



Our Year of

# WORKING TOGETHER TO END HOMELESSNESS

## Why Homelessness is a County-Wide Issue

A Virtual Event ● Friday, April 22, 2022 ● 10:00 am. – 12:00 p.m.

To register: <https://bit.ly/3qqoaXk>

---

### Program

9:45 – 10:00 am

#### Virtual Meeting Room opens

- *Sign in with name and organization via chat*

10:00 am

#### Welcome

Davina Hurt, Belmont Councilmember and Event Moderator

#### Mentimeter Activity

Who is in the room?

#### Opening Remarks

- Board President Don Horsley
- Mike Callagy, County Executive

#### Hope Rising: A look at the new Navigation Center

#### Thanking Providers

##### Community Leaders

- Bob Nisbet, City Manager, Half Moon Bay
- Penny Nixon, Senior Minister at Congregational Church of San Mateo

10:20 am

#### An Introduction to Homelessness in San Mateo County via Video, Stories and Data

- Ken Cole, Director, San Mateo County Human Services Agency

10:30 – 11:05 am

**Panel 1: Impact of Homelessness in Health, Mental Health and Education**

Moderator – Melissa Platte, Executive Director, Mental Health Association of San Mateo County

Panel –

- Dr. Frank Trinh, Supervising Physician, San Mateo County Health Department
- Dr. Kapil Chopra, Mental Health Medical Director, San Mateo County Health Department
- Nancy Magee, Superintendent, San Mateo County Office of Education

11:05 am

**A Video Overview of Homeless Services in San Mateo County**

- Ken Cole, Director, San Mateo County Human Services Agency

11:15 – 11:55 am

**Panel 2: An Introduction to Homeless Services: Meeting Homeless Where They Are**

Moderator – Jessica Silverberg, Manager, Human Services Agency – Center for Homelessness

Panel –

- La Trice Taylor, Associate Director, Programs & Services, Samaritan House
- Jerome Olimpiada, CES Program Manager, Samaritan House
- Isa Karabed, Senior Director of Regional Outreach Initiatives, LifeMoves

11:55 am

**What's Next?**

- Davina Hurt



### April 22, 2022 Speaker Biographies

#### Davina Hurt, Belmont Council Member

Davina Hurt is a mom, attorney, e-bike owner, two-term councilwoman and past mayor of the City of Belmont, CA. She was appointed to the California Air Resources Board by Governor Gavin Newsom in 2020 and confirmed by the Senate in 2021. She is the board president of Samaritan House of San Mateo County and sits on numerous state and regional boards focused on air quality, consumer affairs, transportation, and the climate. Her latest project participation is in the Equity Forward initiative of SVCF as an advisory committee member.

#### Don Horsley, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, President

Don Horsley was elected to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors as the District 3 Supervisor in 2010 and assumed office in January 2011. He was re-elected in 2014 and again in 2018 for a third and final term. He is currently the President of the Board for the third time.

A former San Mateo County Sheriff, Supervisor Horsley also served as an elected member of the Sequoia Healthcare District prior to being elected to the Board. He currently serves on the Boards of Health Plan of San Mateo, the San Mateo County Transportation Authority, the Housing Our People Effectively (“HOPE”) Interagency Council, the Flood, and the Local Agency Formation Commission. Don Horsley has prioritized agriculture as it is a key thread in the fabric of the coastal areas he represents. He has championed innovative solutions to rehabilitate, replace and create new farmworker housing on the Coastsides.

Transportation issues, from solving the potential deterioration of Highway 1 at Surfer’s Beach to the creation of the Devil’s Slide Trail County Park, have been highlights of Supervisor Horsley’s tenure. He has also been deeply involved with environmental issues in the county, including addressing flooding in Pescadero. He is a board member of the newly created Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District and a member of the San Mateo County Express Lanes JPA, creating a widened Highway 101 through San Mateo County that will include HOV and dedicated bus lanes.

Since approximately 70% of all Planning and Building issues for San Mateo County take place within the Third District’s unincorporated areas, Supervisor Horsley is particularly committed to facilitating interaction between the public and the permitting process. He has also made it a goal to initiate health care options for people living in the Pescadero area and the Midcoast.

As a founding member of the Home for All initiative, which originated as the Jobs/Housing Gap Task Force, Don has been a champion for affordable housing. He has advocated for quality affordable housing projects on the Coastside as well as supporting a long-term project to provide assisted living housing for developmentally disabled adults. In addition, Don has supported the county's efforts to use and supplement state funding for homelessness projects, including the creation of a Navigation Center with 150 independent living units in Redwood City and the purchase of hotels to be used as homeless shelters.

Don Horsley lives in Emerald Lake Hills with his wife Elaine and their two dogs.

