The Drive to December

address challenges | adopt best practices | remove barriers
create an action plan | share expertise | network with Federal officials
end homelessness among veterans in your community

2015 NCHV
Veterans Access to Housing Summit

Oct. 5-6, 2015 | Washington, D.C.
Welcome to Washington, D.C. and the 2015 NCHV Veterans Access to Housing Summit! Welcome to the Drive to December!

The Drive to December is a surge of intensity and urgency leading into the final months of the Five-Year Plan. Over the next day and a half, you will have unprecedented access to a faculty of experts on affordable housing development, access, and stability. These experts come from the Federal agencies, from USICH, from our partners in philanthropy and across financial institutions, from your training and technical assistance partners, and from peer agencies across the country that have made extraordinary change in their communities and in the lives of veterans.

For those of you who have attended the NCHV Veterans Access to Housing Summit in the past, you know we travel to match the beat of our movement. Last year, New Orleans showed us how the power of perseverance in the face of hardship and adversity can create unparalleled results. There, the building blocks of change were local partners working closely together. In 2013, the Housing Summit took us to Chicago, where we took a hard look at the best ways to integrate our nation’s major financial institutions into development plans for new construction and rehabilitation. There, private enterprise and philanthropy provided the bridge between opportunity and operationalization of new projects. In its first years, the NCHV Veterans Access to Housing Summit in San Antonio magnified the powerful impact of Public Housing Authorities and cross-agency partnerships in opening housing access for vulnerable and chronically homeless veterans.

Here, this year, in our nation’s capital, our charge is to build from the foundation set in previous years while bulldozing through the barriers that remain in the Drive to December. We know that interagency work opens doors, that financial institutions and philanthropy lay the foundation for needed housing, and that nontraditional partners like Mayor’s offices can labor with us to build working systems from the ground up. Now, we have to plow through limiting expectations of ourselves and our partners, our fears of change, and the silos that divide us from one another. By bulldozing and building this year, we will be better able to fully share in the construction of a better system for the most vulnerable veterans.

Over the next day and a half, we ask that you find something new to build: a new tool you can implement, an improved outreach intervention, or a new approach to landlord engagement. Be ready to let go of some of the blockades that stand in your way: a rigid programmatic structure, a competing set of definitions, or an adherence to the practice over principle. Take this time to engage and learn, to share and troubleshoot.

Welcome to our city. Now, let’s create more access to housing for veterans!

Sincerely,
Baylee Crone
NCHV
What to Expect

This year, the Housing Summit will look a little different from our previous events.

The change in structure mirrors our mission for this event: we need to get into the weeds to troubleshoot the specific challenges you are facing locally in this Drive to December. To do that productively, you need front-line access to a multidisciplinary faculty of issue experts from across agencies and programs. This year, you have this access at the NCHV Veterans Access to Housing Summit!

Group 5: Federal Program Coordination and Integration:

You have been pre-assigned a time block to participate in Group 5: Federal Program Coordination and Integration.

Take a look at your name badge. The sticker color shows you your time block assignment:

- **Yellow sticker:** October 5 10:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- **Red sticker:** October 5 1:45 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- **Blue sticker:** October 5 3:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

This division is necessary to ensure that issues discussed in each time block are relevant to participants in the audience. Please make sure you attend Group 5 during your assigned time block. Anyone who misses their time block will not be permitted during other time blocks, so be sure to plan your schedule accordingly. In this session, experts at HUD, VA, and USICH will be prepared to answer your questions on the intersections between the major cornerstone housing programs, including SSVF, GPD, HUD-VASH, and the CoC. Come prepared with questions for the panel.

You can pick up a note card from the registration desk to write in your questions at any time during the Housing Summit. Be sure to leave your filled-in note card with Phillip Stringfield at the registration desk.

All other Working Groups

All other Working Groups will be available following the schedule beginning on page six of this program. These Working Groups are organized by theme and may repeat once or twice throughout the Housing Summit. In each Working Group session, issue experts will be seated at assigned tables based on their specific topic.

