2008.

It has since evolved into a platform that reaches 30 to 40 million people every month, he said.

In addition to telling compelling video stories of people experiencing homelessness, the organization also:

- Publishes daily news about homelessness.
- Produces scripted social impact films, mini-documentaries and social impact animations.
- Features a street medicine series about connecting with medical students, a series on homeless sweeps in Los Angeles, and the Life on Skid Row series.
- Produces impactful, messaging research.
- And has a growing social media presence on Instagram, TikTok, and Facebook.

To learn more about Invisible People's mission and impact, visit [invisiblepeople.tv](http://invisiblepeople.tv).



## HOMELESSNESS IS A HEALTH CARE ISSUE



At the California Health Care Foundation, we know that the health care system cannot by itself solve homelessness; yet, there is a key role for it to play. Health care providers can effectively treat the physical and behavioral health needs of people experiencing homelessness, so that they can achieve stability and live independently.

CHCF is working to:

- Assess what care models work and help bring them to scale
- Make it easier for health care organizations and homeless service providers to work together
- Bring the voices of people experiencing homelessness and front-line providers into decisionmaking



Visit our website to see our resources in homelessness and health care.

Meet some of the Californians coping with the state's homelessness crisis through *Unhoused*, a photographic and audio essay of people experiencing homelessness. CHCF is proud to support this project. Visit [Unhousedca.org](http://Unhousedca.org).



**JULIANA DEPIETRO**, M.P.H., is the overdose prevention program manager for Central City Concern. She is a harm reduction advocate and practitioner with many years of work and volunteer experience with people who use drugs and people experiencing homelessness in Multnomah County and beyond. She has worked in direct service, housing, research, outreach, government and clinical contexts, all of which have informed her approach to overdose prevention and harm reduction work. She holds a master's in public health from Harvard University.

**CARRIE FEIBEL** is a senior health editor for NPR and an AHCJ board member. Previously, she was KQED's health editor in San Francisco and the health and science reporter at Houston Public Radio. In her print career, she worked at The (Bergen) Record and the Herald News in New Jersey, the Houston Chronicle and the Associated Press. She graduated from Cornell University and has a master's in journalism from Columbia University.

**BRETT FELDMAN**, M.S.P.A.S., P.A.-C., is the director and co-founder of University of Southern California Street Medicine and an associate professor of family medicine. Feldman is the outgoing vice chair of the Street Medicine Institute and has practiced street medicine since 2007. In Feldman's role with USC and the Street Medicine Institute, he participated in the establishment or expansion of over 150 street medicine programs internationally. Feldman's work has been featured on the BBC, Channel News Asia, Washington Post, LA Times, CNN, the Associated Press and other outlets across Europe, Asia and the Middle East. A PBS documentary featuring Feldman and the street medicine program he founded, "Close to Home: Street Medicine," won an Emmy in 2018.

**LIZ FRYE**, M.D., M.P.H., has been a street psychiatrist for the past 13 years. She is the vice chair of the Street Medicine Institute and has led the institute's annual International Street Medicine Symposia for the past six years. Dr. Frye works for Allegheny Health Network's Center for Inclusion Health on their street medicine team in Pittsburgh. She previously founded a street medicine team in Atlanta and was the director for five years. Frye completed medical school at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and her residency, community psychiatry fellowship, and master's in public health at Emory University.

**LISA HALVERSTADT** is a senior investigative reporter for Voice of San Diego who has for years reported on San Diego's homelessness, housing and behavioral health crises.

She has produced high-impact investigations on topics including San Diego's homelessness response, city real estate transactions and transit system enforcement that inspired change and reframed local policy debates. Halverstadt served two stints as board president of the San Diego Pro Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. She began her career at The Arizona Republic in Phoenix and is a graduate of Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

**DEFORREST "DEDE" HANCOCK** is a senior native of San Diego and was raised in the Valencia Park community. She obtained a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of California San Diego and worked for 23 years helping organizations with technical training, data, and special services. After a job termination in 2006, she lost the home that she had purchased as a single mom and became homeless for seven years. She believes that her greatest education and life skills were acquired during this seven-year journey of homelessness. It ignited a new purpose - to help San Diego truly become America's Finest City through her advocacy, leadership involvement on various boards and voice on panel discussions around homelessness. Hancock is a member of the Voices of Our City Choir and sits on the choir's advocacy team, Voices of Dignity. She is also a member of Homeless Experience Advocacy Leadership (HEAL) Network. She also participated in the 2022 UCSD-HEAL Homelessness Summer Research Collaboration Project: "Lived Experience Advocates as Co-Investigators" led by UCSD doctoral candidate Stacey B Livingstone.

