



Our Year of  
**WORKING TOGETHER  
TO END HOMELESSNESS**

**Serving the Chronically Homeless: From the Street to Interim Housing**

A Virtual Event ● Friday, May 20, 2022 ● 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

To register: [click here](#)

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**Program**

- 9:45 – 10:00 am      **Virtual Meeting Room opens**  
-    *Sign in with name and organization via chat*
- 10:00 am              **Welcome & Opening Remarks**  
Mary Bier, Mayor of Pacifica, Event Moderator
- 10:07 am              **County of San Mateo Homeless One Day Point in Time Count 2022**  
Ken Cole, Human Services Agency Director
- 10:13 am              **Stories of Those Experiencing Homelessness – A Video**  
Mary Bier, Mayor of Pacifica, Event Moderator
- 10:17am                **Mentimeter Poll Activity and Stretch Break**  
What is your personal connection to the work of ending homelessness?
- 10:20 – 11:05 am    **Panel 1: Serving People Experiencing Chronic Homelessness: City Perspectives**  
  
Moderator – Aubrey Merriman, CEO of LifeMoves  
  
Panel –  
-    **San Mateo:** Drew Corbett, City Manager  
-    **Half Moon Bay:** Bob Nisbet, City Manager  
-    **Coast House Case Study:** Anna Kelleher, Coast House Director, LifeMoves  
-    **Redwood City:** Melissa Stevenson Diaz, City Manager
- 11:05-11:10am      **Mentimeter Activity**  
Audience Reflection: What actions were effective in addressing chronic homelessness?

11:10– 11:55 am

**Panel 2: Interim Housing and Successful Partnerships**

Moderator – Nevada Merriman, Director of Policy, MidPen Housing Corporation

Panel –

- **Youth Homelessness:** Michelle Mayes, Program Manager, Daybreak Program, StarVista
- **LifeMoves Haven Family House Shelter:** Gagan Sandhu, Haven Family House Director, LifeMoves
- **WeHOPE Shelter:** Alicia Garcia, Chief Operating Officer, WeHOPE

11:55 am

**What's Next?**

County Executive Mike Callagy

### **Mary Bier, Mayor of Pacifica, Event Moderator**

Mary Bier is the current Mayor of Pacifica. This is her 4th year on council. As a lifelong resident of Pacifica, she is extremely honored to have been elected to serve her community. She is also proud to be participating in the 2022 Mayors Mental Health Initiative to raise awareness regarding resources available to address mental health needs and increase access to mental health services. Mary is also the director of Alcohol and Other Drug Services at the Daly City Youth Health Center. Mary has been providing substance use prevention services in Jefferson Union High School District since 2005 when an alcohol related accident took the lives of two Pacifica teenagers, one who was her nephew, Jonathan. Her work has led to numerous grant funded programs and opportunities for youth to address their substance use in a holistic and restorative model. Her youth leadership programs encourage civic engagement and create a path for youth to participate on local boards and commissions.

### **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

### **Aubrey Merriman, CEO, LifeMoves**

Prior to joining LifeMoves, Aubrey has served as the CEO at Boys & Girls Clubs of North San Mateo County, where he led the agency through a period of unprecedented growth. The agency was recognized with many awards, including the South San Francisco Mayor's Award, the Outstanding Community Service Organization Award from the Pacifica Chamber of Commerce, Club Advocacy Champion, and League of Eagles Gold Awards from Boys & Girls Clubs of America\*.

Aubrey was one of 15 researchers from throughout the country selected to attend the prestigious Community Fellows Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Aubrey moved to the Bay Area in 1999, accepting the ED position with Camp Fire USA, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz Counties. Aubrey then became the founding Silicon Valley Regional VP for Special Olympics Northern California & Nevada. Aubrey spent over 12 years there, eventually becoming Chief Development Officer. He then became Executive Director of Summer Search Silicon Valley, building the most diverse team throughout the national footprint of Summer Search.

A passionate proponent of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging, Aubrey firmly upholds that organizations with demographically diverse talent pools and leadership teams perform better.

Leveraging diversity as a competitive advantage can result in greater innovation and success. Aubrey translates this conviction through **ABC**: **A**cting as an inclusive leader to ensure an inclusive culture, **B**uilding a balanced leadership pipeline by striving to recruit, retain, develop, and advance leaders of color, and **C**ommitting to catalyzing conversations and conditions that foster collaboration across demographically diverse teams.

Aubrey is a graduate of the Stanford University School of Business, Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders, and a Senior Fellow with the American Leadership Forum of Silicon Valley (Class XXXVII).

Aubrey also serves on the Board of Directors for Santa Clara Counties Continuum of Care, Opportunity Center HDC, Inc., and HOPE (Housing our People Effectively) IAC (Inter Agency Council). In his free time, Aubrey enjoys combining his passion for running and hiking with the enjoyment of listening to podcasts.

### **Drew Corbett, City Manager, San Mateo**

Drew Corbett was appointed by the City Council to serve as San Mateo's City Manager beginning in late 2018. Prior to his appointment, Drew spent three years as San Mateo's Finance Director, two of which he simultaneously served as Assistant City Manager.

Drew came to San Mateo after two years as Finance Director for the City of Menlo Park. He previously spent eight years in the finance department for the City of Sunnyvale, including three years as Assistant Director of Finance and Budget Manager.