When you enter the room, choose one table for an issue that interests you. After introductions to the session, you will have approximately 25 minutes to meet with that issue expert. Every 25 minutes, you will be asked to rotate to another table in the same room. At the conclusion of the session, you can rotate to a new Working Group. Your next Working Group may be in a different room or the same room. Be sure to make note of when you are assigned to the Group 5: Federal Program Coordination and Integration session in Tiber Creek.
DAY 1

Monday, Oct. 5

1. 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
   Breakfast (provided)
   Constitution CDE
   Sign-in
   Constitution Foyer

2. 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
   Opening Session
   Constitution CDE
   Featuring: Keynote Speaker Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro

3. 10:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
   Working Sessions I
   Group 1: Local Experts and Best Practices to Foster Stability
   Declaration AB
   Group 2: National Initiatives: Emerging Best Practices and Implementable Tools and Resources
   Penn Quarter AB
   Group 5: Federal Program Coordination and Integration
   Tiber Creek

4. 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
   Lunch (provided)
   Cabinet

5. 1:45 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
   Working Sessions II
   Group 3: What Comes Next? Long-Term Housing Creation
   Declaration AB
   Group 4: Income’s Role in Housing Stability
   Penn Quarter AB
   Group 5: Federal Program Coordination and Integration
   Tiber Creek

6. 3:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
   Working Sessions III
   Group 3: What Comes Next? Long-Term Housing Creation
   Declaration AB
   Group 2: National Initiatives: Emerging Best Practices and Implementable Tools and Resources
   Penn Quarter AB
   Group 5: Federal Program Coordination and Integration
   Tiber Creek

7. 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
   Reception

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Drive to December Networking Reception

Join us Monday evening at 6:00 p.m. for an hour-long networking reception, courtesy of our major donors.

Light hors d’oeuvres and refreshments will be served.

The reception will take place in the Grand Foyer, on the same level as the Tiber Creek room.

Dress code: business/cocktail
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.  
Breakfast (provided)  
Constitution CDE  
Sign-in  
Constitution Foyer

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.  
General Session: Feedback  
Constitution CDE

10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.  
Working Sessions IV  
Group 1: Local Experts and Best Practices to Foster Stability  
Declaration AB  
Group 4: Income's Role in Housing Stability  
Penn Quarter AB  
Group 3: What Comes Next? Long-Term Housing Creation  
Tiber Creek

11:45 a.m. - Noon  
Wrap-up and Next Steps  
Constitution CDE

Social Media

Social media is a great way to engage the public in the conversation surrounding ending homelessness among veterans in your community. Be sure you’re following NCHV and sharing your content to help us publicize your success stories from around the country. Please feel free to tag or mention us, as YOU make up the truly national coalition for homeless veterans. Use #HousingNCHV15 for any posts about the Housing Summit, and find us on Facebook at facebook.com/nchv.org and Twitter at twitter.com/NCHVorg.
Citi is proud to partner with the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans in its efforts to end homelessness among veterans.

Citi Salutes supports veteran servicing organizations and nonprofit partners dedicated to serving the men and women who have sacrificed for our country.

Learn more at citisalutes.com.
Experts will help you learn from communities that are on target by sharing useful guides and resources that can be implemented the day you get back to your offices. What does your community need for the Drive to December?

Table Topic: Identifying and engaging veterans - Jessica Marcus, Community Solutions; Leslie Wise, Community Solutions

Table Topic: Supportive services funding through Medicaid - Richard Cho, USICH; Jennifer Ho, HUD

Table Topic: Move-in resources and engaging your Mayor - Jim Brooks, National League of Cities; Elisha Harig-Blaine, National League of Cities

Table Topic: Housing First in permanent supportive housing - Sam Tsemberis, Pathways to Housing

Table Topic: Rapid re-housing - Tom Albanese, Abt Associates

Table Topic: Assessment and master lists - Jessica Marcus, Community Solutions; Leslie Wise, Community Solutions

Table Topic: Landlord engagement - Doug Tetrault, Technical Assistance Collaborative

Group 3: What Comes Next? Long-Term Housing Creation

Session Overview: We have an affordable housing crisis, so we must continue to drive forward on efforts to increase affordable housing stock through 2015 and beyond. Table experts in these sessions have expertise in affordable housing and permanent supportive housing development, including Low Income Housing Tax Credits, Enhanced Use Lease, and permanent supportive housing financing schedules.

In these sessions, be prepared to dig into your agency’s current capacity to, and future interest in, taking on affordable housing development.

Table Topic: Enhanced Use Lease - Paul McPherson, VA

Table Topic: Housing rehabilitation and retrofitting for veterans with disabilities - The Home Depot Foundation

Table Topic: Permanent housing development on tribal lands - Carrie Schuettpelz, HUD

Table Topic: Tools to create integrated permanent supportive housing - Jim Yates, Technical Assistance Collaborative

Table Topic: HUD resources for permanent supportive housing development - Norm Suchar, HUD; Marcy Thompson, HUD

Table Topic: Project-based VASH - Deb Burkart, National Equity Fund (Oct. 6 only)

Table Topic: Developing rural housing - Joe Belden, Housing Assistance Council

Table Topic: Coordinating multiple financing schedules for permanent supportive housing - Nicole Bahena, Corporation for Supportive Housing; Hilary Gawrilow, Corporation for Supportive Housing; Pat Sheridan, Volunteers of America
Group 4: Income’s Role in Housing Stability

Session Overview: Long-term housing stability for formerly homeless and low-income veterans requires income stability and maximization. Table experts in this session are Agency partners, VSOs, philanthropy partners, and NCHV TA Center training partners with expertise in income maximization through benefits and employment.

