

Drafting California's Ten-Year Chronic Homelessness Action Plan

*Asilomar, Monterey, California
Merrill Hall
June 21-23, 2006*

TABLE LEADER AND CONTENT EXPERT BIOGRAPHIES

Cynthia Abbott joined the HUD Sacramento office in March 1999. As Field Office Director of the HUD Sacramento office, Ms. Abbott is responsible for the overall administration of the office and ensuring the effective delivery of the Department's services from homelessness to homeownership within twenty-three Northern California counties. Prior to joining HUD, Ms. Abbott was program coordinator of Neighborhood Connections for the City of Pasadena. At the Neighborhood Connections program, Ms. Abbott served residents in order to foster better communications between neighbors and city government to help resolve neighborhood issues. With Ms. Abbott's leadership the office provided technical assistance to help Pasadenans work together, get help from city departments and build better neighborhoods through localized organizations. Ms. Abbott has been a frequent speaker and facilitator at conferences and neighborhood, city and community forums to educate the community-at-large about the importance of participating in public life through civic involvement and accessing or maintaining HUD resources in order to assure a healthy quality of life throughout communities. In addition, Ms. Abbott spent seven years working with the Union Station Foundation in Pasadena to provide a continuum of care of housing and supportive services to that city's homeless population. Ms. Abbott holds a BA in English from Calvin College, Michigan and an MA in Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary, California.

Mike Alvidrez is the Executive Director of the Skid Row Housing Trust (the "Trust"), a nonprofit developer of permanent supportive housing in the Skid Row area of downtown Los Angeles. The Trust currently operates over 1260 units of permanent supportive housing for very low income, homeless and disabled persons. The Trust incorporates housing development, property management and residential services along with its nonprofit affiliate, the SRHT Property Management Company. Prior to assuming the duties as Executive Director, Mike has held a variety of positions at the Trust, including Project Manager, Asset Manager, Property Management Director, and Supportive Housing Director. He holds a M.A. from the School of Architecture & Urban Planning, University of Calif. at Los Angeles.

John Buttny is a consultant on homeless issues in Santa Barbara County, primarily focused on the development of the County's Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness. Previously, Mr. Buttny had worked for ten years as the Executive Staff Assistant to the 3rd District Supervisor in Santa Barbara County, in Building Management for Century 21 and as the Executive Director of both the Rochdale Student Housing Coop and Isla Vista Municipal Advisory Council. Mr. Buttny has served on the Santa Barbara County Human Services Commission, Goleta Valley General Plan Advisory Committee, on the Board of the Directors of the Santa Barbara Community Housing Corporation and currently serves on the Santa Barbara County Housing Advisory Committee, Mental Health Services Act Stakeholder Committee, Isla Vista Community Development Corporation Board of Directors, Center for Urban Agriculture at Fairview Garden Farms, Santa Barbara County Action Network, American Farmland Trust, and Land Trust for Santa Barbara County. Mr. Buttny has a B.A. in Philosophy and studied in the University of Colorado's PhD program in Philosophy.

Jeannette Candau, is the Housing Coordinator for Santa Barbara County's Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services. Ms. Candau works in partnerships with the County's Housing and Community Development Department (HCD). The HCD is the lead agency in the county in the task of providing affordable housing opportunities. The partnership works to furnish clients with suitable independent, permanent housing. Ms. Candau is a graduate of UCSB with a Masters degree. Her field of specialty is in Urban and Regional Analysis, including tracking and simulating growth patterns and trends for urban regions throughout the U.S. This led her to employment with the U.S. Geological Survey in their Geographic Science Center. This emphasis on trends assists the County in forecasting the needs and growth patterns in order to plan for improving clients' housing. In addition to her expertise in urban analysis, Ms. Candau brings a background in small business. She has her own successful business, which has given her skills in organization, service delivery, planning, and supervision within the framework of customer demands and time sensitive delivery deadlines.

Piper Ehlen is a Staff Attorney at HomeBase. She is currently involved in providing legal and technical assistance to Contra Costa County regarding a multitude of areas, including providing research and facilitation to their multi-agency Project Coming Home collaboration, providing research and facilitation to their Ten Year Plan implementation process, facilitating their Continuum of Care process, and planning their evaluation and homeless client focus groups for their HUD McKinney-Vento process. She is also involved in providing Continuum of Care strategic planning research and project development in numerous communities including Humboldt County. She is primarily responsible for policy analysis and community education on affordable housing programs, and state-wide initiatives, including; proposition 46 advocacy and community education, advocacy regarding proposition N "Care not Cash" in San Francisco, Section 8 workshops, TANF presentations and master leasing research. She conducts discharge planning research and education. She previously worked with Napa and Santa Cruz Counties on their Continuum of Care and long-term planning work. Ms. Ehlen has worked as a law clerk for the Environmental Protection Agency and completed a legal internship with the Sierra Club Legislative Office. She holds a B.A., cum laude, from the University of Colorado, and a J.D., cum laude, from The George Washington University Law School.