Drew earned his Master of Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of the South. He chose to work in the public sector because he sought a career in which he could have a positive and recognizable impact at the local level.

Drew has been recognized both regionally and across the state for his municipal finance experience. He served in a leadership capacity with the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers for three years, including as its president in 2017, and was a member of the organization's board of directors for three years.

Drew initially began his career in the private sector and spent five years as a financial analyst at Intel. He also taught elementary school for two years as a Teach for America corps member (1995 – Los Angeles) before earning his graduate degree.

### **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.

### **Anna Kelleher, Coast House Director, LifeMoves**

Anna Kelleher, MSW, ASW has worked with LifeMoves for five years. She was the Program Director of First Step for Families in San Mateo for four years and currently is the Program Director for Coast House Shelter in Half Moon Bay. Anna has over 20 plus years of working in the homeless services as well as workforce development in the San Francisco and Alameda Counties. Currently, Anna is collecting therapy hours to become a License Clinical Social Worker.

### **Melissa Stevenson Diaz, City Manager, Redwood City**

With over 30 years of professional local government management experience, Melissa has served as City Manager in City of Redwood City since 2015. She is passionate about public service and building organizations and communities where every person can thrive. As City Manager, she directs the work of City staff to provide effective public services and ensure fulfillment of the City Council's policy priorities.

Prior to joining Redwood City, Melissa was the Assistant City Manager for the Cities of Mountain View and Fremont. She has substantial background in budgeting and financial management, and led strategic initiatives, continuous improvement efforts, and human resources and organizational development. Additional experience includes managing the functions of housing and redevelopment, information technology, and city communications, as well as coordinating the development of City-owned property. She also worked for the City of Morgan Hill in a variety of capacities including Assistant to the City Manager and Acting Human Resources Manager.

Melissa received her bachelor's degree in History from Mills College, and her Master's in Public Administration from San Jose State University. She is a member of the International City/County Management Association and serves on the Center for Public Safety Excellence's Commission on Professional Credentialing. She is an active coach and leader in public sector talent development.

She and her husband have two adult daughters, and you may see one of their two amazing dogs, stoic senior cat, or tropical fish in Zoom calls.

### **Nevada Merriman, Director of Policy, MidPen Housing Corporation**

Nevada V. Merriman serves as MidPen Housing's Director of Policy. Over the last 14 years she's held many positions in the Real Estate Development team including project manager and most recently was the Director of Housing Development for the Peninsula and Silicon Valley. She has contributed to the development of over 3,000 homes in Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties, and has a passion for building acceptance for including our unhoused community members in every new housing opportunity. She looks for ways to partner and support great organizations, including working with LifeMoves on the restructuring and recapitalization of two homeless shelters, and working closely with nearly every affordable housing advocacy organization in the Bay Area. Ms. Merriman is currently an Advisory Board Member of the County's Home for All effort. She also is on the technical committee for All Home, an advocacy and policy organization that advances regional solutions that will disrupt the cycle of poverty and homelessness. In her free time, she serves as a Housing Commissioner for the City of Menlo Park.

### **Michelle Mayes, Program Manager, Daybreak Program, StarVista**

Michelle Mayes is the Program Manager of StarVista's Daybreak Transitional Housing and Rapid Rehousing programs. She has been employed with the agency for the last twelve years and has been a dedicated employee to Daybreak. Michelle has worked all possible roles at Daybreak throughout her employment and has held the managerial role for the last five years.

### **Gagan Sandhu, Haven Family House Director, LifeMoves**

Gagan Sandhu joined LifeMoves in 2019 as Program Director of Haven Family House, a family shelter site in Menlo Park. Gagan is an experienced manager with a demonstrated history of working in the individual and family services industry. She is skilled in working with at-risk families, crisis intervention, homelessness, foster care, survivors of sexual assault, and research. She has bachelor's degrees in Sociology and Psychology in addition to a master's degree in Psychology.

### **Alicia Garcia, Chief Operating Officer, WeHOPE**

Alicia Garcia joined WeHOPE in 2012 as Interim Operations Manager and within two short years was promoted to Associate Director. After serving in that position for several years, she was promoted to Chief Operating Officer. She is responsible for the design, implementation and tracking of all WeHOPE programs and services. Alicia brings strong management, program design and business process improvement experience to the organization.

Prior to joining WeHOPE, Alicia spent 10 plus years at Patten University where she served in a variety of roles including, Assistant Dean of Student Services, Administrator of the John Perkins Center for Community Transformation, and Student Council Advisor. Throughout her career at Patten and beyond, Alicia has led and designed a variety of leadership programs and key initiatives including, The Interfaith Leadership Association, The Self Expression Leadership Program, and The Youth Leadership Forum.

Alicia serves as an independent contractor for Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center and Healthy Relationships California where she teaches seminars in cultivating healthy relationships, financial literacy, business planning, and grant writing. Alicia is a believer in service to the community and has sat on multiple Boards including, Friends of Faith, Saint Samuel Church, and the Vine Christian Fellowship.

Alicia's passion for music led her to obtain her BA in Music from Patten University. She also holds an MA in Education with an emphasis on Organizational Leadership and Certification in Early Childhood Education.

Alicia is a celebrated author of two books, *Overcoming Obstacles*, *The Journey of Project WeHOPE*, and *The Nonprofit's Guide to Making it Rain*. Her third book, *Making it Last*, is expected to drop in 2022.

### **Michael Callagy, County Executive, 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.