Come prepared to learn about local resources, programs, and tools that can be leveraged right now by community agencies with housing programs to ensure long-term stability for veterans moved into permanent housing.

Table Topic: Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program and Stand Down - Ken Fenner, DOL; Shirley Snider, DOL

Table Topic: DOL-VETS Jobs for Veterans State Grants program - Francheska Atchison, DOL

Table Topic: SOAR and expedited benefits processing - Jen Elder, Policy Research Associates

Table Topic: VA benefits processing - Paul Varela, Disabled American Veterans; Mark Walker, American Legion

Joe Belden, Deputy Executive Director, Housing Assistance Council

Joe Belden is Deputy Executive Director of the Housing Assistance Council (HAC), a national nonprofit provider of loans, grants, research, information, training, and technical assistance for affordable rural housing. Previously a research associate at HAC, he has also worked for the Department of Agriculture, on Capitol Hill, and for several policy-oriented research organizations in Washington, D.C. Belden is the co-author of Housing in Rural America: Building Affordable and Inclusive Communities and Dirt Rich, Dirt Poor: America’s Food and Farm Crisis. He is a graduate of the University of Texas-Austin and the Baylor University Law School. He served three years in the U.S. Army as a battalion personnel and supply clerk.

Deborah Burkart, Vice President, National Equity Fund

Deborah Burkart is the National Vice President, Supportive Housing & Assisted Living for the National Equity Fund (NEF), the largest nonprofit syndicator of low income housing tax credits. Burkart has served as Vice President since 1996. She graduated from Duke University and received Master’s degrees in business administration and city and regional planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Since 1992, Burkart has undertaken work in support of housing and, starting in 1998, assisted living investments for NEF’s funds. Burkart has assisted in the acquisition and/or underwriting of over $900 million in tax credit equity for special needs projects during her 19-year tenure at NEF. She is a nationally recognized expert on affordable seniors housing and supportive housing financing and policy. In 2008, she became a member of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans Board of Directors.

Kally Canfield, Veteran Services Division Director, Friendship Place

Kally Canfield received her BA in Sociology with a minor in Social Work from Clarion University of Pennsylvania. Canfield has been working in social services since age 16 and specifically with homeless populations since 2009. During her time with Friendship Place, she has worked as a case manager with the chronically homeless population in Permanent Supportive Housing and developed the Veterans First team which provides Rapid Re-housing and Prevention services under the Supportive Services for Veteran Families grant from the VA. This program has grown to be a multimillion dollar program. Canfield is now the Division Director of Veteran Services, overseeing the Veterans First and Families First programs with Friendship Place. Canfield and her team are committed to the goal of ending veteran homelessness by the end of 2015.

Julían Castro, Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development

Julían Castro was sworn in as the 16th Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development on July 28, 2014. In this role, Castro oversees 8,000 employees and a budget of $46 billion, using a performance-driven approach to achieve the Department’s mission of expanding opportunity for all Americans.

As Secretary, Castro’s focus is ensuring that HUD is a transparent, efficient and effective
Richard Cho, Senior Policy Director, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

Richard Cho is based in Washington, D.C., where he coordinates USICH’s Federal policy efforts and the implementation of Opening Doors. One area of his work that will have long-lasting impacts is his effort to promote housing as a health care intervention. Cho joined USICH in February 2013. Prior to joining USICH, Cho spent 12 years working at the Corporation for Supportive Housing, most recently as the Director of Innovations, where he advanced supportive housing innovations for vulnerable populations including homeless populations with complex health needs who were high utilizers of crisis health services and/or correctional settings, families with recu- rrent child welfare involvement, and more. Cho has a MA in City Planning from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is currently pursu- ing a PhD in Public Administration at New York University.

Matthew Doherty, Executive Director, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

Matthew Doherty is the Executive Director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH). 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, nonprofits, and the private sector. Under his leadership, USICH provides technical assistance and support to communities across the country, building sys- tems of care that ensure individuals, families, youth, and veterans are able to obtain or re- gain permanent housing as quickly as possible and access services to remain stably housed. Doherty brings to his role more than 22 years of experience in both the private and public sectors, focused on the creation of housing, services programs, and economic opportunities for disadvantaged communities and house- holds. Previously, he served as the Director of National Initiatives at USICH, leading partner- ships with other federal agencies for the imple- mentation of national initiatives and guiding the work of USICH’s Regional Coordinators.

