Workshop Speaker Biographies

Margot Ackermann has been with Homeward, the Continuum of Care and HMIS lead in Greater Richmond, Virginia, for seven years. As Homeward’s research and evaluation director, she is responsible for coordinating data collection, analysis, and reporting for the organization and its partners, with a focus on measuring outcomes of interest to service providers, funders, and policy makers. Margot holds a Ph.D. in applied experimental psychology from Old Dominion University and also teaches research to MSW students at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Jocelyn Adamo is the manager of prevention and outreach for the youth housing and shelter program at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Calgary. In this role, Ms. Adamo runs a Housing First youth program called the Infinity Project. She uses relationship-based case management and outreach strategies to prevent and divert youth homelessness. Previously, Ms. Adamo worked in the addictions and child welfare systems.

Sherilyn Adams came to Larkin Street in 2003, pursuing a lifelong passion to serve children and teens. As a new member of the Larkin Street team, she supervised the agency’s licensed residential programs, HIV/AIDS-related services, and outreach programs. In August of 2005, she became the Agency’s Executive Director. Sherilyn has developed and managed a wide range of programs for children, youth, families and single adults during the course of her twenty year career in service to others. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Masters Degree in Social Work, and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

Jim S. Amstutz is Lead Pastor of Akron Mennonite Church and Co-Chair of the Lancaster County Coalition to End Homelessness in Pennsylvania. For ten years he chaired Homes of Hope-Ephrata, a faith-based transitional housing program of Love INC. He serves on the Systems Priority Group and helped create the Coordinated Assessment process for the Coalition. Jim is a graduate of Bluffton University (BA), Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (MDiv) and holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary.

Deon Arline, BA, is currently a Human Services Administrator I with the County of Los Angeles-Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) and has over 17 years of County service. Over the past 8 years, Mr. Arline has managed homeless programs and services within the CalWORKs Homeless Section. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work.

Colette Auerswald is a pediatrician and specialist in adolescent medicine, an associate professor in the School of Public Health at the University of California Berkeley, and the director of the Master of Science portion of the joint medical program at the University of California. Dr. Auerswald also serves as the co-principal investigator on a project to improve youth inclusion in
the Point-in-Time Count in California. Her adolescent health research has focused on marginalized youth, the role of social networks, and the use of various statistical methods.

**Officer Misty Bailey** of the California Highway Patrol is currently assigned as an Investigator to the FBI’s Innocence Lost Task Force, a multi-agency initiative to combat sexual exploitation of children in the United States. Ms. Bailey works with San Diego Police Department’s Vice and Human Trafficking Unit, and has been involved in various undercover operations with San Diego PD, the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force, and Operation Cross Country, a nationwide sweep to target the buyers, and the pimps and traffickers, who recruit and force victims into sex trafficking, and recover human trafficked victims.

**Darla Bardine** is a public interest attorney and the executive director of the National Network for Youth in Washington, DC. In these roles, Ms. Bardine advocates at the federal level for the needs of homeless and disconnected youth. Previously, she worked on criminal justice and child welfare issues, built several national policy advocacy coalitions, taught courses at Georgetown University Law School, created an initiative in South Africa to fight child exploitation, and worked to help foster care children in the District.

**Marsha Basloe** is a senior advisor at ACF within HHS. At ACF she also serves as a program officer for multiple Race to the Top—Early Learning Challenge states and coordinates an interagency early childhood homelessness workgroup. Previously, Ms. Basloe served as the executive director of child services agencies in New York and North Carolina.

**Samantha Batko**, Director of the Homelessness Research Institute, leads the research arm of the Alliance. In that role, she authors and oversees the publication of reports and research briefs as well as co-chairs the Alliance’s Research Council. Prior to this position, Ms. Batko focused on crafting policy and identifying promising programs that end homelessness for unaccompanied youth and young parents as a member of the Alliance’s policy team. She also served as the Alliance’s lead staff person on issues affecting survivors of domestic violence. She has previous experience helping state and local governments, communities, and nonprofits design and implement rapid re-housing/Housing First systems and programs. Ms. Batko joined the Alliance in February 2006 after graduating from Virginia Tech with a B.S. in Psychology.

**Kelly Bennett** covered housing, homelessness and local economics as a reporter for Voice of San Diego from 2006-2013. In her 2013 “quest” series on San Diego homelessness, Bennett exposed funding disparities, shared poignant emails written at Starbucks by a woman experiencing homelessness and brought outside community members together with shelter residents for a wide-ranging public discussion inside one of San Diego’s winter tents. She now lives in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, where a wave of condo-building and gentrification is inspiring long lists of story ideas.

**Steve Berg**, Vice President for Programs and Policy, specializes in employment, economic development, and human services, and the crossover between those issues and housing. Mr. Berg came to the Alliance from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, where he worked on state-level welfare reform and employment. Before coming to Washington, he spent 14 years as a legal services attorney in California and Connecticut, working on housing, government benefits,
employment and family integrity. His experience includes nonprofit management and staff training and development.

**Marygrace Billek** is the Director of Human Services for Mercer County in New Jersey. In this capacity, she chairs and participates in more than 30 boards and commissions including the State Association of Human Service Directors and the Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness. Previously, Ms. Billek worked for the State Department of Human Services supporting the Child Welfare Reform Plan and integrating substance abuse prevention and treatment services into the Children's System of Care.

**Kris Billhardt** has been the director of the Home Free program at Volunteers of America-Oregon in Portland since 1994. The Home Free program assists domestic violence survivors in moving permanently away from abusive homes. In her 30-year career in the domestic violence field, Ms. Billhardt has developed a nationally recognized innovative program design and ethical communication policies and practices, provided training and technical assistance, and written scholarly publications.

**Jason Blair**, Director of Housing Programs at Abode Services, oversees more than 30 housing programs for individuals and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness in the San Francisco Bay Area. He works closely with program managers creating innovative strategies to build relationships with landlords, promote housing stability among participants, and foster relationships with program partners in one of the nation’s most expensive housing markets. Jason holds a Bachelor of Science degree from California State University - East Bay, and has more than a decade of experience working with program implementation, development, and financial oversight in the non-profit sector.

**Anna Blasco** provides project management and coordination to the Alliance’s Center for Capacity Building. Ms. Blasco is currently helping to coordinate a comprehensive project to build capacity to reduce family homelessness in Virginia as well as providing support for projects related to rapid re-housing and improving emergency shelter. She graduated from American University in Washington, DC.

**Libby Boyce** is the Director of Access, Referral and Engagement for the Housing for Health Program within the Department of Health Services (DHS). In her role, she oversees the intake, triage, and follow-up of all permanent supportive housing referrals and placements. In addition, she is responsible for overseeing street-based engagement activities on behalf of DHS in collaboration with other county departments. Previously, she served as the Homeless Coordinator for the Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office. In this role, she advised the Board of Supervisors on all homeless related policy, planning and programmatic issues.

**Jon Bradley** is Associate Director at of Preble Street, where he is responsible for the development and evaluation of homeless programs for youth and adults. He has worked with homeless populations in Portland and New York City since the 1970s, and has served as project director of research on homeless youth and risk behaviors at Columbia University as well as a mental health director at the Door, a model multi-service Center in New York City. In his current role, he serves a leader in systems change and legislative efforts that target youth needs and a faculty at local universities.
Kristen Brown is a Planner with the Office to End Homelessness with Hennepin County where she focuses on rapid rehousing, homelessness prevention, and family homeless services policy. Prior to working with Hennepin County, Kristen was the Director of Family Programs at St. Stephen’s Human Services where she oversaw the county’s largest rapid rehousing program and led the development of a targeted prevention program for families.

Zachary Brown is the executive director of the West Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness, which acts as the state advocacy body for issues of homelessness in West Virginia, as well as the lead agency for the West Virginia Balance of State CoC and the HMIS lead for the Balance of State. Mr. Brown focuses on dynamic initiatives to end rural homelessness, such as coordinated access, local systems, and prioritization. He has worked for the past 10 years on ending homelessness through rapid Re-Housing, supportive housing, and utilizing HMIS.

