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  Faculty Director
- Cynthia Nagendra JD  Executive Director
- Josh Bamburger MD  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

2/26/2020
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.