Jen Elder, Senior Project Associate, SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Technical Assistance Center

Jen Elder is a Senior Project Associate for the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Technical Assistance Center. She provides direct technical assistance to 12 states and specializes in utilizing SOAR with veterans and collaborations between federal, state, and community stake- holders to end veteran homelessness. Elder provides national technical assistance to VA’s SSVF, HUD-VASH, and H-PACT programs, as well as other organizations serving veter- ans who have disabling conditions. Her previ- ous experience includes coordinating street outreach and shelter services for chronically homeless individuals in Nashville, TN and Lon- don, UK, as well as developing organizational policy and training guidelines for emergency shelter staff.

Ken Fenner, Director, Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program and Veterans Workforce Investment Program, Veterans’ Employment and Training Service, Department of Labor

Ken Fenner has 15 years of professional experience in state and federal government working for the State of Maryland and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Fenner served as a vocational rehabilitation counselor and a unit manager when working for the Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services serving the universal population of disabled persons seek- ing reintegration into the labor force. During his tenure at the Department of Veterans Affairs, Fenner served as a vocational rehabilitation specialist specializing in placing the severe and chronically mentally ill veterans while working for the Compensated Work Therapy Unit at the Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center. He has also served as a vocational rehabilitation coun- selor and an employment coordinator for VBA’s VR&E program. Currently, Fenner manages the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program and the Veterans Workforce Investment Pro- gram for the Veterans’ Employment and Training Service (VETS) of the Department of Labor (DOL). Fenner is a former Marine Corps avia- tion ordnance man who served during the first Persian Gulf War.

Richard Gerwitz, Managing Director, Citi Community Capital

Richard Gerwitz is Co-Head of Citi Community Capital, the community development lending and investing division of Citi, with over 30 years of experience in the tax-exempt securities and real estate markets. He began his career with Merrill Lynch in 1978 as a municipal securities analyst, subsequently moving into the invest- ment banking division. In 1984, Gerwitz was retained to help start the municipal securities division at Security Pacific National Bank. In 1992, Gerwitz left the bank and negotiated the formation, and became president of a real estate limited partnership whose partners were the Ford Motor Company and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The partner- ship was funded with more than $1 billion in performing and non-performing real estate assets designated for liquidation. He returned to the tax-exempt bond investment banking industry in the late 1990s when he joined Citi Community Capital, formerly known as New- man & Associates, focusing exclusively on the financing of affordable multifamily rental hous- ing. In Gerwitz’s role as Co-Head of Citi Community Capital he directs the activities of the unit’s affordable rental housing lending, mort- gage and investment banking team, as well as its involvement with Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC), New Market Tax Credits (NMTC) and other Community Reinvestment Act lending and investment activities.

Elisha Harig-Blaine, Senior Housing Associate, National League of Cities

Elisha Harig-Blaine leads the National League of Cities’ work on housing for veterans with dis- abilities. As part of NLC’s Center for Research and Innovation, Harig-Blaine identifies, dis- seminates, and helps develop best practices for ensuring all veterans have a place to call home. Harig-Blaine has worked on the issues of homelessness and affordable housing for more than 12 years at the national and local levels. Prior to joining the National League of Cities, he was the Director of State Coalitions for the National Low Income Housing Coalition. His work on these issues started as an out- reach worker in Boston, where he also helped run a soup kitchen. In Lowell, MA he ran a coalition of community stakeholders working to prevent homelessness. He has a BS in Political
Science from St. Mary’s College of Maryland and a Master’s in Public Policy with a concentration in housing and economic policy from George Mason University.

Keith Harris, National Director, Clinical Operations, Veterans Health Administration Homeless Programs

Keith Harris received his PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Oregon. In his current role, Harris provides guidance and oversight to the clinical programs in the VHA Homeless Program continuum, which includes over 4,000 employees providing outreach, case management, vocational services, residential housing and permanent supportive housing to over 200,000 homeless veterans each year. Harris also oversees performance measurement and evaluation of VA Homeless Program services, and is responsible for evaluating quality, effectiveness and efficiency across programs and sites. Harris previously served as the Director of Homeless Programs at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System where he oversaw the full continuum of homeless services. During his tenure these services were honored with the VA Secretary’s Award for Outstanding Achievement in Service to Homeless Veterans.