**MOLLY HARBARGER** has been covering homelessness since 2016, first as a reporter at The Oregonian and now as editor of the country's largest reporting team dedicated to the issue, Project Homeless, at the Seattle Times. Before moving to the Northwest, she grew up walking the Appalachian foothills of Ohio and graduated from the journalism program at the University of Missouri. She has previously covered agriculture, protests, tribal rights, health and all manner of politics.

**JOANN HEMSTREET**, L.C.S.W., has been working in the field of homelessness, health care and behavioral health for the past 15 to 20 years. She has worked in direct services and overseen programs and has been a licensed clinical social worker since 2014. Hemstreet is a grant writer for Homeless Health Care Los Angeles (HHCLA), a harm reduction nonprofit that provides a range of services for people experiencing or impacted by homelessness. She is passionate about developing client-centered services that meet

people where they are while also advocating for policy and system changes that impact a broader net of social justice concerns.

**ARMEN HENDERSON**, M.D., M.B.A., is the founder and executive director of Dade County Street Response (DCSR), which integrates medical education and training with service delivery and social justice. Upon graduating medical school at Meharry Medical College, Henderson realized the direct correlation between the low life expectancy of poor working-class people and their lack of access to the social determinants of health (irrespective of access to health care). In between caring for patients during his medical residency, Henderson was also an organizer with the Miami Chapter of Dream Defenders. As an organizer, he not only worked on campaigns that would lift the living standards of his patients, but he also developed an approach to medicine that prioritized marginalized people, offered services for free and minimized harm. DCSR was birthed out of this novel approach to health care. Henderson serves as the director of health programs with Dream Defenders and is also an assistant professor of medicine at the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine.

**BENJAMIN HENWOOD**, Ph.D., L.C.S.W., is the Albert G. and Frances Lomas Feldman Professor of Social Policy and Health at the University of Southern California. He directs the Center for Homelessness, Housing and Health Equity Research at the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work and holds a secondary appointment as a professor in the USC Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. Trained as a clinical social worker and researcher, Henwood is an expert in health and housing services research whose work connects clinical interventions with social policy.

**GALE HOLLAND** covered homelessness for nearly a decade for the Los Angeles Times. She was the writer on a multimedia project – “Hollywood’s Finest” – about motherhood, intergenerational homelessness and the child welfare system, which the Society for Features Journalism awarded first place for a series in the major newspapers category. Holland is also the producer of a feature-length documentary by filmmaker Claire Hannah Collins that grew out of the project, which has been screened at film festivals in Missoula, Mont., Indianapolis, San Luis Obispo and Hollywood Calif. A longtime veteran journalist, Holland spent 10 years covering major trials including the O.J. Simpson saga and another decade as an editor and writer at the Times, LA Weekly and other publications. She left the Times in July to free-lance.

**MARK HORVATH** is a pioneering force in narrative change, revolutionizing how we address homelessness. With a background in leadership, marketing, and multimedia production, he brings a unique perspective to the issue. As the founder of Invisible People, a nonprofit utilizing video storytelling and journalism, Horvath sheds light on homelessness, reaching millions each year. His authentic approach humanizes the stories of those experiencing homelessness, challenging societal perceptions and inspiring empathy. Through his work as an activist, filmmaker and social media explorer, Horvath turns his own experience with homelessness into a catalyst for social good, sparking a collective call to action for meaningful change.

**KRISTEN HWANG**, M.J., M.P.H., is an award-winning journalist at CalMatters where she covers health and policy. Prior to joining CalMatters, Hwang earned master’s degrees in journalism and public health from UC Berkeley, studying water quality in the Central Valley. She is passionate about revealing health disparities and telling data-driven stories.

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[www.healthjournalism.org/awards](http://www.healthjournalism.org/awards)*

**HEMAL KANZARIA**, M.D., M.Sc., is a professor of emergency medicine at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), where he holds the Terry A. Patinkin, M.D., Endowed Professorship in Health Equity. He is the chief of performance excellence at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital (ZSFG), supporting the organization's strategic planning and execution. He is also a health services researcher and associate director at the UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative. A graduate of Brown University, UCSF School of Medicine and UCLA School of Public Health, Kanzaria's training includes an emergency medicine residency at UCSF/ZSFG, where he remains a practicing clinician.

**MARY FRANCES KENION** has spent more than 16 years helping nonprofits and local governments reimagine their homelessness response systems. Her direct experience includes developing performance-based contracting, program design and implementation (including coordinated entry, housing problem-solving and unified shelter model), program and system-related policy development, compliance/monitoring, and coalition-building to advance racial equity. Before joining the Alliance, Kenion was a senior manager of homeless services at ICF where she worked closely with communities on accelerating placements to permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness while reducing racial disparities in outcomes within homeless response systems.

