



Center for
Vulnerable Populations
Department of Medicine

Funders Together To End Homelessness

University of California
San Francisco
(UCSF)

Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative
(BHII)

**Cynthia Nagendra,
Executive Director**

Leadership

- Margot Kushel MD
- Cynthia Nagendra JD
- Josh Bamburger MD

Faculty Director

Executive Director

Associate Director

BHHI's Vision

- BHHI will be responsive to the urgent crisis of homelessness
- BHHI's goal is to be a resource for accurate, timely, and impact-oriented research to inform appropriate systemic, programmatic, and policy responses focused on preventing and ending homelessness in the San Francisco Bay Area, California, and across the United States

BHHI's Vision

- Strengthen the evidence-base to elevate policies that are most effective in reducing and preventing homelessness through the use of strategic science
- We know what works: Housing is the solution to homelessness
 - What policies and practices are most effective in reducing and preventing homelessness?
 - What systemic, policy, and programmatic innovations are critical to reducing and preventing homelessness?
 - What evidence do we need to build better policies and align funding priorities with the evidence?
- **Where does innovation and radical restructuring of systems need to happen and what evidence do we need to make those decisions and take risks?**

Strategic Science:

A model to conduct science that is

- RIGOROUS
- ENGAGED
- ACTIONABLE

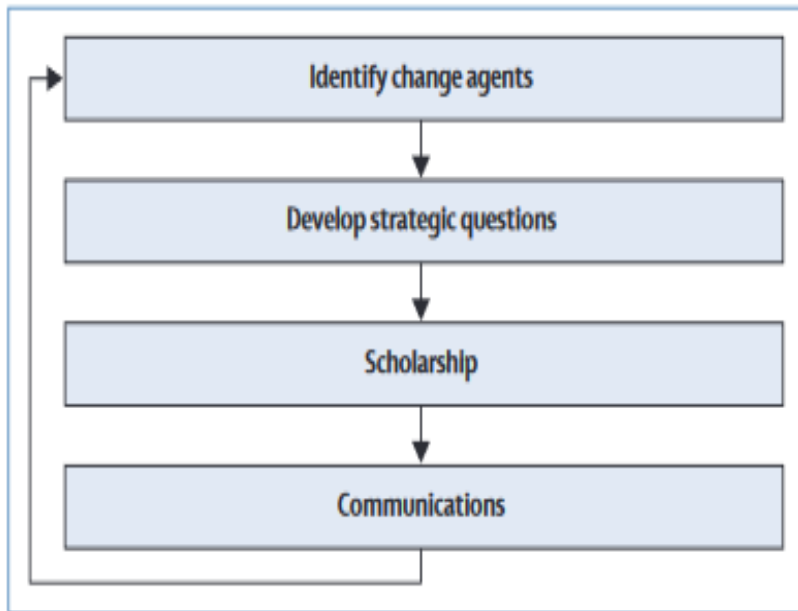


Figure: A model of strategic science designed to enhance links between science and policy

Strategic Science

- Insures that we are answering questions of key interest to people in the field doing the work, experiencing homelessness, making policy and funding decisions
- Creates a feedback loop
 - We take policy/pragmatic questions and turn them into answerable (research) questions
 - We conduct research
 - Provide policy recommendations, communications/translation to broader audiences
- Allows us to be flexible—to be able to pivot towards impact and need

What We Do and What We Don't Do

- ✓ Provide impactful and responsive answers to strengthen community's responses to homelessness
- ✓ Innovate using a flexible funding source
- ✓ Rely on community input
- ✓ Center people with lived experience
 - ✓ Hire staff with lived experience
 - ✓ Conduct participatory research
 - People with lived experience will be involved in research design, data collection, and data analysis
- ✓ Use an equity lens in all our work

Race Equity and Homelessness

- Race is a crucial lens through which people should understand the dynamics of homelessness
- Given the orientation of our policy-focused research, the design of any work will necessarily be taking into account the causal role of historical and structural racism on homelessness
- Our research design will be informed by a critical understanding of the significant contributions of structural racism with its deeply entrenched histories in many different forms to homelessness

Race Equity and Homelessness

- Educate researchers on understanding how the current landscape emerged
- Gather evidence about how to serve people of color more equitably and effectively
- Survey methods, data collection, analysis – important to be thinking about we are taking into account that racism has historically figured into research design and survey methods
 - For example, ethnocentric assumptions can skew the kinds of data results that are going to show up in our data
 - Participatory research – people with lived experience involved in research design, collecting data, and analyzing data

What We Do and What We Don't Do

- Design research that will take forever
- Design research that is not impactful to current crisis
- Design research that isn't in partnership with the community stakeholders
- Design research that does not center equitable design and analysis
- Not make findings translatable or useful

Faculty Advisory Board

- At Large
 - Eric Goosby MD
 - Distinguished Professor of Medicine, Director Global Health Delivery and Diplomacy
- Family Homelessness
 - Christine Ma, MD
 - Pediatrician BCHO; head of ENCORE clinic
- Maternal Health
 - Monica McLemore PHD MPH RN
 - UCSF Associate Professor of Nursing
- Youth Homelessness
 - Colette (Coco) Auerswald MD MS
 - Associate Professor Berkeley SPH, Founder i4Y, Catalyst Group to end youth homelessness
 - Marguerita Lightfoot PhD
 - Professor of Medicine, Chief Division Prevention Sciences, Director, Center for AIDS Prevention Studies

Faculty Advisory Board

Method Cores

- Health of Complex Adults and (And local data methodology core)
 - Maria Raven MD MPH MSC Associate Professor and Chief of Emergency Medicine UCSF (Parnassus); co-lead Whole Person Care Evaluation
 - Hemal Kanzaria MD MSc Associate Professor EM, Head of Care Coordination; Co-lead Whole Person Care Evaluation
- Qualitative Methods (and Substance Use/Maternal Health)
 - Kelly Ray Knight PhD Associate Professor Department Anthropology, History and Social Medicine
- Implementation and Dissemination Sciences
 - Margaret Handley PhD MPH Professor of Epidemiology and Medicine

Early Projects

- State Survey of Homelessness for Governor Newsom's office and HHS Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly
- Structuring shallow subsidies for people at risk of homelessness and who need more support once housed
- Examination of high acuity residents of Permanent Supportive Housing
- How to target prevention/diversion

Philanthropy's Role

- Philanthropy is a crucial partner in piloting innovations and we hope to collaborate with funders to test models and interventions to scale up
- Listen, learn, and be educated from/by people who are leading this work to keep our research grounded, practical, and useful