Dominga Helgesson, Project Coordinator, Friendship Place

Dominga Helgesson received her BA in Social Work from Umea University, Sweden. Helgeson has been in the social work field for the past 10 years working with diverse populations such as refugees, adolescents and families. Helgesson has worked with the homeless population of Washington, D.C. since 2013. During her time with Friendship Place she has worked as a Contract Specialist responsible for data quality and reporting to VA under the Supportive Services for Veteran Families Grant. In her current role as Project Coordinator, Helgesson oversees the Veterans First Intake and Outreach team. Helgesson and her team have played a significant role in the startup and implementing of Coordinated Intake among SSVF providers in the Washington, D.C. area.

Jennifer Ho, Senior Advisor, Department of Housing and Urban Development

Jennifer Ho serves as HUD Secretary Castro’s Senior Advisor for Housing and Services. She manages the Department’s relationship with HHS and the intersection of housing and health—ending homelessness, de-institutionalization and the future of senior housing. From February 2010 to February 2013, Ho was at the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness where she spearheaded the development of Opening Doors, the nation’s first comprehensive federal plan to prevent and end homelessness. Before coming to D.C., Ho spent 11 years managing a nonprofit focused on health care financing and outcomes associated with supportive housing. Prior to that, she had 10 years in Medicare and Medicaid managed care. Ho received a BA in philosophy from Bryn Mawr College.

Terry Hughes, Director, National Veterans Training Institute

Terry Hughes is the Director of the National Veterans Training Institute. Prior to joining the NVTI team, he was a member of the outreach wing of Michigan State University’s School of Human Resources and Labor Relations, where he developed and delivered training for workforce development and employment practitioners. He is a U.S. Army veteran, and has a PhD in Extension, Continuing and Adult Education from Cornell University and a MS in Adult and Continuing Education from Johns Hopkins University.

John Kuhn, National Director, Homeless Prevention, Department of Veterans Affairs

John Kuhn has led the development and launch of the Supported Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program, VA’s homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing initiative. SSVF has provided hundreds of millions of dollars in grants to community organizations assisting homeless and at-risk veteran families. Prior to working with SSVF, Kuhn authored VA’s CHALENG Report, a community assessment on the needs of homeless veterans, and he introduced a new survey which now includes feedback from thousands of homeless and formerly homeless veterans. Earlier in his career, Kuhn led VA homeless programs in New Jersey for five years. He received national recognition regarding his development of innovative employment, housing, and treatment services.

Anthony Love, Senior Advisor and Director of Community Engagement, VHA Homeless Programs, Department of Veterans Affairs

Anthony Love serves as Senior Advisor for Veterans Healthcare Administration for Homeless Programs working out of the Department of Veterans Affairs National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans. In this role, he provides advice to the National Director of VHA Homeless Programs on operational and strategic opportunities, as well as identifies and recommends best practices related to homeless solutions, community, state and local government engagement, as well as facilitates alignment of VHA Operations and Research functions.

Colonel Nicole Malachowski, Executive Director, Joining Forces

Colonel Nicole Malachowski earned her commission from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1996 and received a BS in Management. Following graduation she attended Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT) at Columbus AFB, MS and began her career as pilot. Competitively selected to fly combat aircraft, she embarked on an adventure among the first group of women to fly fighter aircraft.

Malachowski has served as a mission ready fighter pilot in three operational F-15E fighter squadrons and has flown over 188 combat hours in both Operation Deliberate Forge and Operation Iraqi Freedom. She has served in combat as an F-15E Flight Commander, F-15E Evaluator, Instructor Pilot and Flight Lead. Colonel (s) Malachowski is a Command Pilot with over 2,300 flight hours in six different Air Force aircraft: T-3, T-37, T-38, AT-38, F-15E, and the F-16C/D.

Malachowski has also had the honor of serving in several special duty assignments. In 2005, she was selected to fly as Thunderbird #3 with the USAF Air Demonstration Squadron and was the first woman to fly on any Department of Defense military jet demonstration team. As a White House Fellow, class of 2008-2009, she served on the Presidential Transition Support Team (PTST) while assigned to the U.S. General Services Administration. She has served staff assignments in the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force for International Affairs and most recently served as the Deputy Director of USAF Force Readiness and Training at the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

She earned a MA in National Security Policy from American Military University and a second MA in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College.