Kathy Espinoza-Howard is the Division Manager for the City of Palo Alto's Cubberley Community Center & Human Services Division, leading Palo Alto's work toward ending homelessness. Ms. Espinoza-Howard took a lead role in the implementation of the Housing First Program in Palo Alto and has been the convener of the Off the Street Team Task Force for the last four years. The purpose of the task force is to focus housing and services efforts on the 150 unhoused people who have been on the streets of Palo Alto for an average of 3 years. Ms. Espinoza-Howard has extensive experience working in the area of public policy. She began her experience as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Republic of Panama working in the homeless encampments within the Capital City of Panama. She has been employed by the City of Dayton as an analyst for Intergovernmental Affairs, employed by the City of San Jose as an assistant for Community Involvement and with the County of Santa Clara as Homeless Coordinator. She has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from San Jose State University and a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the University of Dayton.

Martha (Marty) Fleetwood, JD, is the Founder and Executive Director of HomeBase, a nonprofit legal and technical services provider focused on breaking the code of homelessness. She holds a B.A. from the University of California at Irvine and a J.D. degree from Harvard Law School. With a lifelong social justice commitment, she has held significant positions of responsibility with the United States Department of Justice and the legal arm of the National NAACP. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for Regents of the Franciscan School of Theology. Ms. Fleetwood has supported federal and state governments by serving on the faculty for national conferences of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Health and Human Services. She has been a facilitator (and provided follow-up technical assistance to teams) at the Mainstreaming Policy Academies for Families and for Chronically Homeless Individuals, sponsored by DHHS, HUD, VA, DOL and partner federal agencies. She has served as co-lead facilitator for the National African American Mental Health and Substance Abuse Summit (DHHS SAMHSA). Ms.

Fleetwood is a facilitator for the National Policy Academies on Co-occurring Mental and Substance Abuse Disorders, an expert presenter for SAMHSA on Cultural Competency in Serving People Who Are Homeless, and Discharge Planning to Prevent Homelessness. Ms. Fleetwood has advised the White House Office of Management and Budget and Domestic Policy Council, the Federal Reserve Bank, and Departments of Education and Labor on homelessness issues. Additionally, she has assisted the Department of Housing and Urban Development by offering advice on Section 3 of the Housing Act, annual policy briefings, serving at expert meetings, and providing McKinney-Vento homeless programs technical assistance. Ms. Fleetwood spends most of the work year in local communities responding to the myriad problems homelessness presents for cities, counties, non-profit agencies, and the private sector.

Jamie Hart, Ph.D., M.P.H. is Director of the Intercultural Health Practice Area at Health Systems Research, Inc. Dr. Hart's project-related work has included several large interagency contracts focusing on increasing access to services for underserved populations. She currently serves as Project Director for the Homeless Policy Academies Initiative, and offers training and technical assistance for a systems-change project jointly that brings together state teams of policy-makers and practitioners to integrate their various systems to improve access to services for people experiencing homelessness. She has also served as Deputy Project Director and Lead Trainer on a collaborative cross-training project to promote systems change and decrease stigma within substance abuse, infectious disease, mental health, and criminal justice system. She also directs a project for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, utilizing the same mode as the Homeless Policy Academies to address decreasing disparities in pediatric asthma in six States. Dr. Hart also directs two newly awarded Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) contracts focusing on Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act Grantees' efforts to recruit and retain people of color who are HIV positive in care and ability to assess the severity of need for programs and services and distributing funds accordingly. Dr. Hart has also served as the Director for several Office of Population Affairs (OPA) assessment projects within Title X clinics (serving primarily low-income and uninsured clients, who tend to be members of underrepresented racial and ethnic groups) on the integration of HIV prevention, the use of couples-based services, and the delivery of clinical training for providers. Dr. Hart is also known for her facilitation skills, and has facilitated numerous expert panel and workgroup meetings on topics including cultural competency in service delivery to people who are homeless and have mental illnesses; transforming care for trauma survivors in the public mental health system; and discharge planning from criminal justice, behavioral health, primary care, and foster care systems.