Steve Brubaker has worked with those experiencing poverty and homelessness for three decades. As such he has worked for and collaborated with non-profit and faith-based organizations at the local level with interest in helping those experiencing homelessness move toward self-sufficiency and life in community. In doing so, he has worked to forge partnerships between the faith-based community, the local continuum of care and other non-profit agencies by finding points of common concern while retaining organizational identity. He is a graduate of the Lancaster Bible College and holds a Master’s degree in Guidance and Counseling from Millersville University of PA.

Jamey Burden is the Vice President, Housing Programs and Policy, at Community of Hope, Inc. in Washington, DC, where he is responsible for developing and overseeing the agency’s five housing and supportive services programs. Prior to joining Community of Hope, Jamey was the Assistant Director of the Center for Capacity Building at the National Alliance to End Homelessness, where he provided planning and technical assistance help to communities across the U.S. developing and implementing plans to end homelessness. Previously, working at the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, he directed the statewide Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program. Jamey has worked on homelessness/housing programs and advocacy for over 20 years. He holds an MSW from the University of Connecticut.

Tom Byrne is an Investigator at the VA National Center on Homelessness among Veterans and an Assistant Professor at the Boston University School of Social Work. For the past several years, most of his work has focused on prevention oriented approaches to addressing homelessness among Veterans.

Emanuel Cavallaro is a Communications Associate at the Alliance. In that role, Mr. Cavallaro is responsible for social media, media relations and helps determine the Alliance’s overall messaging strategy. He graduated from the University of Dayton with BA in Journalism/Communications and minor in Political Science and has a background in print journalism. His articles and photographs have appeared in the Dayton Daily News, the Springfield News-Sun and the Dayton City Paper. He also has done public relations work for his alma mater, the University of Dayton, as well as event organizing, fundraising and public relations for a nonprofit arts organization that he and his friends started in his home town of Dayton, OH, The Dayton Circus Creative Collective.
Richard Cho is the senior policy director at the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. In this role, Mr. Cho oversees the policy team in coordinating interagency efforts to prevent and end homelessness under the implementation of the Opening Doors plan. Previously, he worked as the director of innovations and research at CSH.

Minna Castillo Cohen has worked in the nonprofit field for nearly 20 years with all of her work being focused on serving children and adolescents. Ms. Cohen has spent the last several years working as the Director of the Youth Success initiative at Mile High United Way and oversees Bridging the Gap, a direct service program serving former systems youth (foster and DYC). In her role, she works with public and private partners to develop strategies to provide youth with challenging life circumstances a combination of training, supportive services and experiences to make successful transitions to meaningful careers.

Simon Costello is Associate Director of the Department of the Children Youth & Family Services at the Los Angeles LGBT Center where he is responsible for services and programs for homeless and unstably housed lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth. These include a 7-day a week drop-in center, a 24-bed emergency shelter, a 24-bed transitional living program and a 12-bed independent living program. A particular priority for Simon is the ongoing development, implementation and evaluation of innovative education, employment, and youth development programs.

Evie Craig is CEO of reStart, a nonprofit organization that provides housing and supportive services to help homeless men, women, youth and families move toward independence and self-sufficiency with the goal of ending homelessness in our community. In her role, she champions solutions to the housing and poverty issues facing Kansas City. She has more than 30 years of experience in nonprofit management.

Baylee Crone is Executive Director for the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV), a nationally recognized voice in efforts to end veteran homelessness. In this capacity, she provides leadership and management over Technical Assistance, Policy, and Communications activities and serves NCHV’s Board of Directors to execute NCHV’s mission and goals. Ms. Crone is a technical expert on veteran homelessness and currently directs NCHV’s Technical Assistance Center. She regularly gives trainings across the country on several topics related to homeless veterans.

Mary Cunningham is a senior fellow in the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center at the Urban Institute, where her research focuses on homelessness, housing, concentrated poverty, and efforts to improve family self-sufficiency and overall well-being among low-income families. She has expertise in a number of US Department of Housing and Urban Development homelessness and assisted housing programs, including Permanent Supportive Housing, Transitional Housing, Emergency Shelter, Housing Choice Vouchers, Family Self-Sufficiency, HOPE VI, and the Moving to Opportunity Demonstration. She is currently directing studies that examine the impact of housing vouchers on child welfare involvement; the impact of supportive housing on high-need families in the child welfare system; and a homeless prevention program for at-risk veterans. From 2005 to 2008, Cunningham launched and directed the Homeless Research Institute (HRI), the research and education arm of the National Alliance to End Homelessness. While directing HRI, she co-chaired a research council on homelessness
comprised of nationally recognized academics and policy researchers; and she authored numerous reports, including *A Research Agenda for Ending Homelessness and Homelessness Counts*.

**Paul Curtis** is Executive Director of the California Coalition for Youth (CCY), a grassroots nonprofit organization based in Sacramento that advocates for public policies, programs and services that improve the lives of California’s youth. CCY represents youth-serving agencies throughout California that serve disconnected, homeless and runaway youth, and serves as a voice for youth and young adults by advocating for policies, programs, and services that protect the rights of all youth. Mr. Curtis is dedicated to fighting for the needs of transition aged youth who face homelessness and struggle with violence, discrimination and exploitation.

**Carley Cysensky** is Executive Director of Shared Housing Services. For the last decade, she has served the youth of Pierce County by supporting youth academically through school affiliated programming, providing delinquency prevention counseling for young people involved in the juvenile justice system, and implementing the first and only Host Home Program in Pierce County. Ms. Cysenky is also a member of the Coalition to End Homelessness Steering Committee and leads the Legislative and Advocacy Committee for the Pierce County Anti-Trafficking Taskforce.

**Sarah Czarnecki** serves as a Field Representative for the District Office of Congressman Scott Peters. Originally from Sacramento, Sarah began her professional career at the California State Assembly and has since continued her political experience in both city and federal government, including campaign settings. She currently focuses on issues related to housing, women’s rights, education, and homelessness, among others. Press permission: It is okay for members of the press to be present during my presentation and they can use information from my presentation for background, but I would prefer not to be quoted.

**Elaine de Coligny** has been the executive director since 2007 of EveryOne Home, a collaborative of local nonprofits, housing developers, and government agencies committed to implementing Alameda County, Calif.’s plan to end homelessness by 2020. Ms. De Coligny spearheaded the design and implementation of a county-wide prevention and rapid Re-Housing program that has assisted over 6,000 people to retain or obtain permanent housing. Previously, she served for 15 years as the director of an organization providing services to domestic violence survivors.

**Iain De Jong** is the president and CEO of OrgCode Consulting, Inc. in Ontario in Canada and holds a part-time faculty position at York University in Toronto. Mr. De Jong’s plan to end homelessness focuses on the use of improved data models, tools, coordination techniques and case management practices. For the past 10 years, Mr. De Jong has been a fixture at Alliance conferences and is a frequent keynote and plenary speaker at conferences on housing and homelessness.

**Matthew Doherty** is the Interim Executive Director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. Mr. Doherty is responsible for the implementation of Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, an effort that includes the coordination of Federal homelessness policies and strategies among 19 Federal departments and agencies, as
well as partnerships with State and local communities, non-profits, and the private sector. Previously, he served as the Director of National Initiatives at USICH.

**Beverley Ebersold**, has been a member of USICH since May 2012 with a background and extensive experience in supportive housing development, service design, delivery and coordination, working with Continuums of Care, and building local partnerships to end homelessness. She continues to work with federal partners and leaders in communities and states to promote the goals of the federal strategic plan, Opening Doors fostering best practices and solutions to ending homelessness in our country. Her previous background includes capacity building and technical assistance with HUD grantees, strategic planning and restructuring of Continuums of Care, and convening stakeholders to promote the alignment of resources for person experiencing homelessness, with an emphasis on permanent supportive housing. Beverley has a Master’s Degree in Social Work with a concentration in Community Organizing & Administration from Wayne State University.

**Piper Ehlen** is a Staff Attorney at HomeBase, a San Francisco-based, non-profit legal and technical assistance agency whose mission is to advance solutions to homelessness. She provides a variety of technical assistance and training to communities and states, including in the California, Nevada, and Arizona. She facilitates strategic planning processes; assists with program design and implementation; facilitates interagency and inter-jurisdictional coordination efforts; provides training on a variety of program and policy issues; conducts system and program level evaluations; and coordinates homeless focus groups, enumerations and needs assessments. She also provides direct agency capacity building support to enhance program capacity and quality of care.

