

**Eduardo Ameneiro, Division Manager, Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance**

As the Division Manager for Homeless Services within the Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance (DHA), Eduardo Ameneiro is responsible for the administration and coordination of homeless services which includes managing contracts related to emergency shelter, transitional housing, outreach and other related services. His division is also responsible for coordinating and providing supportive services for persons experiencing homelessness either directly, through referrals or in collaboration with other Departments or agencies throughout Sacramento County.

**Officers Justin Boyd and Andrew Kahler, IMPACT Team, Sacramento Police Department**

The Impact Team is a unit of officers who have intensive training and experience in homeless and mental health issues. The Team operates seven days a week throughout our City to ensure consistency and responsiveness to every facet of our community. Their goal is to provide compassionate police services to our community as they work to mitigate the impacts of homelessness in Sacramento. This includes collaborating with services providers to assist people out of homelessness and conducting abatement to reduce surrounding community impacts.

**Cindy Cavanaugh, Director of Homeless Initiatives, County of Sacramento**

Cindy Cavanaugh has over 35 years of experience in affordable housing, community development, and homelessness policy and programs at state and local levels. She began in July 2016 as the first Director of Homeless Initiatives in Sacramento County. The Board of Supervisors recently adopted four major homeless initiatives allocating over \$6 million to improve the County's crisis response and create more meaningful pathways to permanent homes.

Prior to this, Cindy appointed by Governor Brown to work on State homelessness policy and programs. She managed the State's 2013 Policy Academy to Reduce Chronic Homelessness and worked on several new programs responding to homelessness, including Veteran Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) redesign, the new California ESG program, and No Place Like Home.

Cindy worked with the Sacramento redevelopment agency for 13 years where she managed local programs, implemented City/County inclusionary housing, and managed the City/County Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program and the Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness.

### **Emily Halcon, Homeless Services Coordinator, City of Sacramento**

Emily Halcon is the Homeless Services Coordinator for the City of Sacramento. Working out of the Office of the City Manager, Emily coordinates internal and external efforts related to homelessness and helps develop the most strategic and effective ways to invest City resources towards these efforts. Emily oversees the City's development and implementation of the \$64 million Pathways to Health and Home program, a unique partnership between government, health care and housing providers that is the cornerstone of a community commitment to end homelessness for 2,000 of the most vulnerable people in Sacramento over the next four years.

Prior to joining the City in January of 2015, Emily spent three years with Focus Strategies, a Sacramento-based consulting firm dedicated to helping communities improve efforts to end homelessness by using local data to shape program and system design using a "systems thinking" approach. Emily also spent eleven years with the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) working on local housing policies and programs. At SHRA, Emily was instrumental in the development and implementation of the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) in the City and County of Sacramento, which helped shift federal and local approaches to embracing "housing first" solutions to end homelessness. Emily holds a Masters in Community and Regional Development from the University of California, Davis.

### **Noel Kammermann, General Manager, Loaves & Fishes**

Without passing judgment, and in a spirit of love and hospitality, Loaves & Fishes feeds the hungry and shelters the homeless. They provide an oasis of welcome, safety, and cleanliness for homeless men, women and children seeking survival services.

Founded in 1983, they are governed by a board of directors selected from Loaves & Fishes and from the community-at-large – people who have demonstrated compassion and concern about the needs of the homeless and the indigent poor.

Loaves & Fishes recognizes the dignity and spiritual destiny of each person, and hope by their attitude of hospitality and love, to nourish not only the physical needs of those who come to Loaves & Fishes, but also their spiritual need for love, acceptance, respect, and friendship.

Loaves & Fishes is a private charity; it neither solicits nor accepts government money, but relies solely on private donations to support its work of feeding the hungry and sheltering the homeless.

### **Ryan Loofbourrow, Chief Executive Officer, Sacramento Steps Forward**

Ryan Loofbourrow is the Chief Executive Officer of Sacramento Steps Forward, an agency that works collaboratively with service providers, local governments and the private sector to ensure

that all people experiencing homelessness can obtain housing, economic stability and enhanced quality of life.

A 20-year veteran of establishing community safety and maintenance programs, Ryan was previously the Executive Director of the Downtown San Diego Partnership's Clean and Safe Program, a program designed to improve the appearance of Downtown's streets and enhance public safety for residents, employees and visitors. He has also been a leader in creating homeless outreach programs for downtown communities and recently implemented the Downtown San Diego Partnership's first homeless outreach program, which has reunited more than 130 individuals with family throughout the United States.

Loofbourrow's many accomplishments during his tenure in Sacramento include reducing the public intoxication calls through the creation of the serial inebriate program in 2005, and establishing a 24-hour graffiti abatement program. He also served on numerous policy advocacy committees working on issues such as graffiti abatement, ending chronic homelessness and managing the nighttime economy. For his work, he received a number of Sacramento City Council resolutions for service and in 2006, the International Downtown Association Special Achievement Award for the homeless outreach Navigator Program.

Loofbourrow graduated from California State University, Sacramento with a bachelor's degree in communication studies.

### **Tracy Pullar, Homeless Program Manager, VA Northern California Health Care System**

Tracy Pullar is the Homeless Program Manager for the VA Northern California Health Care System, a region that spans 17 counties in Northern California. Her office is in Martinez.

Ms. Pullar received her MSW from UC Berkeley in 1991 and her LCSW in 1995. She began working for the VA in 1991 as a Homeless Outreach Social Worker in San Francisco and has spent her 26-year career working with homeless Veterans in the VA's specialized homeless programs.

