

HOMELESSNESS CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 1, 2024 • BIOS



HEALING AND HOPE: THE ROAD TO HUMAN DIGNITY

Amy Z Anderson, Logan City Council Member



Amy Z Anderson was elected as a Logan City Council member in 2017 and reelected in 2021. Appointed to the Utah Commission on Aging, she advocates for healthy aging throughout the state. Among her civic duties, she is the Chair of the Bear River Local Homeless Council and on the board of the William A Burnard Warming Center, addressing the needs of those unhoused in her community. She works for USU Huntsman School of Business with the Utah Women and Leadership Project and A Bolder Way Forward as Regional Outreach Coordinator and Spoke Coordinator for Health Across the Lifespan, striving to strengthen the impact of girls and women throughout the state. She has resided in Logan since 2004, serving on multiple non-profit boards and community councils including Cache Community Connections, the Cache Interagency Council, Women in Business, Loaves and Fishes Community Meal, Logan High Community Council and others. Amy served at Sunshine Terrace Foundation as Director of Outreach for 10 years and continues to work as a Spiritual Counselor for Sunshine Hospice. In her spare time, she will squeeze in skiing, hiking, new recipes, friends and time spent with her husband, Allan, and their three adult children.

Anna Davidson, Homeless Services Advocate, Ogden Police Department








Anna Davidson is the Homeless Services Advocate for the Ogden Police Department. She holds a BSW (Cum Laude) and an MSW (4.0 GPA), along with a CSW license. Anna owned Jessie Jean's Cafe in Weber County for 20 years before closing it in 2021. She has experience working with disadvantaged youth, women with substance abuse issues and in Home Health and Hospice care. A passionate advocate for mental health, addiction and homelessness, Anna played a key role in creating her current position with the Ogden Police Department.

Sponsors:





<p>Austin Davis, Associate Director, First Step House</p> 	<p>Austin Davis joined First Step House in 2008, holding positions in Transportation and Finance before becoming the Associate Director. He holds a degree in accounting from the University of Utah and has prior experience in business, real estate, and construction development. He is the past Board Treasurer for the Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness (USARA) and the present Board Treasurer of the Utah Housing Coalition.</p>
<p>Brandon Hatch, Chief Executive Officer, Davis Behavioral Health</p> 	<p>Brandon Hatch is the Chief Executive Officer at Davis Behavioral Health, where he has worked for the past 29 years. In addition, Brandon currently serves on the Davis County Board of Health, the Utah Homeless Services Board, is a member of the HCA MountainStar Advisory Council, Layton Intermountain Hospital Community Board, the Utah Hospital Association Behavioral Health Committee, and the Utah Behavioral Health Council Executive Committee.</p>
<p>Carmen Martinez</p> 	<p>Carmen Martinez is a Program Specialist at the Office of Homeless Services and has been dedicated to the homeless services field since 2019 when she moved to the Beehive State. Her expertise lies in housing navigation and developing deeply affordable housing projects. A passionate hiker and musical enthusiast, Carmen thrives on collaboration and values every opportunity to connect with fellow service providers who are making a meaningful impact in the community.</p>
<p>Carol Hollowell, Executive Director, Switchpoint</p> 	<p>Carol Hollowell was inspired to embark on a career serving those experiencing homelessness after finding Ray, wheelchair-bound, on the streets in 2013. Ray had been homeless for five years simply because he had lost his wallet. After helping Ray get his ID and stable housing, she knew she had found her purpose, and Switchpoint was born. Switchpoint's model combines Carol's business experience with her innovative problem-solving skills. As a serial entrepreneur, Carol developed Switchpoint to lift and empower individuals in their resolve to become self-sufficient. In 2020, Carol received the Ernst Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award for Social Impact. Also, in 2023, Carol received the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute Informed Decision Maker of the Year Award, and in 2024, she received the Lane Beattie Utah Community Builder Award. Carol knew that we couldn't solve homelessness without having somewhere to move people out of shelter and began to tackle the extreme lack of affordable housing.</p>
<p>Chloe Cox, HMIS Lead Trainer, Office of Homeless Services</p> 	<p>Chloe is the HMIS Lead Trainer at the State of Utah Office of Homeless Services. She spent the last decade working as a frontline staff with some of Utah's most vulnerable populations from youth to adults with disabilities and geriatric care. In 2019, she began her work in the homeless services system. Chloe worked as a case manager providing rapid re-housing and homeless prevention support to veterans and their families. They later worked as a landlord-tenant mediator supporting Utah's rural communities. In her free time, she enjoys exploring rural Utah, history, crafting and being in the company of her family and friends.</p>