### **Michael Callagy, County Executive Officer, San Mateo County**

As County Executive Officer (title change on 3/24/2022), Mike Callagy oversees the efficient running of daily County operations and carries out policies established by the Board of Supervisors. Mike joined the County in 2013 as a Deputy County Manager and was named Assistant County Manager in April 2016. In November 2018, he assumed the role of County Manager after being appointed by the Board of Supervisors. In this role, Mike has made ending homelessness a key priority and has deemed 2022 "The Year of Working Together to End Homelessness."

Mike has more than 37 years of public sector service experience. Before joining the County, Mike spent 29 years with the San Mateo Police Department where he ran day-to-day operations as the deputy police chief until his retirement. He is a licensed attorney in the state of California and in addition to his law degree from Santa Clara University, holds a Bachelor of Arts and Master's in public administration from the College of Notre Dame and a Master's in homeland defense and security from the Naval Postgraduate School.

A San Mateo County native, he lives in Foster City with his family.

### **Robert Nisbet, City Manager, Half Moon Bay**

Robert began working as City Manager for Half Moon Bay in October 2018. As one of the City Council's highest priorities, he has increasingly focused attention on homeless challenges as they became more acute during the Pandemic. In collaboration with San Mateo County and other non-profits, Robert assisted in implementing three important efforts: 1) County acquisition of the Coasthouse (an underutilized motel) for interim housing using Homekey funds; 2) Partnership with Abundant Grace to provide connection to services and employment; and 3) Establishment of the CARES program; an alternative response program to individuals experiencing mental health crises.

### **Rev. Dr. G. Penny Nixon, Senior Minister of the Congregational Church of San Mateo**

Penny Nixon has been the Senior Minister of the Congregational Church of San Mateo (CCSM), United Church of Christ, since 2007. CCSM is a vibrant, progressive spiritual community of over 600 members and in 2017 received the MLK award from the county of San Mateo. A community leader and political activist, she has received numerous awards and recognitions for her work in both San Francisco and San Mateo, the most recent being named 2019 Woman of

the Year for Assembly District 22. She also is the co-director of the Peninsula Solidarity Cohort, which is a group of 40 interfaith clergy engaged in addressing the most pressing social needs in San Mateo County.

**Ken Cole, Director, San Mateo County, Human Services Agency**

Ken Cole was appointed to serve as Agency Director of the San Mateo County Human Services Agency in late 2019. Ken has been with San Mateo County since 2015 and he previously served as the Director of Housing.

His public service career includes extensive involvement in the areas of homelessness, mental health and affordable housing. In the 15 years prior to coming to San Mateo County he served as the Executive Director of the Santa Cruz County Homeless Services Center and later as the Director of the Housing Authority of Santa Cruz County.

Ken holds a B.S. in Business Administration and is a Vietnam Era military veteran.

**Melissa Platte, Executive Director, Mental Health Association of San Mateo County**

Melissa Platte has been the Executive Director of the Mental Health Association of San Mateo County (MHA) since 2003. Prior to that she was the Associate Director. Since 1982 MHA has focused on helping homeless individuals living with serious mental illness and/or substance abuse secure and maintain housing, starting with opening the first year-round emergency shelter in San Mateo County in 1986. Since then, the agency has been involved in acquisition, rehabilitation and new construction of housing developments and Melissa has worked with diverse funding sources including City, County, State, and federal agencies as well as numerous local foundations to develop housing and support programs to meet critical community needs and to provide an array of services and health and wellness programs to provide clients with every opportunity for success. Melissa has also served on numerous committees and Boards from United Way to Housing Leadership Council, Dignity Health Community Advisory Board, Eden Development, Inc. HOPE Interagency Council, and currently serves as Chair of the County Continuum of Care. Melissa has also focused extensively on developing partnerships with other providers throughout the County and most recently, MHA was selected to be the Support Service Provider for two of the County HomeKey projects serving 150 (+) adults and seniors who have been homeless or chronically homeless.

**Dr. Frank Trinh, Supervising Physician, San Mateo County Health**

Frank Trinh, MD is a practicing Internal Medicine and Infectious Disease Physician with San Mateo County Public Health Policy and Planning (PHPP) and San Mateo Medical Center. He was the Medical Director for the San Mateo County Health Care for the Homeless/Farmworker Health Program from 2013 until 2021. In 2021, he took on his current position as Supervising Physician in Public Health, supervising the County Communicable Disease, Sexually Transmitted Infection, and Tuberculosis Disease Controllers. Since 2013, he has also been the Medical Director for the PHPP Mobile Clinics/Street and Field Medicine team, which primarily serves Homeless and Farmworker individuals in San Mateo County. In addition, Dr. Trinh has been the

Medical Director for the San Mateo County Whole Person Care PHPP Bridges to Wellness Team since 2017, which provides intensive case management and care navigation services to the most vulnerable, highest-utilizing individuals in the County, the majority of whom are unhoused.

