

Care For the Homeless and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council Presents:

Health Care for the Homeless: How Do We Protect the Vital Care We Provide Amidst Federal Threats?

Meet our Moderator, Presenters, and Panelists

MODERATOR:



Rachel Biggs, MA, Chief Strategy Officer, Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless

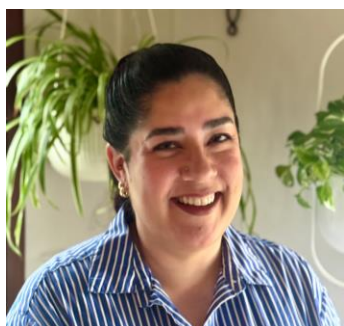
Rachel has 15 years of experience working with health and human rights organizations both abroad and in the U.S. After obtaining a Master of Arts in International Human Rights with a concentration in Global Health from the University of Denver, Rachel embarked on a career in human rights and humanitarian assistance working on issues impacting refugees and internally displaced persons in Jerusalem, the West Bank, Jordan, and Syria. For the past 9 years at Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless, Rachel's public policy work has focused on health policy analysis, advocacy, public education, and coalition building efforts to increase investments in and solutions to ending homelessness. Rachel serves as the Co-Chair of the Policy Committee of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council (NHCHC), a member of the NHCHC's Board of Directors, and is the former Co-Chair of the City of Albuquerque Mental Health Response and Advisory Committee.

PRESENTERS:



Barbara DiPietro, Senior Director of Policy, National Health Care for the Homeless Council

For over 20 years, Barbara has worked at the intersection of health care, homelessness, and housing policy. For the last 15 years, she has served as the Senior Director of Policy for the [National Health Care for the Homeless Council](#), an organization committed to building an equitable, high-quality health care system rooted in social justice and human rights. She holds a Master's Degree in Policy Sciences and a PhD in Public Policy, both from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Her dissertation research focused on the impact of homelessness on emergency departments in Baltimore City, and she continues to work to ensure that health care systems can better serve vulnerable populations. Prior to her work at the Council, Dr. DiPietro worked for 10 years at the State of Maryland in the Governor's Office as well as the state's Department of Health, helping coordinate health and human services policy and legislation, inter-agency children and family services, and the state's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness.



Nathalie Interiano, MA, Director of Policy and Advocacy, Care For the Homeless

For almost 10 years, Nathalie has worked at the intersection of health care, homelessness, and housing policy. Nathalie leads Care For the Homeless' policy and advocacy initiatives with a focus on improving policies that impact the landscape of health care, housing, equity and social justice. She also facilitates a Consumer Advisory Board where the objective is to both empower people with lived experience of homelessness to participate in the public policy debate about homelessness and provide substantive input to improve the quality, effectiveness, and human-centeredness of CFH's services and the homeless services sector overall. Nathalie holds an MA in International Affairs from The New School for Public Engagement, a BA in Sociology from the University of California, Irvine and is a *We Are All New York Fellow*.

PANELISTS:



Aislinn Bird, MD, MPH, Psychiatrist and Director of Integrated Care, Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless

Dr. Bird has been with Health Care for the Homeless since 2017, after graduating from the UCSF Public Psychiatry Fellowship, and completing her psychiatry residency at Stanford University. She currently sees patients with the ACHCH Street Health team and at the Trust Clinic, which serves people experiencing homelessness in downtown Oakland. She has expertise in caring for folks with dual diagnosis, providing care in the alternative settings, and harm reduction.



Cynthia English, Lived Experience Consultant, Care For the Homeless

Cynthia is a native New Yorker and advocate for the homeless who has both personal and professional experience with this topic. She spent 10 years navigating the challenges of street homelessness and three years in and out of the shelter system. Those years led her to volunteer and then pursue a career as a shelter specialist for the Coalition for the Homeless, an organization that is the driving force behind New York City's "right to shelter" law. The Coalition is the court appointed monitor of the city shelter system, conducting inspections of shelter conditions and advocating for the rights of residents. Cynthia recently retired from her full-time position and plans to use the next chapter of her life to continue to fight for fair and equitable housing for all New Yorkers. She is particularly interested in the plight of the elderly dealing with the shelter system, working to identify where their needs are not being met and developing recommendations for a better system.



Padmini Meda, Physician Assistant, Healthcare for the Homeless - Houston

Padmini is a Physician Assistant in the community's only Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) exclusively providing care to individuals affected by homelessness. She is dedicated to delivering trauma-informed and patient-centered care with a strong commitment to health equity. Padmini advocates for comprehensive, evidence-based services that enhance health outcomes and reduce disparities. She is committed to improving healthcare access, advancing harm reduction strategies, and fostering collaboration within interdisciplinary teams to promote health, hope and dignity.



Tamisha McPherson, Chief External Affairs and Development Officer/ Executive Director, URAM