<p>Lieutenant Cody Coggle, Lead, Homeless Resource Unit, South Salt Lake Police Department</p> 	<p>Lieutenant Cody Coggle currently leads the South Salt Lake Police Department's Homeless Resource Unit. With 21 years of law enforcement experience, Cody has spent the last seven years dedicated to homeless outreach. He began as the sole officer in this role and successfully expanded the initiative into a 12-officer program. Cody was pivotal in establishing a co-responder clinician program within the resource center, ensuring mental health professionals work alongside officers to provide comprehensive support. Additionally, he helped develop a homeless Community Court, designed to address the root causes of homelessness and criminal behavior, to divert individuals out of the criminal justice system and towards a pathway of stability.</p>
<p>Dani Nives, Division Director, Youth Homeless Services, Volunteers of America, Utah</p> 	<p>Dani (she/her) is the Division Director of Youth Homeless Services for Volunteers of America, Utah. She oversees the Youth Resource Center, Prevention Program and youth housing programs. Dani has been working in the homeless services field since 2018 and has experience working in wilderness therapy and as a therapist. She has a bachelor's in health sciences from James Madison University and a master's in social work from the University of Utah. Dani works through a feminist-multicultural lens to provide trauma-informed and housing-first services to anyone accessing her programs. In her free time, she likes to ride bikes, crochet, and hang out at home with her dogs, cat, chickens and partner.</p>
<p>Dee Norton, Impact and Facilities Division Director, The Road Home</p> 	<p>Dee Norton has been with The Road Home since 2000 and is the Impact and Facilities Division Director. He oversees data, technology, agency improvement, and facilities. He has a BS in Sociology from Southern Utah University with double minors in Interpersonal Communications and Criminal Justice. He earned his MPA through the University of Utah in 2015. He serves on Salt Lake County's Continuum of Care (CoC)'s Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Steering Committee as the co-chairperson.</p>
<p>Deja Lucio, DV Data Specialist, Office of Homeless Services</p> 	<p>Deja Lucio has been a member of the OHS family since November 2023. Her work primarily involves creating, collaborating, and gathering unique data with DV providers. With over 15 years of experience, she has previously offered direct service support to the homeless community. She has held various positions, including case management, obtaining critical documents, re-entry programs, street outreach, housing, and supervisory roles. Deja is in the final year of pursuing her bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies at Weber State University. She enjoys spending quality time with her husband and four children, engaging in activities such as movie nights and leisurely walks along the river.</p>

Gabriel Roca, Program Specialist, Office of Homeless Services



Gabriel Roca was born and raised in New Jersey and has Peruvian ancestry. He obtained a bachelor's degree in public health from Brigham Young University and is currently earning a master's degree in public administration. He currently works as a program specialist in the homeless systems coordination team at the Utah Office of Homeless Services (OHS). He provides staff support to the Uintah Basin, Carbon-Emery, and Six County Local Homeless Councils and provides support to the Youth Action Workgroup and Youth Action Board in the Balance of State. Gabriel enjoys spending time with his family and experiencing different cultures through music, dance, and food. He especially enjoys performing traditional Mexican dances with his wife for community events and playing the piano and trumpet. Gabriel has been part of the OHS team since June 2023.

Gov. Spencer J. Cox, State of Utah



Gov. Spencer J. Cox is a husband, father, farmer, recovering attorney, and Utah's 18th governor. Last year, he served as the chairman of the National Governors Association. Gov. Cox has a long track record of public service, serving as a city council member, mayor, county commissioner and state legislator before being appointed as Utah's lieutenant governor in 2013. He was sworn in as governor on Jan. 4, 2021.

During his first term in office, Gov. Cox has cut \$1.1 billion in taxes, implemented landmark changes in water law, water conservation and infrastructure planning, locked in record funding for education and teachers, enacted universal school choice, and secured funds for affordable housing. A long-time advocate for suicide prevention and mental health resources, he's become a national voice for protecting youth from the harms of social media. He also signed early education and workforce program funding, launched the One Utah Health Collaborative, and expanded opportunities for women, diverse communities and those living in rural parts of the state.

With a focus on solutions, Gov. Cox promotes respect in politics and innovation in government, works across party lines to find common ground, and regularly participates in hands-on service projects. These elements were the foundation of his NGA Chair's Initiative, "Disagree Better: Healthy Conflict for Better Policy."