**Sharon R. Elliott** is a resident of Annapolis, MD. She is a Program Manager for the Department of Justice in the Office on Violence Against Women. Her work includes oversight of funding and services provided by Transitional Housing Programs to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. Sharon has devoted her career to housing equality, economic justice, and self-sufficiency.

**Will Evans** is Area Director of Housing & Supportive Services with Community Connections of Jacksonville, where he has worked since 1999. With almost 25 years of housing, nonprofit and community service experience, Mr. Evans has worked for public, governmental and community based agencies and businesses, including 10 years with various community agencies in New Jersey in assisting nonprofits and community-based organization with the development and monitoring of grants and resources so that performance measures are met.

**Megan Owens Faught** coordinates the San Francisco Continuum of Care and leads the San Francisco Homes for Heroes team--- part of the national 25 Cities response to veteran and chronic homelessness. Megan is also the staff to the San Francisco Local Homeless Coordinating Board— the San Francisco Continuum of Care governing body. Prior to joining the Continuum of Care as staff, Megan spent 8 years working in the San Francisco non-profit community in a variety of roles focused on homelessness. Megan attended the University of San Francisco and has a Masters of Public Administration from San Francisco State University.
**Kevin Finn** is the founding President/CEO of Strategies to End Homelessness, which leads a coordinated system of care for the homeless in Cincinnati/Hamilton County, Ohio. He oversees homelessness prevention services, as well as street outreach, emergency shelter, and housing programs for homeless people. Strategies to End Homelessness’ goal is to reduce homelessness by 50% by 2017, and to eventually end homelessness in the community. Kevin began working with the homeless in 1998, providing street outreach services to homeless teenagers. He founded a day-shelter for homeless teens, and later began several programs targeted at breaking the cycle of homelessness for chronically homeless people. Kevin has been with Strategies to End Homelessness since 2007, received a BA in Psychology from St. Louis University, and a Masters degree in Social Work from the University of Kentucky.

**Michelle Flynn** is the associate executive director of programs at The Road Home, which provides emergency shelter and rapid Re-Housing and permanent supportive housing to residents of Salt Lake County. Previously, Ms. Flynn worked in advocacy and public relations in Washington, DC. She has served on and received a number of awards from various boards and committees that focus on homelessness and fundraising.

**Kris Freed,** Associate Vice President of Programs, is responsible for the management and oversight of all temporary housing and services for families and children at LA Family Housing. Kris has been a social service provider for over 16 years working primarily in homeless services and substance abuse. Over the past few years, Kris actively participated in the development, implementation and roll-out of the coordinated entry system for families in Los Angeles. She is currently directing the Coordinated Entry System for families in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valley’s and is providing emergency housing to families for the system in the Boyle Heights/Downtown LA/Hollywood area. With LAFH since 2000, she holds a BA in Sociology and a Master’s in Public Administration at California State University, Northridge.

**Michele Fuller-Hallauer,** MSW, LSW is the Continuum of Care Coordinator for Southern Nevada working with the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition-Committee on Homelessness. Her responsibilities include continual planning, evaluation, collaboration and coordination of services for homeless people. She serves as the HMIS Lead for the three continua in Nevada and is the State SOAR Implementation Lead. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer has worked in the Social Work field for over 25 years with extensive experience in Mental Health (both children and adults), HIV/AIDS, grant writing, program and community development and coalition building. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer is a part-time instructor with UNLV School of Social Work.

**Stephen Gaetz** is a Professor in the Faculty of Education at York University in Toronto. As Director of the Canadian Observatory on Homeless and the Homeless Hub, Stephen Gaetz is committed to increasing the impact of research on homelessness policy, planning and practice, thereby contributing to solutions to end homelessness in Canada. His research on homelessness has focused on youth, economic strategies, nutritional vulnerability, education and legal and justice issues, as well as solutions to homelessness from both a Canadian and international perspective. Recently he has co-edited volumes on youth homelessness in Canada and on Housing First. In 2014, Dr. Gaetz also became President of Raising the Roof, Canada’s leading charity focusing on solutions to homelessness.
Brett Gagnon is a program specialist in HUD’s Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs. In this capacity, Ms. Gagnon serves as the team lead in developing regulations for the McKinney-Vento Act as amended by the HEARTH Act and as the desk officer for the Little Rock field office.

Katharine Gale is cofounder and principal associate of Focus Strategies, a Sacramento-based firm that helps communities use local data and develop crisis resolution systems to end homelessness. Ms. Gale is an associate of the Alliance’s Capacity Building Network and has provided HEARTH-related training and technical assistance nationally. In 2013, she served as a policy director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Robert Garcia is Regional Administrator for the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in Region IX, which includes responsibility for a broad range of Federal programs that address the needs of children and families. These programs are administered by States, Territories, Tribes, and other grantees in Arizona, California, Guam, Hawaii, Nevada, and the Outer Pacific. He previously served as a Head Start Program Specialist for two years until the authorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act and ensuing Federal child care program.

Max L. Gardner is the President and CEO of Orange County United Way. In this position, Mr. Gardner oversees United Way’s operations and leads the 90-year-old health and human services organization toward advancing our mission of improving lives and strengthening Orange County by focusing on the building blocks for a good quality of life: Education, Income, Health and Housing. Mr. Gardner currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Orange County Commission to End Homelessness and the OC Forum. He is Chair of the Orange County Funders Roundtable and is also a member of the Orange County Business Council and UCI Chief Executive Roundtable.

Richard Gentry has served since 2008 as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the San Diego Housing Commission, a municipal agency serving the affordable housing needs of low income San Diegans. Mr. Gentry administers an annual budget of over $330 million, including more than 15,000 housing vouchers; physical properties that contain more than 3,000 units; a loan portfolio exceeding $300 million; and various additional programs. Previously, Mr. Gentry served as Senior Vice President of Asset Management for the National Equity Fund in Chicago, IL, the nation’s largest non-profit Low Income Housing Tax Credit syndicator.

Nicole Giannone has been working with homeless LGBTQ 16-24 year olds since 2011 in a number of different roles within the Ali Forney Center including Program Assistant, Case Manager, Overnight Supervisor, Coordinator of Program Evaluation, and now Director of Program Evaluation, Training and Advocacy. She works with people across the country to help create more outreach and housing programs that target these young people specifically, guiding them on best practices, program design, and data collection. As of late, she will be working with the Campaign for Youth Shelter to advocate on a national level for the creation of more beds for homeless youth.
Megan Gibbard is the homeless youth and young adult project manager at the Seattle-based King County Committee to End Homelessness. Ms. Gibbard is responsible for the coordination and implementation of the region’s comprehensive plan to prevent and end youth homelessness. She recently participated in the Alliance’s Transatlantic Practice Exchange with a British charity and researched family reunification in the U.K. as well as Nightstop schemes that provide homeless youth with options for safe emergency housing in approved homes.

Melinda Giovengo became the Executive Director of YouthCare in November 2006, rejoining the agency she had served as a case manager and program manager more than 20 years prior. She has 34 years of experience in developing and implementing re-engagement programs for out-of-school and homeless youth. She holds an M.A. in Clinical Psychology and a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology and is published on issues surrounding homeless youth and the impact of learning disabilities in hard-to-serve populations. Dr. Giovengo speaks locally and nationally on youth homelessness, adolescent mental health issues, and child sexual exploitation. She serves as Vice Chair of the National Network for Youth, and is a board member for the National Youth Employment Coalition. She also serves as Government Relations Chair of YouthBuild USA and as a member of the Policy Council for YouthBuild USA.

Carly Graber currently serves as Coordinator at San Diego Youth Services Storefront Youth Emergency Shelter in San Diego, CA. Prior to working with homeless, runaway, and exploited youth, she helped launch a school-based suicide prevention program serving San Diego’s East County middle and high schools and coordinated Cool Bed, a family reunification program for youth and families experiencing conflict. She has a background in International Studies, and has worked with a variety of social justice organizations throughout South America focused on issues from gender equality to advocacy for survivors of minor sexual assault.

Kristen Granatek is the manager of technical assistance and program services at the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness. Previously, Ms. Granatek oversaw the operations of a shelter and street outreach program for runaway and homeless youth, sexual assault crisis services, and a group home and apartment program. She has experience providing direct services to various populations including youth and adults with mental illness, survivors of sexual violence and individuals with developmental disabilities.