Paul MacPherson, Director, Investment Enterprise Development Service, Department of Veterans Affairs

Paul MacPherson has over 25 years of real estate management experience. In 2013 MacPherson joined VA as Director of the Investment Enterprise Development Service. His primary responsibility is to seek out and consummate public-private partnerships with developers that will build housing for disadvantaged, homeless, and elderly veterans at little or no cost to VA. This is VA’s Enhanced Use Lease (EUL) program. Since taking over the program his project management team has closed 13 EULs, valued at $168M, providing 659 units of low-income housing. Since 1994, and prior to joining VA, MacPherson managed public-private real estate partnerships with the Army and the Air Force.

Jessica Marcus, Deputy Director, Community Solutions

Jessica Marcus is Deputy Director of Data and Performance Management for Zero: 2016, an initiative of Community Solutions. She leads all performance and quality assurance efforts designed to support a select group of communities in ending veteran and chronic homelessness by Dec. 31, 2016. Previously, Marcus served as Deputy Director of Data and Performance Manage-
ment team for the 100,000 Homes Campaign, where she participated in both the Campaign’s field organizing and process improvement work.

Lisa Pape, National Director of Homeless Programs, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs

Lisa M. Pape, LISW, serves as the National Director of Homeless Programs for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) within VA. In this capacity, Pape is responsible for ensuring effective implementation of the Department’s Five-Year Plan to End Veteran Homelessness. Her primary efforts include implementation of homeless programs across the field that provide prevention services, outreach, treatment, transitional and permanent housing solutions and supportive services. She is responsible for executing a $1 billion budget for specialized homeless services. Her focus is on operation- alizing plans and approaches designed to most effectively meet the needs of our nation’s veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Steve Peck, President & CEO, U.S.VETS

Steve Peck, MSW, is a leader in the national movement to eliminate homelessness among American veterans. He served as a lieutenant in the 1st Marine Division in the Vietnam War, near Da Nang, from 1969 to 1970. When Peck returned from active duty, he pursued a career in filmmaking - but his experiences in the service tugged at him. Twenty years later, while working on a documentary about a group of homeless veterans living on the beach in Venice, California, he met a paraplegic Vietnam veteran who was suffering from severe PTSD and living in his car. “His wheelchair was parked outside the car door and his Silver Star [awarded to him by President Lyndon Johnson] was in the glove compartment,” Peck recalls. “I became a social worker to save guys like him.” Peck promptly returned to school and earned an MA in social work from USC. He joined U.S.VETS full time as Director of Community Development in 1996, and was named president and CEO in 2010.

Ray Pennie, Vice President of Business Development, ClearPoint Credit Counseling Solutions

Ray Pennie is ClearPoint’s Vice President of Business Development. He is responsible for managing a national business development team that expands ClearPoint’s mission of “consumer health through financial education” to underserved economic groups, including low- to moderate- income populations, Hispanics, veterans, and older Americans. His team is instrumental in developing new and diverse revenue streams by forming strategic alliances with national corporations and nonprofits to further expand the agency’s footprint and reach. He has more than 28 years of experience in the banking sector, working in commercial and residential lending and asset management. Before beginning his career in banking, Pennie served for six years in the U.S. Navy as a Cryptologic Technical Operator.

Carrie Pham, Portfolio Manager, Investment Enterprise Development Service, Department of Veterans Affairs

Carrie Pham has over 23 years of real estate management and financial experience. Pham has worked in Office of Asset Enterprise Management, Investment Enterprise Development Service, since 2002. Her primary responsibility as a Portfolio Manager is to facilitate and coordinate public-private partnerships with developers that will build supportive housing for homeless, at-risk of being homeless, and elderly veterans at little or no cost to VA under the VA’s Enhanced Use Lease (EUL) program. Prior to joining VA, Pham worked for the Small Business Administration as a Financial Analyst and Loan Specialist working on the 7(a) Loan Guaranteed and Disaster Loan Programs at the Central Office, District Office and the Disaster Assistance Office.

Jeffrey Quarles, Director, Grant and Per Diem National Program Office, Department of Veteran Affairs

Jeffery Quarles has served as Director at the Grant and Per Diem (GPD) National Program Office in Tampa, Florida, since February 2012. As Director, he is responsible for overall management and administration of the GPD program nationally, and ensures GPD-funded, community-based programs provide quality services compliant with existing laws and regulations. Prior to this, Quarles was Clinical Manager for the GPD Program National Program Office from 2006 until accepting his new role in 2012. During his 21-year VA career, Quarles has had increasing responsibilities within the Department. He has directed vocational reha bilitation, community-based services, medical and mental health, and supportive services at the Cleveland VA Medical Center and served as the VISN 10 Network Homeless Coordinator from 2000 to 2006.