Currently Ms. Pullar oversees programs and services that serve over 4,000 homeless and at-risk Veterans a year and includes 80 staff, over 1400 units of permanent supportive housing (through HUD-VASH), 200 units of transitional housing, 120 units of emergency housing, and a specialized justice outreach program. Ms. Pullar has also been involved in various VA Central Office workgroups, grant reviews, community collaborative projects and activities related to ending homelessness among Veterans.

**Melinda Ruger, Executive Director, Harm Reduction Services**

Harm Reduction is any effort to reduce a person's harm. It is the idea that people need to be met "where they are" to encourage them to envision and define positive change for themselves. It is assisting people by seeing that they have options thereby increasing their quality of life. Harm Reduction is non-judgmental, non-threatening delivery of services and resources. It is designed to give clients a "real voice" in programs and policies designed to serve them. Harm Reduction is the belief that making practical, safer, realistic, steps towards reducing ones harm will create long term positive change in individuals and communities. **Empower, Inform, Support.**

Harm Reduction Services offers HIV Testing, HCV Testing, STD Testing, SafePoints Syringe Exchange, and Overdose Prevention & Response Training.

**Amani Sawries-Rapaski, Chief Operating Officer, Volunteers of America**

Volunteers of America (VOA) works to prevent and end homelessness through a range of support services including eviction prevention, emergency services, transitional housing and permanent affordable housing. Once they engage homeless individuals, including youth and families with children, they stay with them for as long as it takes to return them to self-sufficiency.

VOA reaches out to homeless individuals through street outreach and mobile outreach services and once they engage with homeless individuals, youth and families with children, they provide assistance that ranges from paying a first month's rent to offering permanent supportive housing so that people with disabilities can become stable and productive members of their communities.

VOA has found that, without supportive services, housing is often not enough to end homelessness. From helping homeless youth, to providing assistance in obtaining disability benefits, to providing transportation, to offering intensive job training assistance to homeless veterans, they operates a number of innovative supportive services programs to support their efforts of ending homelessness in America.

**Jay Schenirer, District 5 City Council Member, City of Sacramento**

Jay Schenirer was elected in 2010 to the Sacramento City Council, and re-elected to the council in 2014. He chairs the Law & Legislation Committee and was elected Mayor Pro Tem by his fellow councilmembers in 2013 and Vice Mayor of Sacramento in 2014.

He currently works as an independent consultant and policy advisor on education reform and youth policy and strategies. His primary clients include the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, the California Endowment, and the California State Legislature. He also runs multiple educational programs for

legislative staff. Prior to this, he was Assistant Secretary for Education for Development and Planning in the Governor's Office, Deputy Director of the Foundation Consortium for California's Children and Youth, General Manager of the Sacramento Food Bank, owned and operated a private business for 11 years, and served as a policy analyst in the Legislature in three different positions. From 1996-2004, he was a member of the Board of Trustees of Sacramento City Unified School District, serving as Board President for 4 years and vice-president for 2 years.

In addition, Mr. Schenirer serves on a number of Boards and Commissions important to the future of the community. He has been happily married for 34 years to Bina Lefkovitz, and has two boys David and Noah, aged 25 and 23, respectively.

Jay holds a B.A in Political Science from UC San Diego where he graduated Magna Cum Laude and a Master's Degree from the Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin.

### **Steve Watters, Executive Director, First Step Communities & Winter Sanctuary**

First Step Communities is a California 501(c) 3 nonprofit that works towards providing shelter and services solutions for the homeless community in the Sacramento Region. Our primary objective is the implementation of our proposed Interim Housing and Services Community. This community will be a services intensive community providing a replicable model for cost effective and collaborative housing of homeless individuals. Our community will have a community center facility that provides communal facilities for a medical clinic to be operated by WellSpace Health, commercial kitchen and dining area, services rooms and offices, laundry area, and full shower and restroom facilities. Each program participant would enter a program for a period of 6 months to one year during which time they would work with a case worker to design an individualized medical and training plan to work towards their individualized exit strategy.

While we work with the city and county of Sacramento towards a public-private partnership to implement and operate the first facility, we are administering services of several shelter programs. We operate the Pilgrimage Program in Midtown Sacramento year round and have run the County of Sacramento's Winter Sanctuary Program in 2016-7 and will again in 2017-8. Each of these programs provides shelter, meals and collaborative services working with services providers such as Elica Health and the faith-based community across Sacramento County.

Our Mission Statement is below:

First Step Communities will create interim housing and emergency shelter for people experiencing homelessness. Here they will live in safety and dignity, receive the services they require, and take a first-step away from homelessness toward self-sufficiency and permanent housing.

A quote from the Executive Director:

*“We understand the cycle of homelessness and the basic necessities for stabilization. FSC will provide what it takes to get individuals back on their feet. We will work with each individual to assess personal needs, create a plan, provide training, and most importantly, make sure the plan is being met.” ...*

*Stephen Watters, Executive Director*

**Kelli Weaver, Homeless Program Coordinator, Sacramento County Dept. of Health & Human Services**

DHHS’s Mental Health Services provide a full array of culturally competent and linguistically proficient mental health services to individuals of all ages. Services include prevention and early intervention, outpatient services, case management services, crisis intervention and stabilization services, and inpatient psychiatric hospitalizations.