Liz Groeger is a Vice President at Morgan Stanley. Liz participated in the Morgan Stanley Strategy Challenge, partnering with Hamilton Family Center to analyze its rapid re-housing program and the program's impact on reducing the waiting list for San Francisco shelters. Through the eight-week pro bono consulting engagement, Liz and the Morgan Stanley team worked with Hamilton Family Center to create a plan to enhance and expand its rapid re-housing program. The Morgan Stanley Strategy Challenge work was further used to support dialogue and fundraising efforts with both the public and private sectors.

Lisa Gustaveson directs the Faith & Family Homelessness Project through Seattle University’s School of Theology & Ministry. A longtime advocate, Ms. Gustaveson inspires people to reach across divides, including service providers, public officials, Christian, Jewish, Muslim and other faith communities to form a coordinated network of responses to the crisis of family homelessness. Over her almost 20 year career Lisa has held leadership and consulting positions
with nonprofit agencies and state, county, and city governments. Previously she served as Director of Communications for Catholic Community Services of Western Washington.

**Susan Hallett** joined The Community Foundation Serving Richmond and Central Virginia in 2001 and has served as Vice President of Programs since 2010. In this role, she supports the Foundation’s community grants program, which awards approximately $5 million annually to organizations and initiatives in the areas of Cultural Vibrancy, Educational Success, Economic Prosperity and Health and Wellness. In addition, Susan oversees special grantmaking initiatives such as the significant investment the Foundation has made in the homeless services system in Richmond. Susan is currently serving as the inaugural Board Chair for the Greater Richmond Continuum of Care.

**Paul W. Hamann** is President & CEO of The Night Ministry, a Chicago non-profit that provides housing, health care, and human connection to the homeless and poor. In addition to operating a 38-foot mobile health outreach bus, The Night Ministry operates 53 shelter beds for homeless youth, including the only beds in the City of Chicago reserved for pregnant and parenting minor girls. Mr. Hamann chairs the Board of Directors of the Illinois Collaboration on Youth, and serves on the Board of the National Network for Youth.

**Sparky Harlan** has been CEO of Bill Wilson Center in Santa Clara, Calif., since 1983. Under her leadership, Bill Wilson Center builds connections for youth and families to housing, education, employment, and emotional well-being. Ms. Harlan has received awards from the National Network for Youth and National Safe Place and was recognized as a Champion of Change by the White House for her work on ending youth homelessness.

**Jasmine Hayes** serves as Policy Director for the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. Her portfolio includes managing efforts to prevent and end homelessness among families, children and youth. Ms. Hayes has devoted much of her career to the field of child welfare, starting as a case-carrying social worker in Child Protective Services where she worked with youth and families who struggled with unstable housing, periodic homelessness, unemployment and co-occurring disorders. Since 2004, she has been with the District of Columbia’s public child welfare agency, the Child and Family Services Agency.

**Michelle Heritage** is the executive director of the Community Shelter Board, a collective impact organization working to end homelessness in Columbus and Franklin counties in Ohio. Ms. Heritage is responsible for strategic planning and collaborative efforts, private- and public-sector fundraising and resource development, effective governmental systems, and private-sector relationships. Previously, Ms. Heritage held other leadership roles in the homeless, mental health, child welfare, and drug and alcohol systems.

**Jennifer Leimaile Ho** serves as the senior advisor for housing and services at HUD, where she manages the Department’s work to connect housing with health and social services. Previously, Ms. Ho was a deputy director at the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, where she shepherded the development of Opening Doors, the nation’s comprehensive federal plan to prevent and end homelessness. She also facilitated the development of USICH’s youth framework, and served as the point person on issues related to family and chronic homelessness.
**Gale Holland** covers homelessness and poverty for the Los Angeles Times. Starting in 2005, she edited the cops and courts beat, wrote news columns and covered higher education. A series about college construction abuses that she wrote with Michael Finnegan won a 2012 investigative reporting award from the Nieman Foundation at Harvard. A Los Angeles native, she has worked for USA Today, Copley News and L.A. Weekly and wants to understand the consequences of urban inequality.

**Erin Horgan** is a Senior Policy Analyst at the County Welfare Directors Association of California, where she focuses on Self-Sufficiency, including California’s CalFresh, CalWORKs, and state subsidized child care programs. Prior to joining CWDA in 2012, Erin was a research manager in behavioral and environmental epidemiology at the UC Davis School of Medicine, and began her career as a social worker for Yolo County’s Department of Employment and Social Services. She obtained her undergraduate degree in Psychology from Simpson University in Redding, CA, and holds a Master of Public Health and a Master of Social Work from Tulane University in New Orleans.

**Sarah Hunter** is a special assistant in the Office of the Secretary at HUD. In this role, Ms. Hunter works to improve access to quality health care for residents in HUD properties and to address youth homelessness. She also serves as a liaison to sister federal agencies on issues ranging from resident health and well-being to data alignment and collaboration. Previously, she worked as a special assistant at ACYF.

**Shahera Hyatt** is the director of the California Homeless Youth Project, an initiative of the California Research Bureau that focuses on educating policymakers about the needs of homeless youth in California. Ms. Hyatt also serves as the local coordinator for the Sacramento Homeless Youth Task Force and is a board member of the Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness. She has written policy briefs on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender youth and sexually exploited homeless youth in California, as well as California’s first state action plan on ending youth homelessness.

**Marti Johnson** has been with Emergency Services & Homeless Coalition of Northeast Florida since October 2012 when the agency was awarded $1,000,000 in SSVF funding for Duval County. The program has expanded to include $5,000,000 in Priority 1 & Priority 3 funding for Duval, Clay, and Nassau Counties and has served over 800 households since program inception. She serves as co-chair of Northeast Florida’s Coordinated Intake Task Force and is actively involved in various community initiatives to end homelessness.

**Mark Johnston** served in various capacities during his 31-year career in the Federal government, including serving as the Deputy Director of the US Interagency Council on Homelessness, and as HUD’s Director of the SNAPS Office, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Needs and Acting Assistant Secretary for Community Planning Development. He is now working as an independent consultant focused on ending homelessness. Most recently he has led an NAEH/Melville-funded project for Abt Associates to identify key factors in successful community-wide development and implementation of Rapid Re-Housing.

**Martha Kenton** is Director of Management Services for the Center for Urban Community Services. Her team provides administrative and strategic support to programs serving homeless
and vulnerable populations, including the facilitation of the New York City Coalition on the Continuum of Care, and technical assistance around HRA benefits applications for over 30 Single Stop programs. Previously, she was a member of the Health and Medical Unit of the NYC Office of Emergency Management, in which role she led numerous projects relating to local and regional planning efforts around natural and man-made disasters.

**Pam Kestner** serves in the appointed position of Special Advisor on Families, Children and Poverty within the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources (HHR). Her work focuses on early childhood, nutrition and poverty issues and has a specific focus on addressing homelessness in Virginia. Prior to her appointment in July 2012, Pam served as President and CEO of the Council of Community Services in Roanoke, VA, which is a private nonprofit human service planning agency, where she worked for over 26 years. She has a BA degree in Sociology from Emory & Henry College and a MSW from Virginia Commonwealth University.

**Jeffrey King** is a graduate of the University of Michigan – Dearborn with a degree in Economics. Over the last 9 years I have worked in State Workforce Development, Community Development and Nonprofit Management. Currently I am the Director of Advancement and Communication at Community Rebuilders responsible for the training and development of staff in utilizing our agencies strengths based model and engaging the Community to utilizing a Housing First philosophy.

**Fred Kingston** is Director of Youth Programs at The Mockingbird Society, which is based Seattle, WA. A University of Washington graduate with a Master’s Degree in Social Work, he has dedicated more than 10 years of his career to working with young people who have experienced foster care and homelessness. A former Child Protective Services investigator, Mr. Kingston has extensive knowledge of the WA state child welfare system. He is responsible for the oversight and supervision of the statewide Mockingbird Youth Network (MYN) and the King County based Youth Advocates Ending Homelessness (YAEH) program.