**Dr. Kapil Chopra- Street Psychiatrist and Behavioral Health Director for Health Care for Homeless and Farmworkers Health, San Mateo County Health**

Kapil Chopra is a board-certified addiction and adult psychiatrist. He has been working with clients seen in primary care clinics and clients experiencing homelessness in San Mateo county for past 5 years. He is also the behavioral health director for health care for homeless and farmworker health program with San Mateo County. Kapil specializes in addiction psychiatry, trauma sensitive psychotherapy and medication assisted treatment for client experiencing mental health and substance use issues. Kapil feels that trauma affects all. Kapil feels inspired by the people he works with and the resilience he sees in the people he works for. In his free time, he likes to hike, enjoy nature, and wonder about meaning of life.

**Nancy Magee, Superintendent of Schools, San Mateo County Office of Education**

Nancy Magee has served as the elected San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools since 2018, leading the San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) and providing expertise and technical assistance to San Mateo County's 23 public school districts. Superintendent Magee has led San Mateo County's COVID-19 response for schools, created and led the San Mateo County Coalition for Safe Schools and Communities, and is working with partners to create a cradle-to-career system providing all youth from birth to age 22 with a pathway to success after high school. Superintendent Magee is deeply committed to equity in education and has taken important strides to operationalize equity in San Mateo County's schools and SMCOE programs. She serves in numerous leadership positions in the county and state, addressing topics such as early learning, workforce housing, and environmental literacy and sustainability. Superintendent Magee served as a high school English teacher for twenty years, a high school librarian, and school district and county office of education administrator.

**Jessica Silverberg, Manager, Center on Homelessness, San Mateo County, Human Services Agency**

Jessica Silverberg is a Human Services Manager with the San Mateo County Human Services Agency, where she leads the Center on Homelessness. The Center on Homelessness coordinates the County's homeless crisis response system, contracts with community-based organizations to provide homeless and safety net services, administers grants, and collaborates closely with community and County partners to address emerging needs, implement new initiatives, and work towards functional zero. After receiving her Master of Social Welfare from UC Berkeley, Jessica has worked in various areas of public service, including homeless services, child welfare, policy, budget, and performance.

### **LaTrice Taylor, Associate Director of Programs and Services, Samaritan House**

C. La Trice Taylor is the Associate Director of Programs & Services with Samaritan House. She has been with the agency for almost eight years and oversees multiple programs including Client Services, Food Services, Coordinated Entry System and Financial Empowerment. Mrs. Taylor has her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from the University of Texas and Master of Science degree in Organizational Dynamics from the University of Pennsylvania. She has worked mostly in the non-profit and educational realms, possessing over twenty-five years of staff and program management, development, and implementation, with some experience in marketing. Previous positions have included work with foster youth and families, community resource centers, fundraising institutions, and charter schools and early childhood development centers. Most recently, her focus has been on homelessness and affordable housing issues. She has been responsible for managing varying levels of full- and part-time staff at multiple locations across various cities and counties. Mrs. Taylor has had to do long-range strategic planning, setting goals and objectives, and tracking staff and program performance and outcomes. Finally, she is well-versed in budget management, public-speaking, quality assurance, and maintaining compliance within contractual and licensing standards according to funding, county, and state regulations.

A proud Texan, Mrs. Taylor has been married for 27 years and has a son who is a senior in university on the east coast.

### **Jerome Olimpiada, Program Manager for Coordinated Entry Services, Samaritan House**

My name is Jerome Olimpiada. I am the Program Manager for Coordinated Entry Services (CES) at Samaritan House. I have been employed with Samaritan House for just over 3 years. Prior to working for Samaritan House, I spent my time working for various nonprofit organizations throughout San Mateo County. Working in the nonprofit sectors was the start of a second career. My very first career was Law Enforcement. While I was passionate about protecting and serving, I was also passionate about helping others in need. I was able to combine my life experiences and my careers into building a successful approach in working with the homeless population. I was given the opportunity with Samaritan House to lead a team of Diversion Specialist to fight against homelessness through diverting into permanent housing or shelter placements. Our goal is to break the cycle and work together to end homelessness.”

### **Isabella Karabed , Program Director for Outreach Services, LifeMoves**

Isabella Karabed joined LifeMoves in 2017 as the Program Director for Outreach Services. She managed the Homeless Outreach Team and worked with the team to support the unsheltered homeless clients in San Mateo County. She currently serves as the Senior Director for Regional Outreach Initiatives, overseeing all our outreach programs, which include: The Homeless Outreach Team (HOT), Family Outreach, Whole Person Care, Healthcare for the Homeless and Kaiser Outreach. Prior to joining LifeMoves, Isabella served as a Program Manager and Lead Case Manager at Downtown Streets Team. She received her undergraduate degree from UC Berkeley, her MSW from Columbia University and is currently completing her Doctor of Social Work degree at University of Southern California.