**MARGOT KUSHEL**, M.D., is a professor of medicine at the University of California San Francisco and division chief and director of the UCSF Center for Vulnerable Populations and director of the UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative. She is a practicing general internist at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital. Her research focuses on the causes and consequences of homelessness, with the goal of preventing and ending homelessness and ameliorating the effects of homelessness on health. She is the principal investigator of the California State Study of People Experiencing Homelessness and numerous NIA-funded studies on homelessness in older adults.

**TERRI LEWINSON**, Ph.D., M.S.W., is an associate professor at The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice and Department of Epidemiology. Her research focuses on the residential experiences of people who have been historically marginalized in economy extended-stay hotels, assisted-living facilities or senior housing. Dr. Lewinson's work explores factors involved in residential mobility or why people transition into and out of different homes.

Recently, her focus has broadened to include environmental determinants that affect health – such as smoking exposure in non-traditional home environments.

**DEZ MARTINEZ** is the executive director of We Are NOT Invisible, a nonprofit organization that advocates for and assists people and families experiencing homelessness. At age 43, she became homeless for the first time after fleeing domestic violence. During her five years unhoused, Martinez lived on the streets, in her car, in shelters, garages and rooms for rent. Martinez started We Are NOT Invisible because being Indigenous and then homeless, she was treated by society as if she was invisible. Through the organization, Martinez helps those living unhoused in Fresno meet their basic needs through several projects designed to address the specific challenges that people experiencing homelessness face during different seasons of the year. In 2019, she created the Fresno Homeless Union, an organization that teaches advocacy skills to people with lived or living experiences of homelessness. Along with her work on the Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative Cal ICH Lived Experience Advisory Board, Martinez serves on the Fresno Madera County Continuum of Care Lived Experience Board.

**BILL PITKIN**, Ph.D., M.A., has worked at the intersection of research, policy and social change for nearly three decades in nonprofit, philanthropic and academic sectors. He is a senior policy fellow at the Urban Institute, where he leads research and work on upward mobility, racial equity and housing justice in the Research to Action Lab. He is also a fellow at the FrameWorks Institute and serves on the advisory board of the UCLA Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies. Previously, he directed U.S. programs at the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. He holds master's and doctorate degrees in urban planning from UCLA.

**KATHERINE REED**, AHCJ's director of education and content, was a professor of practice in the Missouri School of Journalism for 17 years and an editor at the Columbia Missourian – the newsroom lab for students learning print and digital journalism – where she taught health and public safety reporting. She also designed and taught a course on covering trauma and a course for STEM field and journalism students on improving science communication. She was a fellow of the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma and is a longtime member of AHCJ. Reed has published on the teaching hospital model of journalism education, trauma reporting training and more responsible, ethical coverage of gun violence and mass shootings.

**KATIA RIDDLE** is a freelance reporter and frequent staff editor at National Public Radio. She is a 2022-23 AHCJ fellow in Health Performance and is working on an in-depth reporting project on solutions to homelessness.

**KELSEY RYAN** is executive director of the Association of Health Care Journalists. She was founder and publisher of The Beacon, a nonprofit news network with newsrooms in Kansas City and Wichita. Ryan started her career covering the EF-5 tornado at The Joplin (Missouri) Globe, and worked at The Wichita (Kansas) Eagle covering health care, government and investigations. She later went on to work at The Kansas City Star as part of the investigative team that was a 2018 Pulitzer finalist in Public Service. She's a former Institute for Nonprofit News board member.

**R.A. SCHUETZ** is a housing reporter for the Houston Chronicle. She previously worked at the Hearst Connecticut Media Group. She has also written for SF Weekly, The Bold Italic and 7x7, among other publications. Schuetz enjoys finding human stories that show the impacts of larger trends and breaking down complicated subjects. Before becoming a journalist, Schuetz was an educator, both at a traditional public school and with the KIPP charter school network. She was a reporting fellow at the Columbia Journalism School's Toni Stabile Center for Investigative Journalism and was named "Best Young Journalist" by the National Association of Real Estate Editors.

**SEAN SOTH** has worked in substance use disorder treatment for more than 15 years with experience in inpatient, intensive outpatient, co-occurring, community-based and medications for opioid disorder modalities. Soth received a bachelor's in sociology and ethnic studies from Central Washington University prior to completing studies to obtain his counseling credential. Soth has been with Evergreen Treatment Services for eight years. In his role as director of health integration and innovation, he is committed to high-quality, low-barrier treatment services. During his tenure with ETS, Soth has developed and implemented multiple new programs to improve access to treatment services.