**Julie Klein** is the Assistant to the President and Policy Outreach Associate at the Alliance. In her role as assistant, Ms. Klein provides administrative, scheduling, and secretarial support to the Alliance’s President, Nan Roman. She also coordinates the Transatlantic Practice Exchange program. In her role as Policy Outreach Associate, she works to mobilize advocates to advance policy priorities around preventing and ending homelessness. She also contributes to online advocacy newsletters and advocacy-related publications and assists in coordinating the activities of the Alliance’s Leadership Council. Prior to joining the Alliance, she interned with various nonprofits, including the Sixth Street Shelter in Allentown, PA. Ms. Klein also completed an honors thesis on perceptions of homelessness and researched housing policies at Muhlenberg College, where she graduated with a Bachelor’s in Psychology and Political Science.

**Amy Kleine** directs the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation’s Basic Human Needs & Health program area to ensure that people have safe and stable housing, access to short-term economic and social service support in times of crisis, access to sufficient and nutritious food, and opportunities to receive quality health care. To achieve those goals, the Foundation partners with organizations providing direct services to people experiencing homelessness, food insecurity, and poor health. Ms. Kleine oversees capital, program, and operating grants to assist these organizations in their important work. Ms. Kleine represents the Weinberg Foundation on
the Baltimore City Journey Home Board dedicated to making homelessness rare and brief. She is also Chair of the Basic Needs Affinity Group for the Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers.

**Lindsay Knotts** is Policy Advisor at USICH, where she is responsible for coordinating federal policy efforts for the Council. While at USICH, Lindsay supported the development of the *Core Components of Rapid Re-housing*, a resource created in partnership by USICH, NAEH, HUD, and VA. Prior to joining USICH, Lindsay worked with the West Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness, where she served as SOAR State Team Lead and coordinated CoC Point-in-Time Count activities and project-level technical assistance.

**Jeff Kositsky** assumed leadership of Hamilton Family Center in 2013. His commitment to social and economic justice spans an impressive career of more than 20 years of directing nonprofit human service programs and organizations. From 2001 to 2010, Mr. Kositsky served as executive director of Community Housing Partnership, a nonprofit affordable housing developer in San Francisco that provides support services and job opportunities to thousands of homeless adults and families. He has served on several nonprofit boards, including San Francisco’s Coalition on Homelessness.

**Robin Koskey** joined Building Changes in 2012 and works as a liaison with government and advocacy partners on policy development and implementation of best practices. She also provides capacity building support for Rapid Re-Housing technical assistance. Prior to joining the Building Changes team, Robin was a lobbyist and outreach coordinator for the Partnership for Strong Communities focused on ending homelessness and increasing affordable housing in Connecticut from 1997 to 2000 and a public benefits staff attorney at Connecticut Legal Services from 2000-2003. She holds a Juris Doctorate from the University of Connecticut.

**John Kuhn** has led the development and launch of the Supported Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program, VA’s new homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing initiative. SSVF has recently announced $507 million in grants to community organizations assisting homeless and at-risk Veteran families. In the past year SSVF helped 70,000 Veterans and their family members find or keep permanent housing. Prior to working with SSVF, for several years Mr. Kuhn authored the VA’s CHALENG Report, a community assessment on the needs of homeless Veterans where Mr. Kuhn introduced a new survey that now includes feedback from thousands of homeless and formerly homeless Veterans. Earlier in his career, Mr. Kuhn led VA homeless programs in New Jersey for which he received national recognition for his development of innovative employment, housing, and treatment services. Mr. Kuhn received Mutual of America’s Community Partnership Medal and acknowledgement by the former Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee who had the Flag of The United States flown over the Capitol in his honor. Mr. Kuhn has a BA from Brown University, a MSW from Columbia University and a MPH from Rutgers University. He has been working with the homeless for over 20 years.

**Megan Kurteff-Schatz** is Principal at Focus Strategies, a national consulting practice dedicated to helping communities use local homeless data to understand current performance and make effective system change. She and the Focus Strategies team provide technical assistance with analyzing and using Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and other local data to
develop and refine actionable plans to measurably reduce homelessness by applying evidence about what works. Focus Strategies typically leads technical assistance efforts from concept through implementation of recommended changes. Megan holds Masters Degrees in Social Work and Public Policy, both from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

**Aaron Levitt** is Director of the CUCS Institute, a provider of training and technical assistance to health and human services organizations across the nation. The CUCS Institute is one division of the Center for Urban Community Services, originator of the supportive housing model, now delivering a wide range of medical, psychiatric, case management, street outreach, housing, and financial services to NYC residents. Aaron’s professional background includes extensive experience in non-profit evaluation and management, information technology, and program design. He received his Ph.D. in Psychiatric Rehabilitation from Rutgers University, and has published several studies related to different aspects of homeless services.

**Gregory Lewis** is nationally recognized for his work as a longtime advocate for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender equality. In 2008, he worked with Cyndi Lauper and her co-founders to launch the True Colors Fund and has served as its executive director ever since. Under Mr. Lewis’s leadership, the True Colors Fund has grown into the leading national organization addressing the issue of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth homelessness. He is responsible for building the organization from the ground up, creating the programs, infrastructure and development streams critical to its success.

**Sam Margolius** has years of experience working in both community based and residential programs whose missions are dedicated to facilitating the successful transition of 16-22 year old youth into self-sufficient adults. For the past three years Sam has helped expand a privately funded community-based program called YouthHarbors from it's initial seed stage of two school sites to a more advanced seed stage of six school sites. YouthHarbors is focused on supporting the housing and nonacademic needs of homeless and unaccompanied 17-21 year old high school students. Sam began with YouthHarbors as a Case Manager in one of two partner school districts, has been promoted to Program Manager from which he has helped YouthHarbors expand. Sam works with homeless youth providers across Massachusetts and has a deep understanding of resources and barriers for different subsections of the homeless youth population. Sam has also trained educators across JRI on a financial literacy curriculum and is focused on expanding financial literacy education within the Youthharbors program model.

**Marge Martin** is currently Director of the Policy Development Division in the Office of Policy Development and Research at HUD. Prior to her position as director, Ms. Martin served as a social science analyst in the division working on a variety of issues including the impact of rent and income on affordable housing, community and economic development, mixed income housing, and homelessness. Shortly after beginning her career at HUD in 1987, Ms. Martin helped established the Office of Special Needs Assistance, the part of HUD responsible for administering the Department’s homeless programs. She has been involved in homelessness issues and homelessness research for the past two decades and continues to serve as one of the Department’s leading experts in this area. Ms. Martin holds a Master of Science degree in public policy analysis from the University of Rochester.
Laurie Mazerbo has worked with homeless youth programs for 12 and half years in many capacities. First as a case manager, a therapist, supervisor, manager and now a program director. Ms. Mazerbo has been fortunate enough to attend and present at many Runaway Homeless Youth Conferences and to work at an agency that is committed to providing trauma-informed housing, counseling and case management to homeless youth ages 12-24.

Kay Mosier McDivitt is a Technical Assistance Specialist at the Alliance. In this role, Ms. McDivitt works with the Center for Capacity Building to help communities create, implement, and evaluate plans to end homelessness based on their specific needs. She is the Center’s point person on issues related to retooling transitional housing and the Performance Improvement Clinics, and assists in projects ranging from 10 year plan development to rapid re-housing planning. Prior to joining the Alliance in 2011, she served as the Community Homeless Advisor for the Lancaster County (PA) Coalition to End Homelessness, providing leadership for the County’s 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness and Continuum of Care, and as Vice President for Programs for Tabor Community Services, Inc., where she oversaw a number of model program initiatives focused on ending homelessness including prevention and rapid rehousing approaches. She has provided community leadership in the homeless service arena since 1994 both at the local level and national level on best practice models for ending homelessness. Ms. McDivitt received her degrees in Social Work and Sociology from Eastern Mennonite University.