A sixth-generation Utahn, Gov. Cox was born and raised in Fairview, a town of 1,200 in the center of the state. He met First Lady Abby Palmer Cox at age 16 and they married after he returned from serving a two-year mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Mexico. He attended Snow College, Utah State University, and the Washington and Lee University School of Law, then clerked for U.S. District Judge Ted Stewart and worked at a Salt Lake City law firm. Several years later, Gov. Cox and First Lady Cox moved back to Fairview to raise their four children - Gavin, Kaleb, Adam, and Emma Kate - on the family farm. The governor, first lady and Emma Kate currently reside in the Kearns Mansion, also known as the Governor's Mansion, in Salt Lake City.

**Heather Hogue,
Mountainland CoC Lead,
United Way of Utah
County**



Heather Hogue has worked in homelessness in Utah County for the last 16 years. She currently works as the Collaborative Applicant and Lead for the Mountainland Continuum of Care, housed at United Way of Utah County. She serves as the co-chair of the Utah Homeless Network Steering Committee and the Utah County and Summit County Emergency Food and Shelter board. She is also a board member at Project Read and Share a Smile. She received her BA in English at Brigham Young University and her MA in English with an emphasis in Literature and Technical Writing/ Rhetoric. She is an adjunct instructor at Weber State University teaching college writing and research methodologies. She is passionate about advocating for those experiencing mental illness and homelessness. She enjoys finding practical solutions to ensure that no one falls through the cracks in our system.

**Holly Johnson, Outreach
Housing Coordinator, The
Refuge Utah**



With over 30 years of dedicated service in the field of victim advocacy, Holly Johnson has established herself as a beacon of hope and support for countless individuals affected by domestic violence and other crimes. Holly's journey began in the early 1990s, driven by a profound commitment to ensuring that victims are treated with dignity, respect, and compassion. Since moving to Utah 22 years ago, she has served victims of crime at the Tooele County Attorney's Office and the Saratoga Springs and Provo Police Departments. Holly has been instrumental in creating and implementing the Housing Stability for Survivors Program at The Refuge Utah, an agency that serves domestic violence and sexual assault survivors in Utah County. As a member of the Mountainland Continuum of Care, Holly serves on two sub-committees and is passionate about shedding light on the intersection of domestic violence and homelessness. She and her team collaborate with community partners as they advocate for the unique challenges facing survivors of crime who experience housing insecurity. Holly enjoys spending time with her 6 amazing children, their wonderful partners and her 14 brilliant grandchildren. Her family says she is an amazing cook and enjoys serving them her specialties like enchiladas and pancakes. When the weather is nice, she can be found driving her hot pink, 1995 Jeep around town.

Jenn Marchant



Before diving into Jenn's work history and educational background, Jenn is first and foremost an advocate, sister, daughter, birth mom and friend. Jenn spends much of her time outside enjoying the trails, courts, ranges and the beauty and warmth of nature. If Jenn is not outside she is creating, celebrating and/or relaxing.

Currently, you can find Jenn working at The Autism Clinic doing group and individual therapy for individuals with Autism and co-occurring disorders such as Anxiety, Depression, PTSD and ADHD. You can also find Jenn working at The University of Utah, Huntsman Mental Health Institute in the Clinical Assessment Center and Receiving Center doing both crisis assessments and disposition planning for individuals struggling with mental health (MH) conditions, such as Psychosis, Anxiety, Bipolar and PTSD. Prior to her work here in Utah, Jenn was working in California for The Arc of Placer County as a Director of Program Services. Jenn oversaw three adult day programs and a social recreation program for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD). While Jenn spent a decade providing services in California, prior to that time, Jenn worked at the University Neuropsychiatric Institute in Utah as a Recreational Therapist, and it was at that time that Jenn learned the value of providing groups for individuals and families who were navigating the world of MH, including, inpatient, intensive outpatient programs, outpatient and day treatment programs.

Jenn's passion for assisting individuals on their individual journeys began as I grew up with family members struggling with mood disorders that deeply impacted their wellbeing and quality of life. Jenn launched into the world of academia and mental health as a sure way to sculpt her path to provide services that would improve the quality of life for those with disabilities, both IDD and MH. Her undergraduate work focused on Recreational Therapy and Psychology, where she obtained two Bachelor's Degrees; one in Parks, Recreation and Tourism and the other in Psychology. As Jenn worked as a Recreational Therapist she quickly realized the desire to continue her educational pursuits, as she obtained her Master's in Social Work.

And while Jenn has always had a passion for serving those who often find themselves marginalized, she has yet to serve anyone more deserving of happiness and relief than those with MH, IDD and other pressing and often invisible conditions such as Autism.