Patrick Sheridan, Executive Vice President for Housing, Volunteers of America

As Executive Vice President for Housing, Patrick Sheridan is responsible for the overall strategy and administration of senior, multi-family and special needs housing, as well as other real estate projects for the organization’s national portfolio. Previously, Sheridan was Assistant Deputy Administrator for Multi-fam ily Housing for the Rural Housing Service, an agency of the Department of Agriculture, where he was responsible for the implementa tion and management of the affordable multi-family housing programs administered by the agency. He has also held the position of Director of Housing Management with the Maryland Community Development Administration of the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, and several private-sector real estate and housing-related positions. Sheridan is a member of the boards of the National Affordable Housing Trust, Stewards for Affordable Housing for the Future, the National Housing Conference and the National Housing and Rehabilitation Association. He also serves as an advisory board member to the Valued Advisor Fund, a new markets tax credit fund, and an editorial advisor to Affordable Housing Finance magazine.

Norm Suchar, Director, Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs, Department of Housing and Urban Development

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’ Center for Capacity Building, which helped communities implement system-wide strategies that prevent and end homelessness. He has served in this capacity for the three years in HUD’s Budget Office and two years in the State of Utah’s child welfare system.

Douglas Tetrault, Associate, Technical Assistance Collaborative

Douglas Tetrault is an Associate at the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC), Inc., a national nonprofit that advances proven solutions to the housing and community support needs of vulnerable low income people with significant and long-term disabilities. He has over seven years of experience working in the nonprofit sector with a primary focus on issues related to homelessness, permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, homelessness prevention and healthcare. He has experience in administering federal and state contracts, coordinating the development and delivery of housing-based services, performing provider-based program evaluations, developing best practices, and analyzing related public policy and legislative issues. He also has experience in the coordination and conceptual development of federal grant with VA for its Supportive Services to Unaccompanied Youth (SSUY) Program.

Patrick Sheridan is responsible for the overall strategy and administration of senior, multi-family and special needs housing, as well as other real estate projects for the organization’s national portfolio. Previously, Sheridan was Assistant Deputy Administrator for Multifamily Housing for the Rural Housing Service, an agency of the Department of Agriculture, where he was responsible for the implementation and management of the affordable multifamily housing programs administered by the agency. He has also held the position of Director of Housing Management with the Maryland Community Development Administration of the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, and several private-sector real estate and housing-related positions. Sheridan is a member of the boards of the National Affordable Housing Trust, Stewards for Affordable Housing for the Future, the National Housing Conference and the National Housing and Rehabilitation Association. He also serves as an advisory board member to the Valued Advisor Fund, a new markets tax credit fund, and an editorial advisor to Affordable Housing Finance magazine.

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’ Center for Capacity Building, which helped communities implement system-wide strategies that prevent and end homelessness. He has served in this capacity for the three years in HUD’s Budget Office and two years in the State of Utah’s child welfare system.
Marcy Thompson, Senior Advisor, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Needs, Department of Housing and Urban Development

Marcy Thompson is the Senior Advisor to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Needs. In this role, Thompson provides input on major policy areas that affect the Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs and the Office of HIV/AIDS Housing, coordinates efforts related to meeting the goals of Opening Doors, and is the lead on various policy areas, including chronic homelessness. She has been with HUD since 2006 and previously served as the Desk Officer in the Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs and oversaw the homeless assistance grants portfolio for the New York City Regional Office. Thompson received her MSW from the University of Maryland, Baltimore in 2005.

Sam Tsemberis, Executive Director, Pathways to Housing

Sam Tsemberis, PhD, is the founder and Executive Director of Pathways to Housing; an organization based on the belief that housing is a basic right for all people. Established in 1992, Pathways developed the highly effective Housing First approach that provides immediate access to permanent housing for individuals who are homeless and who have psychiatric disabilities and substance use disorders. Treatment is offered but it is not a prerequisite for admission into housing. Tsemberis’ and Pathways have been honored by the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the Center for Mental Health Services, the New York State Association for Psychiatric Rehabilitation, and others. In October, 2005, The American Psychiatric Association Institute on Psychiatric Services recognized Pathways to Housing with its prestigious Gold Award in the area of community mental health. Tsemberis is on the faculty of the Department of Psychiatry of the New York University Medical Center, and has served as principal investigator for federally funded studies of homelessness, mental illness, and substance abuse. He has published numerous articles and book chapters on these topics. He currently directs the NYCT Institute and provides training and technical assistance to agencies across the country working with the Housing First model.