Sharon McDonald is Director for Families and Youth with a focus on policy and program strategies to address family homelessness. Ms. McDonald joined the Alliance in 2001. Prior to joining the Alliance, she was a direct practitioner in a Richmond, Virginia community-based service center for people who are homeless for nearly seven years. She has experience providing service-enhanced housing in a subsidized housing development for low-income families with children and in housing for people living with HIV/AIDS. She served as a Social Work Congressional Fellow in Senator Paul D. Wellstone’s office where she focused on welfare and housing issues. Ms. McDonald has been a Licensed Clinical Social Worker since 1991 and holds a Ph.D. in Social Work and Social Policy from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Gwen McQueeney is deputy director of shelter at Northern Virginia Family Service, where she oversees a 92-bed shelter and rapid Re-Housing programs. Ms. McQueeney has been instrumental in retooling the local homeless assistance system and reducing shelter stays from six months to as little as 45 days. She previously worked as a clinical coordinator for the Center for Urban Community Services at the Times Square Hotel, a 650-bed SRO facility.

Sarah Merrill currently serves as Program Manager at San Diego Youth Services Storefront Youth Emergency Shelter in San Diego, CA. She oversees the night shelter and case management components of the program. Prior to working with homeless, runaway, and exploited youth, she coordinated independent living skills case management with emphasis on employment, education and housing for youth aging out of the foster care system. Sarah has a Master’s Degree in Social Work from San Diego State University. She is inspired by the remarkable strength and creativity of the youth at Storefront, as well as the passion and dedication of the staff at San Diego Youth Services.

Deronda Metz is a licensed clinical social worker and worked in homelessness for 25 years in a shelter environment. For the past 5 years she increased services and implemented a rapid rehousing program as well as a expanded partnership with the local housing authority. In 2014,
she received the Community Champion award for her tireless efforts in ending family homeless in Charlotte Mecklenburg.

Robin Meyer has been working with youth for the last decade. With a perspective focused on the marginalized, she's constantly learning about the struggles, joys and needs youth have within the context of community. For the past three years, the focus has been housing. Robin strives to ensure homeless youth have access to permanent housing and a team of people who believe a youth is capable of doing everything they say they will.

Norweeta G. Milburn, Ph.D., is a Professor-in-Residence Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences at the UCLA Semel Institute Nathanson Family Resilience Center. She received her Ph.D. in Community Psychology from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor). Her research interests include homelessness, substance abuse, mental health and family-based behavioral interventions.

Jonni Miller is the Family System Integration Manager with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority and oversees implementation of the Homeless Family Solutions System in LA County. She holds an MSW from the University of Southern California and has been working in the field of homeless services for over 10 years. She has worked managed multiple permanent supportive housing programs and assisted in the implementation of rapid re-housing programs in the City and County of Los Angeles.

Katy Miller is a Regional Coordinator on the National Initiatives team at the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH). She serves as a principal representative and bridge between the work of the full Council and states and communities. In this role, she is responsible for facilitating the strategic implementation of Opening Doors specifically in Alaska, California, Idaho, Oregon, Nevada, and Washington state. Katy has been working for more than 19 years as an advocate, housing provider, and funder of housing and services in Seattle - King County. She is passionate about creating innovative connections and solutions towards ending homelessness.

Anne Miskey is the executive director of Boston-based Funders Together to End Homelessness, a national network of funders supporting strategic, innovative, and effective solutions to homelessness. In this role, Ms. Miskey advocates for funding and policies and creates public-private partnerships between government and the philanthropic community. Previously, Ms. Miskey held positions at the Oakville Community Foundation, and United Way.

Mindy Mitchell is a Program and Policy Analyst whose current focus is youth homelessness. Prior to joining the Alliance, she worked as a case manager for homeless families in Mobile, AL. That work with homeless families inspired Ms. Mitchell to go to law school in the hopes of one day working to end homelessness at a more structural level. After law school, she completed a Legislative Fellowship with the New York State Senate, focusing primarily on affordable housing and emergency mortgage assistance legislation. Ms. Mitchell received her sociological education at the University of South Alabama and her legal education at CUNY School of Law.

Bill Motsavage is Senior Vice President of Independent Living for Valley Youth House. In this role, he supervises a variety of housing and out-client programs in eleven Pennsylvania counties.
He also has participated in the development of a statewide youth advisory board for older foster youth and managed a statewide retreat for foster care youth for a number of years. He has worked with homeless and foster care youth in eastern Pennsylvania for more than 25 years. Mr. Motsavage currently also serves as a peer monitor for the Federal Youth Service Bureau reviewing programs for homeless youth through the Federal Runaway and Homeless Youth Act.

Sharon Murphy has worked for a variety of educational institutions and nonprofit organizations. She considers herself primarily a “people bridge builder,” so she gravitates toward opportunities to convene disparate groups and perspectives while pursuing a common goal. Currently, she is a Program Officer for First 5 LA’s Grants Management department. Dr. Murphy earned a Ph.D. in Education from a joint doctoral program at Claremont Graduate University and San Diego State University. She has lived in Los Angeles for 19 years and currently resides in the Mt. Washington neighborhood.

Cynthia Nagendra is the Director for the Center for Capacity Building at the National Alliance to End Homelessness. The Center helps communities adapt proven practices and implement system-wide strategies to prevent and end homelessness. Cynthia’s experience includes providing assistance to communities around the country to implement HEARTH, build system capacity to provide effective rapid-rehousing, facilitate Continuum of Care processes, develop ten-year plans to end homelessness, facilitate system-level strategic planning and design, plan and implement coordinated assessment systems, and improve data systems to measure system performance. Prior to working at the Alliance, Cynthia worked as a Staff Attorney for HomeBase, The Center for Common Concerns, as a Program Manager for the St. Anthony Foundation Learning Center with homeless individuals and families in San Francisco, as well as performed legal and policy work related to women’s rights, immigration, and re-entry programming in New York City.

Ben Cattell Noll is a project coordinator with the Veterans First SSVF program at Friendship Place in Washington, DC. Ben got his start in the field as a permanent supportive housing case manager, developing his skills in participant-centered models and kindling his passion for ending homelessness. Now he spends his time with rapid rehousing and homelessness prevention, ensuring that best practices are incorporated at all levels of the Friendship Place SSVF program and coordinating their staff training program.

Ann Marie Oliva is the director of the Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs and the acting deputy assistant secretary for special needs at HUD. In these roles, Ms. Oliva manages a $2 billion portfolio of competitive and formula grants and oversaw the design and implementation of HPRP. Previously, she served as an independent human services consultant and technical assistance provider and worked at the Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness.

Linda Olsen is the Housing Program Coordinator with the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Her primary responsibility has been coordination of the Domestic Violence Housing First pilot project, which tested housing strategies, including Rapid Re-Housing, for survivors of domestic violence. Linda has worked in the field of domestic violence for 29 years, serving in the roles of volunteer coordinator, shelter director, and executive director at two domestic violence agencies. She facilitated the opening of two domestic violence emergency
shelters and developed a transitional housing program for survivors with drug/alcohol treatment needs. She has graduate degrees in theology (Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary) and social work (University of Washington).

**Sarai Orth** is the Eastern Washington Branch Manager of Career Path Services, overseeing the Commerce WorkFirst programs. She has 6 years of experience working with TANF job seekers, many of whom are experiencing homelessness and addressing this barrier issues and others, alongside looking for work. She has 2 years of direct case management experience and is currently responsible for program implementation, staff training, and working with key partners to develop programs and models of service delivery that best meet the needs of the TANF population.

**Ralph Payton** has several years of experience directing homeless shelters, transitional housing and youth programs in Miami, The Bronx, and San Francisco. He has a Master of Science in Clinical Psychology from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale.

**Lloyd Pendleton** serves as director of Utah’s Homeless Task Force. In 2004, while serving as a loaned executive, Mr. Pendleton wrote Utah’s 10-year plan to end chronic homelessness and reduce overall homelessness by 2015. Since 2006, he has worked to implement the plan, including the newest goal of housing all veterans by 2015.

**Bob Pulster** currently serves as Regional Coordinator for the USICH, a principal representative and bridge between the work of the full Council and states and communities. In this role he is responsible for facilitating the strategic implementation of Opening Doors specifically in the Northeast and South Central United States. Prior to joining USICH, Bob served as the Associate Director in the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development overseeing the statewide system of family and individual shelters. Bob also served as the Executive Director of the State’s Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness.

**Tiana Purvis** is the regional housing coordinator at The Salvation Army in Central Ohio, where she manages and supervises the organization’s housing and homelessness prevention programs in region 10 of the Balance of State CoC. Ms. Purvis also oversees the implementation of a VA-funded Supportive Services for Veteran Families program and a HUD-funded permanent supportive housing program for families.