Jonathan C. Hunter, California Program Director, joined the staff of the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) in November 2000. CSH helps communities create permanent housing with services to prevent and end homelessness. Mr. Hunter coordinates the work of CSH staff who are deployed from offices in Oakland, Los Angeles and San Diego. CSH provides direct assistance and predevelopment lending to project sponsors, conducts training to build the capacity of organizations to develop supportive housing and works to create integrated public systems to better finance and support the development of supportive housing. Prior to joining CSH, Mr. Hunter was employed by Episcopal Community Services (ECS) in San Diego for thirteen years. During ten years as Executive Vice President, he carried primary responsibility for strategic planning, program development and quality assurance. ECS employed more than 400 people delivering services in three southern California counties through programs including Housing (Transitional and Permanent), Alcohol and Drug Services, Mental Health Services, Women's Services, Emergency Services, Child Development, Primary Health Care, Employment and Welfare to Work, Youth Services and Chaplaincy. Mr. Hunter developed the agency's first housing projects that provided both transitional and permanent housing solutions for homeless people with a severe mental illness. Programs designed by Mr. Hunter were recognized at both the state and national level for innovation in responding to the needs of homeless adults and families.

Admas Kanyagia works for Skid Row Housing Trust, one of the largest developers and providers of permanent and supportive housing for homeless people in the Skid Row area of downtown Los Angeles. Ms. Kanyagia serves as the Program Manager for the Skid Row Collaborative, a pilot project funded under the Collaborative Initiative to End Chronic Homelessness. This new federal initiative consolidates funding to provide comprehensive housing and supportive services for chronically homeless individuals. Previously, Ms. Kanyagia served as the Trust's Grant Administrator, coordinating both private and public funding opportunities for the organization. Ms. Kanyagia received her Bachelor's degree from Stanford University in International Relations and Latin American Studies in 2001.

Darin Lounds is the Executive Director of the Housing Consortium of the East Bay. Mr. Lounds has worked in the affordable and supportive housing fields for over 12 years as direct services staff, Operations Director and Administrative Director for two community based non-profits in San Francisco, CA, and as Program Officer with the Corporation for Supportive Housing. Mr. Lounds has focused on developing and sustaining housing for youth emancipating from foster care, homeless families, and adults with disabilities. His work at CSH included advocating for the creation of important capital funding sources for supportive housing as well as providing assistance to organizations applying for and utilizing HUD and Tax Credit resources. Due to his varied roles, Mr. Lounds brings an understanding of all aspects of housing for people with special needs to the Housing Consortium of the East Bay.

Lavonna Martin is the Assistant Director of Contra Costa Health Services Homeless Program. She began her career in the non-profit sector developing services and administering programs in the service of homeless youth and families before joining local government. In 2001, she developed Contra Costa County's first continuum of services for runaway and homeless youth and continues to develop and administer innovative housing and service programs for youth, as well as for families and single adults. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from University of California at Berkeley, a Master of Public Health from San Jose State University and a Master of Public Administration from San Francisco State University.

Irma Poe is the Senior Program Manager, California Program/Western Region for the Corporation for Supportive Housing. Ms. Poe has worked in the supportive housing industry since 1990, beginning as Services Supervisor for the first supportive housing project developed by social justice advocates in the Tenderloin neighborhood of San Francisco. Over the past 16 years, Irma gained certification and experience as a Certified Housing Manager and Occupancy Specialist, and has served as Director of Tenant Services and Resident Programs for Bay Area community development corporations with large portfolios of deeply affordable and supportive housing (e.g., Community Housing Partnership in San Francisco, Resources for Community Development in Berkeley). Ms. Poe has served on the board of directors of community development corporations, shelters and services agencies in the Bay Area (e.g., Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation, Hamilton Family Shelter) and is currently Chair of the Property Management Committee of the board of Chinatown Community Development Corporation; she also serves on the board of directors of East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO) and HEPPAC (HIV Education and Prevention Services of Alameda County). After consulting with and supporting their efforts since their inception in 1990, Irma joined the staff of the Corporation for Supportive Housing in June, 2001 first as a Program Officer, Performance Monitoring and Quality Assurance, California Program, then as Program Officer, Resource Center. She accepted her current assignment in January, 2005.