Jesse Vazzano, National Director, HUD-VA Supportive Housing, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs

Jesse Vazzano is the National Director of Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASSH) for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). HUD-VASSH provides Housing Choice vouchers from HUD, and wrap-around supportive services from VA, to homeless veterans and their families. It is the largest permanent supportive housing program in the country. Prior to working with HUD-VASSH, Vazzano served as the Network Homeless Coordinator for the VA Capitol Health Care Network for several years and was responsible for the operational oversight of homeless services for the VA Medical Centers in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Martinsburg, WV.

Darryl Vincent, Chief Operating Officer, U.S.VETS

Darryl J. Vincent has been with U.S.VETS for 11 years. As the Chief Operating Officer, he is directly responsible for the supervision of Executive Directors at all 11 sites, along with national administration of the overall operations of U.S.VETS. As a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Vincent has a sincere compas- sion for the veteran community. After his mili- tary service, Vincent went on to receive his BA in Public Administration/Organizational Development, and a BA in Public Administration from New York University. During Vincent’s leadership in Hawaii he was recognized as one of the “10 people who made a difference in Hawaii” in the year 2007. In 2008, he was awarded the “Unsung Hero” award by NCHV. He also served as the Chairperson for the entire CoC from 2010-2013 providing testimony at the state and federal levels to advocate for services for veterans and all homeless popu- lation in Hawaii. In 2012, Vincent was one of three honorees at Helping Hands Hawaii an- nual dinner celebrating his 19 years of work in the social service field.

Mark Walker, Deputy Director, National Veterans Employment & Education Division, American Legion

Mark Walker was appointed to the position of Deputy Director of the National Veterans Employment & Education Division at The American Legion in April 2009. Before this promotion he served as Assistant Director of Veterans Employment & Education Division and National Appeals Representative for The American Legion before the Board of Veterans’ Appeals. Walker served in the U.S. Air Force for five years (1989 – 1994). As Deputy Direc- tor, he maintains a close working relationship with appropriate Congressional committees and subcommittees and prepares, delivers and defends Congressional testimony on subjects germane to the mandates of the National Veterans Employment & Education Commis- sion. Additionally, Walker serves as spokes- person for the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission’s homeless veterans initiatives, which includes aspects of health-care, counseling, housing, education, training, employment and other issues of concern to the public and private sector constituencies, Con- gress and the media. Walker is a member of the George Washington Post #1 of the Depart- ment of the District of Columbia; the oldest and most historic Post in The American Legion.

Leon Winston, Chief Operating Officer, Swords to Plowshares

Leon Winston is the Chief Operating Officer and Housing Director of Swords to Plowshares, where he has worked on the housing, treat- ment, and income support needs of homeless and low-income veterans since 1995, and is a nationally recognized veterans advocate. Re- ferred by the SF VA Medical Center, he came to Swords as a homeless client in 1993, and is a graduate of its Transitional Housing Pro- gram. Winston possesses an MA in Nonprofit Administration/Organizational Development and a BA in Public Administration degrees from the University of San Francisco, and Certifica- tion in Alcohol and Drug Abuse Studies from the University of California at Berkeley. He is on the Board of Directors of the National Coaliti- on for Homeless Veterans and in 2013 was recipient of the first Veterans Champion Award bestowed by the National Alliance to End Homelessness. He is an honorably discharged veteran of the U.S. Navy.

Leslie Wise, Deputy Director, Zero: 2016, Community Solutions

Leslie Wise is the Deputy Director of Zero: 2016, responsible for strategy and community support interventions for Zero: 2016, an initiative of Community Solutions. She is also responsible for managing the Community Solu- tions partnership with the Veterans Administra- tion, delivering technical assistance as part of the 25 Cities initiative. Prior to her work with Community Solutions, Wise was the Director of Policy and Planning with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) and served as Homelessness Policy Advisor to Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, where she worked with the County of Los Angeles on the first ever joint City/County homelessness policy platform.

James M. Yates, Senior Associate, Technical Assistance Collaborative

James M. Yates is a Senior Associate at TAC. He has over 20 years of experience in the nonprofit and public sectors advocating and supporting the development of housing and support programs for low-income, homeless and dis- abled individuals and families. He possesses expertise in housing development, real estate finance, community planning, federal programs and regulations, program development and grant writing. Yates has demonstrated exper- tise in affordable housing real estate finance. He also has the extensive experience in veterans housing issues and is currently a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army National Guard. His work includes a special focus on the VA’s SSVF and GPD programs. He has performed three overseas deployments in key leadership posi- tions supporting both Operation Joint Endeavor (Bosnia) and Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan).
The need for comprehensive federal and local supportive, veteran-specific programs for homeless veterans is well-documented.

These men and women answered the call to serve their country in a way increasingly few Americans ever will.

They deserve nothing less than the full measure of our support in their greatest hour of need.

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