**Ebony Rankin** is a Desk Officer for the state of Ohio, where her work focuses on CoC Policy. Previously, she served at HUD’s Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS) office in 2012, having transitioned there from her position at HUD as an Office Administrator for the General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development. She currently also serves on the Navy Wounded Warrior – Safe Harbor team as a reservist. Ms. Rankin was commissioned in 2001 through ROTC at Virginia Tech and served onboard the USS Gunston Hall in Little Creek, VA as the Machinery Division Officer, and served as the Admin Officer at 2nd Navy Expeditionary Logistics Regiment in Williamsburg, VA.

**Michael Raposa** is the CEO for the Society of St Vincent de Paul in St Petersburg, FL and the Board Chair of the Pinellas Homeless Leadership Board. SVDP provides VA Supportive
Services for Veteran Families in Tampa Bay area and has rapidly rehoused more than 1,500 families in three years.

Sharon Rapport in Associate Director for California Policy at CSH, where she advances a California policy agenda that crosses multiple issues affecting people experiencing homelessness. In this role, she works to facilitate state interagency collaboration on homelessness, channel Medi-Cal resources toward more effective services for people experiencing homelessness, and fund the creation of apartments for people living in extreme poverty. Ms. Rapport was instrumental in passing CSH-sponsored legislation to create a Medicaid benefit for supportive services through health homes.

Kathy Robertson is the associate director of homeless and special needs housing for the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. In this role, Ms. Robertson is responsible for the implementation, administration, and management of state and federal funding for homeless prevention and services. She also oversees the livable homes tax credit program to increase the accessibility of Virginia’s housing stock.

Mary G. Rode, LCSW-C is the Sr. Vice President of St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore, overseeing 4 program divisions: Child and Family Services, Homeless Services and Supportive Housing, Shelter Care and Rapid Re-housing and Workforce Development. Ms. Rode has 30 years of experience as an administrator in the fields of child welfare, substance abuse, early childhood education, and homeless services. Ms. Rode has a BA from Boston College and a MSW in Social Work Administration from the University of Denver.

Jason Rodriguez is a Ph.D. student in Community Research & Action at Vanderbilt University, where he is a research assistant to Dr. Marybeth Shinn. He has a B.S. in Sociology and a M.S. in Applied Statistics, both from Kennesaw State University. While earning his M.S., he served as Data Coordinator for Georgia's Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless. Jason is interested in evaluating the effectiveness of homelessness policy, especially within the context of a local homeless service provider system.

Angela Rosales manages CSH’s local initiatives aimed at increasing capacity to create, operate, and evaluate permanent supportive housing solutions for transition age youth, ages 18-25. Ms. Rosales has also been bringing together public, private, and community-based stakeholders to develop a coordinated entry system pilot for youth and young adults, that builds on the USICH Framework to End Youth Homelessness. Ms. Rosales earned a B.A. in Psychology from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and a Master’s degree in Public Policy from the University of Southern California.

Justin Sage-Passant has experience in providing family and individual counseling, case management and group facilitation to homeless and at risk youth and the significant adults in their lives. He is originally from the UK where he worked as a Counselor supporting youth and family members with substance use challenges. Since 2007 he has been living in Toronto, Canada where, despite cheering for the unsuccessful Toronto FC soccer team, has found satisfaction working at Eva’s Initiatives as a Youth Service Worker, an Employment Advisor and in his current role as a Family Intervention Counselor with the Family Reconnect Program.
Ken Schafer is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and Certified Sex Offender Treatment Provider from Washington State. He has 20 years’ experience working with adult, juvenile, male and female sex offenders in prison, residential, and community based settings. He is currently a Clinical Program Manager for a residential treatment program, Friends of Youth, Griffin Home.

Cynthia Schuler is the CEO at Tumbleweed, Inc., Phoenix, AZ, a nonprofit serving homeless and runaway youth ages 11 – 24. Prior to joining Tumbleweed, she served as the CEO of Kids Central a nonprofit in central Florida that provided prevention and child welfare services. Cynthia also served as District Administrator with the FL Department of Children and Families. In addition to her nonprofit work she has spent more than 20 years in various aspects of child and family law. She served ten years as a magistrate in juvenile court. Ms. Schuler holds a Juris Doctorate from the University of Toledo.

Peter Simons is CEO of HomeAid America (HAA), a leading national provider of housing for homeless families and individuals. Founded by the Southern California building industry in 1989, HomeAid currently has chapters in 15 markets in 10 states. It is one of the nation’s largest builders of housing for homeless organizations, with its projects valued at over $200 million and with over 200,000 homeless individuals housed to date. Previously, Mr. Simons spent 20 years as a homebuilder, the bulk of it with Beazer Homes, one the nation’s largest homebuilders.

Brooke Spellman is a principal associate at Abt Associates Inc. in Bethesda, Md., where she works with federal and local clients to conduct research and develop strategies to improve policy and programmatic responses to homelessness and poverty. Recent projects include evaluations of both HUD’s rapid Re-Housing program and the Family Options Study as well as a foundation initiative on chronic homelessness in Los Angeles. Ms. Spellman has more than 20 years of experience in technical assistance and capacity-building.

Curtis Stauffer began serving as the Homeless & Housing Coalition of Kentucky’s Executive Director in 2014. Before joining HHCK, Curtis served as Grants Coordinator for Louisville Metro Government’s Develop Louisville Office of Housing and Community Development. In that role, he was responsible for managing planning and reporting for US Dept. of Housing & Urban Development CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA funds. He also coordinated special projects for the agency, including creation and management of the 2014 Lots of Possibility vacant lots redevelopment competition. Before his service in Louisville Metro Government, Curtis was Development Director/Advocacy Project Coordinator for Metropolitan Housing Coalition (MHC), a non-profit affordable housing policy research and advocacy organization serving Greater Louisville. Curtis came to Kentucky from Jackson, Wyoming, where, among other positions, he served as the AmeriCorps*VISTA Development Associate for Habitat for Humanity of the Greater Teton Area. Before moving to Jackson in 2003, Curtis conducted monitoring and program evaluation of HUD-funded subrecipient agencies for the City of Philadelphia Office of Housing and Community Development. Curtis holds an MA in Urban Studies from Temple University, where he conducted research analyzing host neighborhood reaction to Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher users, and a BA from Macalester College in Urban Studies and history.
Norm Suchar serves as Director of HUD's Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs, which supports the nationwide commitment to ending homelessness. He manages a $2 billion portfolio of competitive and formula programs that provide needed shelter and housing assistance for hundreds of thousands of children, youth, and adults each year. He previously directed the National Alliance to End Homelessness's Center for Capacity Building, which helped communities implement system-wide strategies that prevent and end homelessness. He also served for three years in HUD's Budget Office and two years in the State of Utah's child welfare system.

Chela Sullivan currently serves as the Director of Strategic Housing Resources for UMOM New Day Centers, a critical role in steering the agency housing focus. Among her responsibilities, Chela has designed and implemented UMOM's Rapid Re Housing and SSVF programs which has been a mentor program for the past three years. Chela is also overseeing the Maricopa County coordinated assessment process for families seeking homeless services at the Family Housing Hub. Chela holds a Masters of Nonprofit Studies from Arizona State University.

Eric S. Tars serves as the Law Center's senior attorney, focusing on human rights, civil rights, and children's rights programs. Eric advocates for the rights of homeless families, individuals, and youth through trainings, litigation, and policy advocacy at the international, federal, state, and local levels. Eric received his J.D. as a Global Law Scholar at the Georgetown University Law Center, his B.A. in political science from Haverford College, and studied international human rights at the Institute for European Studies and at the University of Vienna.

Jamie Taylor, Ph.D., Cloudburst Consulting Group, provides technical assistance and training to regional systems of care on data sharing, performance measurement and data analytics. Jamie is a subject matter expertise for SAMHSA's Service Member, Veterans and Families TA Center, HUD homelessness assistance programs and provides evaluation expertise on health and housing evaluation projects. Jamie recently completed an evaluation of access to preschool services for formerly homeless families and an evaluation on the effects impacts of time-limited housing assistance on housing stability. Current projects include the implementation of a local evaluation model that rigorously assesses the impacts of rapid re-housing, developing rapid re-housing data dashboards for system planning and monitoring in communities across the country.