Steven Shum is a Program Manager for the Corporation for Supportive Housing. Mr. Shum recently joined CSH, having worked in the field of housing and community development since 1996. Mr. Shum manages training and technical assistance to supportive housing providers, and provides lending assistance to help Northern California communities create permanent housing with services. Prior to joining CSH, Mr. Shum was a Senior Associate with ICF International, a public policy consulting firm based in Washington, DC. At ICF, Mr. Shum's work focused on innovative measures to developing affordable housing and providing supportive services. Projects included strengthening the homeless services networks of several communities

in Texas, conducting research on homelessness along the U.S.-Mexico border, and organizing two regional conferences on expanding housing and supportive service opportunities for emancipating foster youth. Mr. Shum also served as the healthcare planner for LifeLong Medical Care, a community health center in Berkeley, CA, that provides primary care, mental health, and treatment services to homeless clients. A graduate of the master's program in City and Regional Planning at UC Berkeley, Mr. Shum has extensive experience with project analysis and program planning/design/evaluation activities.

Paul Tepper is the founder and Director of the Institute for the Study of Homelessness and Poverty, a Los Angeles based policy and research organization dedicated to helping local, national and global institutions and individuals understand and address homelessness, poverty, healthcare, food insecurity, income inequality, housing, welfare, the economy, and related issues. Institute services are used by philanthropic organizations, universities and academics, elected officials and government staffers, direct service agencies, policy and advocacy organizations, the media, policymakers and others. A graduate of Claremont McKenna College, and Washington University School of Law, Mr. Tepper has spent the majority of his professional career working on behalf of poor men, women and children. Prior to his work at the Institute, Mr. Tepper was Director of Programs at the Weingart Center, the largest shelter for homeless men and women in Southern California. He also served as Executive Director of Westside Legal Services, the legal aid organization for Santa Monica and Venice, California.

Kelly Wilkinson is the Associate Director of Episcopal Community Services of San Francisco (ECS). In her 15 years at ECS she has worn many hats -- Mental Health Case Manager in a Homeless Shelter, Support Services Manager in supported housing, Director of Housing, Director of Human Resources. ECS currently has 13 supported housing sites (with one more in development), 2 large homeless shelters, a skills and education center and senior center. The focus of Ms. Wilkinson's work often involves organizational, client and employee relationships – collaborating to form partnerships between individuals, as well as private and public agencies; strategic planning, cultural competency, managing union relations, employee benefits selection, and interdepartmental interface. During her tenure in housing, she cultivated partnerships to develop and implement effective clinical, voluntary services *designed to be irresistible* (and truly useful) to tenants with multiple obstacles to housing, and who otherwise might not take advantage of support services. Prior to her work at ECS, Ms. Wilkinson worked in Santa Clara County as a Therapeutic Team Leader at a residential program for jail diversion for mentally health consumers; in the Everett, WA area doing outreach to homeless people who had mental health issues; in an inpatient psychiatric hospital and a safe house for battered women in the Denver area. She graduated from the University of Colorado with a BS in Business and from Naropa University with a MA in Psychology. She is a native Californian who lives and works in San Francisco.

Leon Winston is the Deputy Director of Swords to Plowshares, a San Francisco nonprofit that provides a continuum of services to San Francisco veterans in need, the majority of whom are homeless or marginally housed. He has been with this agency since 1995. He has also served as interim Executive Director of Metropolitan Community Foundation, a San Francisco faith-based organization that provides a variety of services to homeless and disadvantaged San Francisco adults and children. Civic involvement has included appointment to the S.F. Mayor's Ten Year Planning Council to End Chronic Homelessness, past member and co-chair of San Francisco's Local Homeless (CoC) Coordinating Board, member and past president of the Treasure Island Homeless Development Initiative, as well as appointments to the San Francisco Drug Abuse Advisory Board and Citywide Alcoholism Advisory Board. Mr. Winston possesses Bachelor of Public Administration and Master of Nonprofit Administration degrees from the University of San Francisco and Certification in Alcohol and Drug Abuse Studies from the University of California, Berkeley.

Emily Zalkovsky currently works as a Project Manager at Shelter Partnership, Inc. in Los Angeles. As a Project Manager, she performs research and data analysis on homelessness and housing policy issues and provides technical assistance to other nonprofits, elected officials, and city and county government departments. Before moving to Los Angeles a year ago, she lived in Austin, Texas where she received her B.A. in English and Government and her master's in Public Affairs from the University of Texas at Austin. While in Austin, Emily served on the board of the Texas Women's Coalition and as a peer educator for the Voices Against Violence Project. In addition to homelessness, Ms. Zalkovsky's policy interests include health care, family policy, and violence against women policy.