**DARRELL STEINBERG**, J.D., is the Sacramento mayor, the former state Senate president Pro Tem and a powerful and effective advocate for mental health care policy in Cali-

fornia. He has a long history of championing policy issues affecting brain health, and has gained the respect and trust of providers, decision-makers, business leaders and advocacy organizations across the state and nation. Steinberg has worked to bring awareness and solutions for what he calls "the under-attended issue of our time." As a member of the state Assembly, he authored the 2004 Mental Health Services Act, landmark legislation that now generates more than \$4 billion annually for "whatever-it-takes" services for people with the most severe brain illnesses, as well as innovative programs and research focused on early detection, intervention, and prevention of psychosis and serious mood disorders. His commitment to improving mental health care has resulted in services that provide integrated care to the homeless. In 2013, as a state senator, Steinberg authored Senate Bill 82, propelling a major statewide expansion of crisis residential and stabilization beds and mobile crisis capacity. In 2015, he established a first-of-its-kind statewide organization, the Steinberg Institute, dedicated to raising the profile of quality mental health care as a critical public policy and civil rights issue. In February 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom appointed Steinberg to co-lead a new statewide Commission on Homelessness and Supportive Housing.

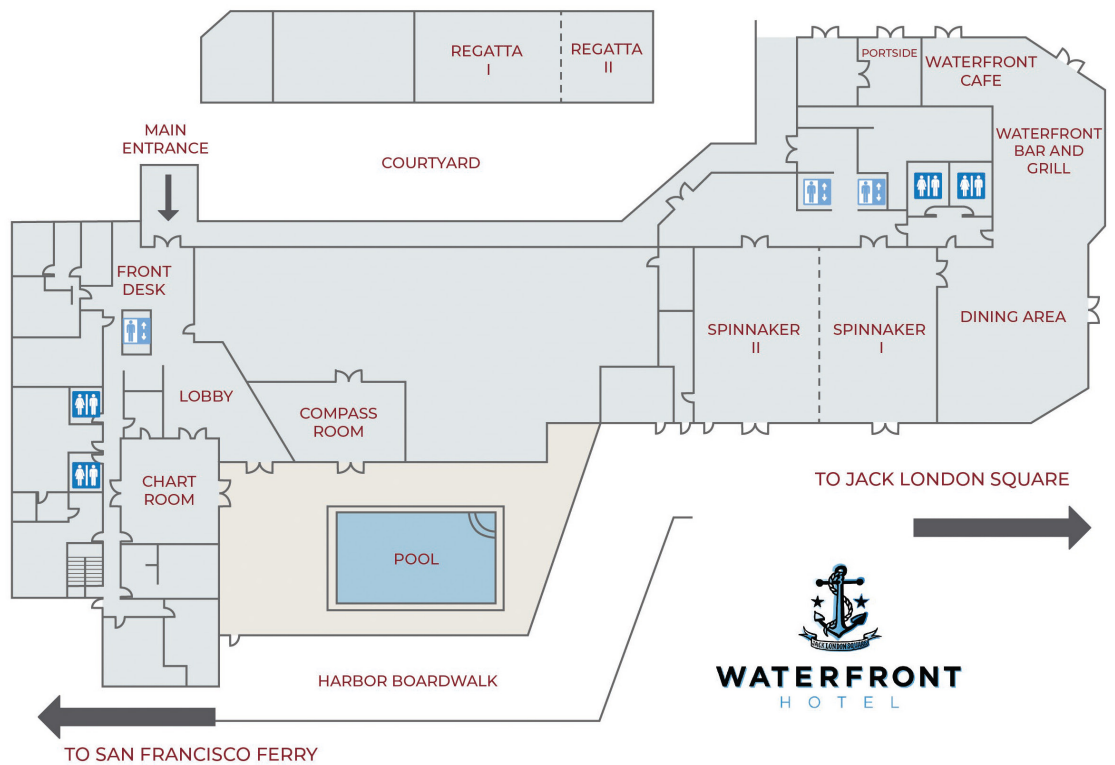
**SARAH STELLA**, M.D., is a safety-net hospitalist at Denver Health and associate professor of medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Dr. Stella's interests relate to improving outcomes at the intersection of housing and health through partnerships and systems alignment. Witnessing the unmet health needs faced by her unhoused patients led her to conduct research to understand opportunities to improve care, and to create partnerships and programs to address these needs.

**JOCELYN WIENER** is a reporter with CalMatters who specializes in long-form stories about how government policies affect people's lives. She has worked as a reporter in her native California for two decades. She wrote about poverty and homelessness for several years at The Sacramento Bee then reported internationally as a freelance journalist and covered health care issues in California. Before journalism, as a Fulbright Scholar, she worked with young people living on the streets of El Salvador.

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