Cathy ten Broeke is the state of Minnesota’s director to prevent and end homelessness. In this role, she works with multiple state agencies, community partners, and private stakeholders to create a statewide partnership to end homelessness. Previously, Ms. ten Broeke served as director of the Minneapolis/Hennepin County office to end homelessness and as a special advisor to the executive director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Debbie Canavan Thiele is Senior Program Manager for CSH. She leads the organization’s national technical assistance work in public housing and guides local and national efforts in systems change and the alignment of mainstream resources to create supportive housing. Debbie has held previous senior leadership positions in multifamily lending for the Mayor’s Office of Housing in Seattle and in homeless housing initiatives for the King County Housing Authority. She currently serves as a Commissioner for the Seattle Housing Authority. Debbie’s work is rooted in the direct service experience she gained early in her career and a unique understanding
of the cultural and operational needs of the many sectors that must come together to serve the most vulnerable people.

**Christy Thomas** came to work for Charitable Assistance to Community’s Homeless (CATCH) Inc. in 2009. CATCH provides rapid re-housing and intensive case management to homeless families with children in Idaho. She currently serves as the Director of Programs and oversees the daily operations and program administration, has written and received grant awards, cultivated partnerships with business and faith based organizations, and coordinated community events. Christy also provides lead social work supervision for CATCH, Inc. case managers and interns. Her work covers the range of support for clients, including housing placement, advocacy, coordination of community resources, job skills development, budgeting, and supportive therapy. Christy Thomas has a B.A. in Psychology and Human Services and Masters in Social Work Degree.

**Marcy Thompson** is a policy advisor in HUD’s Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs. In this role, Ms. Thompson advises the office director, serves as the team lead on chronic homelessness and other issues, acts as a liaison with the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, and works closely with HUD’s federal and external partners on initiatives to meet the goals of Opening Doors. Her previous positions in the social work field focused on helping people experiencing homelessness and persons with disabilities.

**Casey Trupin** is the Coordinating Attorney for the Children and Youth Project at Columbia Legal Services in Seattle, where he advocates for at-risk, homeless and foster children and youth. Mr. Trupin also serves as the Special Advisor on Children and Youth Homelessness for the American Bar Association’s Commission on Homelessness and Poverty, which he chaired from 2006-09. He has served as counsel to thousands of foster youth and homeless adults in litigation and worked on state and federal legislation designed to improve services to low-income children, youth and adults in Washington State and nationwide.

**Mark Valentine** has worked in the field of early childhood for over 30 years, the last 15 of which he has spent overseeing a state-wide network of home visiting programs in Illinois. He is Director of the Illinois Birth to Three Institute, which has begun to pilot an approach aimed at helping programs reach and enroll more families affected by homelessness. Based on outcome and process data being collected, his organization hopes to make some recommendations to inform future efforts by programs, funders, and policymakers that to improve outcomes for children in homeless families.

**Liz Varela** is Executive Director of Building Futures with Women and Children ("Building Futures"), a social services agency based in San Leandro, CA, that provides a spectrum of programs and services—from crisis intervention to housing—for Alameda County residents. Under her leadership, Building Futures has become a county leader in ending homelessness and domestic violence in the lives of those they serve. Each year, the agency's two homeless shelters lead the county in rates of linking shelter residents to permanent housing; its supportive housing site and rapid re-housing program.

**Betsy Vidlak** serves as the Director of Youth Programs for Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska which is located in a rural community covering over 14,000 square miles.
CAPWN provides various services to individuals, youth, and families experiencing homelessness including supportive housing, health care, shelter, case management and more. Prior to the position of Youth Director, Betsy coordinated Street Outreach and Rural Host Home programs for youth and was a counselor in a Residential Treatment Center for adolescent boys. Betsy is the President of the local Continuum of Care and serves on various other community boards involving homelessness and youth services.

Suzanne Wagner is a principal at Housing Innovations, which helps nonprofit and public agencies develop, implement, and coordinate innovative solutions to homelessness. Previously, Ms. Wagner served as the director of the housing resource center at the Center for Urban Community Services in New York City. She has more than 30 years of experience in the design and delivery of housing programs and services for people experiencing homelessness.

Elayne Weiss joined the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) in November 2014. In this role, she advocates for increased funding for the National Housing Trust Fund and is responsible for NLIHC’s work in the areas of homelessness and low income housing tax credits. Previously, Ms. Weiss served as a legislative assistant for the American Civil Liberties Union Washington Legislative Office, where her work concentrated on reproductive and women’s rights. In that position, she helped craft and implement strategies to meet the organization’s advocacy goals, and worked on a broad range of issues, including housing protections for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Marge Wherley, MSW is an Associate with Abt Associates Inc. In that position, she develops and delivers training on Rapid Re-Housing and Homelessness Prevention to nonprofit agencies funded by VA’s Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) and/or HUD. Prior to this, she was involved in development, management and performance outcomes for a county-wide system of Rapid Re-Housing services. During a period of 17 years, over 30,000 adults and children received RRH, with a one-year outcome of 85-95% non-return to shelter.

Dhakshike Wickrema is Senior Project Manager at Shelter Partnership, a public policy and advocacy non-profit in Los Angeles. She advises the public sector and community organizations on strategies and institutional interventions related to homelessness and affordable housing. Among other tasks, Dhakshike provides technical assistance to LA City, LA County and LAHSA, the LA CoC's lead agency, on the ongoing coordination and integration of systems serving homeless families. She recently facilitated a planning process and drafted recommendations to redesign the Single Adult shelter system in LA City. She helped design and implement the ARRA-funded Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program in LA City. Dhakshike is a member of the Family Solutions Funders' Collaborative, the Steering Committee of the LA Coalition to End Youth Homelessness and the FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program Los Angeles County Local Board.

Kathy Wigtil has over 35 years’ experience in both secondary and higher education and has served as a teacher, academic adviser and school counselor. Ms. Wigtil has 15 years’ experience working with at-risk students in Houston’s Second Ward. She has also served as a mentor in the Houston Mayor’s Anti-Gang Task Force mentoring program. Ms. Wigtil currently serves as the Homeless Population Specialist and Case Manager for Waco ISD’s Homeless Outreach Services, working primarily with unaccompanied high school students.
**Katina F. Williams** is the director of operations for Flagler Housing and Homeless Services, St. Joseph’s Villa in Richmond, Virginia. She played a major role in St. Joseph’s Villa’s multi-year conversion of their 24 year old transitional housing program to a full rapid re-housing model. She holds a Bachelor’s in Psychology and Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology from Bowie State University in Bowie, Maryland. She currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Crater Area Coalition on Homelessness, Virginia.

**Kristin Winkel’s** career spans seventeen years in affordable housing and human services. Currently, she is the Director of Leased Housing Programs for King County Housing Authority, where she oversees the Housing Choice Voucher program and the Homeless Initiatives department. Prior to joining KCHA in 2007, Kristin worked for seven years at Abt Associates, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in the Social and Economic Policy Group, where she consulted to HUD and to Public Housing Authorities nationally. Kristin received a Master’s degree in Public Policy from Harvard University, J. F. Kennedy School of Government, and a BA from Vassar College.

**Melissa Young** has worked for Heartland Alliance since 2004. In her role she has designed, lead, and grown national initiatives dedicated to ensuring that everyone who wants to work has the tools and opportunities to do so which includes the National Transitional Jobs Network (NTJN), the Black Men Overcoming Barriers and Realizing Employment (B.MORE) Initiative, and the Working to End Homelessness (WEH) Initiative. Through her leadership, Melissa has positioned Heartland Alliance’s National Initiatives on Poverty and Economic Opportunity as a national field building and policy leader in addressing poverty and economic opportunity for individuals facing chronic unemployment.

**Alyson Zikmund** works for the NYC Department of Homeless Services, which, in addition to administering the city’s shelter system, is the Lead Agency as well as the HMIS Lead for the NYC CoC. Alyson has been a voting member of the NYC CoC Steering Committee since 2011 and became a co-chair of the NYC CoC in January 2015. In March 2014, Alyson became co-chair of the NYC Veterans Task Force, which is the leadership group for NYC’s 25 Cities initiative, Mission: HOME, to end veteran homelessness.