Jennifer Redd, Division of Child and Family Services



Jennifer Redd has worked for the Division of Child and Family Services for about six years. Her current position encompasses the Transition to Adult Living Program Administration and community liaison with an emphasis on homelessness, education and immigration issues. Before working for DCFS Jennifer worked as a therapist for children and families and in programs to promote high school graduation and post-secondary education. She enjoys creating gourmet cupcakes, reading a good book and hiking with her two dogs.

Jillian Olmsted, Events and Outreach Coordinator, The INN Between



Jillian Olmsted's journey with The INN Between is deeply rooted in personal experiences and a profound understanding of its mission. As a mother of two and a military wife of over 21 years, she developed a heartfelt appreciation for the organization's work after witnessing her own family's battles with cancer. In a single year, her mother, father, and stepfather all faced this relentless disease. Both her parents required hospice care before their passing, with her father also facing unemployment and lacking insurance coverage while in need of life-saving surgery. Jillian stepped up as his caregiver while he received charity care at Huntsman Cancer Hospital, ultimately losing him to the illness. Her connection to The INN Between began as a volunteer, but her dedication and expertise quickly led to her role as the Events and Outreach Coordinator. Over time, she transitioned into Operations and Human Resources Director, taking on multifaceted responsibilities including facility management, event coordination, IT management, and organizational operations. Her commitment to professional growth and development has been evident, as she earned a Professional Management Certificate from the University of Utah and completed all nine organizational credentials from the Utah Nonprofits Association during her tenure with The INN Between.

Jonathan Graff, Veteran, Homeless Veterans Fellowship

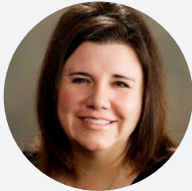


Jon is a retired Army Veteran with 23 years of distinguished service, having held various critical positions across the globe. His military career includes a humanitarian deployment to Miami, Florida, in 1992, where he assisted victims of Hurricane Andrew, as well as multiple combat deployments to Iraq (2004) and Afghanistan (2008, 2009, 2010). Following his active-duty service, Jon transitioned to a leadership role as Commandant of Cadets and Dean of Students at the New Mexico Military Institute, where he dedicated five years to mentoring and developing future leaders. Later, as an Army civilian in Germany, he played a role in the 2021 evacuation of Afghan refugees, helping to coordinate their safe passage through Germany and Sicily. In January 2023, Jon joined the Homeless Veterans Fellowship, where he channels his passion for service into supporting Veterans at risk of or experiencing homelessness. His work focuses on helping these Veterans secure more permanent housing and achieve long-term self-sufficiency. Jon's commitment to his fellow Veterans continues to drive his efforts to make a meaningful impact on their lives.



<p>Joseph Jensen, Program Manager, Office of Homeless Services</p> 	<p>Joseph Jensen brings nearly a decade of experience in homeless services and data management for service providers and state government to his role as the homelessness data program manager in the Office of Homeless Services of the Department of Workforce Services. He oversees a team responsible for supporting statewide data collection and analysis efforts to better understand who experiences homelessness in Utah and improve the performance of the state's homelessness response system. He is passionate about making data more person-centric, digestible, and actionable for communities.</p>
<p>Kacie Short, Program Director, Lantern House</p> 	<p>Kacie Short is a devoted homeless advocate, leader, and mentor. In her short time at Lantern House Kacie has grown from a student intern to a Program Director. Kacie dedicated her work to foster an environment that promotes growth and inclusivity for clients and staff. Recently graduating with her bachelor's degree in social work from Weber State University, Kacie has hit the ground running with her education and has developed into a fantastic leader. Kacie's leadership ability allows for the internal growth of program development and community outreach at Lantern House. Kacie has devoted her time to helping each case manager and client succeed through training, evaluations, and focusing on the strengths of working together. When Kacie is not working, you can find her spending time outdoors and reading.</p>
<p>Kellie Koester, Program Manager, Office of Homeless Services</p> 	<p>Kellie (she/they) is a Program Manager with the Utah Office of Homeless Services (OHS). Kellie came to OHS as a Program Specialist in 2021 after working in Domestic Violence services in Colorado. They have a Master's of Public Administration and a graduate degree in Gender-Based Violence from the University of Colorado Denver. They have been a contract owner for organizations in all 13 Local Homeless Councils and administer the Homeless Shelter Cities Mitigation account. Outside of the office, Kellie can be found in the deserts of southern Utah and Nevada camping, paddle boarding or trail running with her dog.</p>
<p>Kelly Roemer, Housing Liaison, Salt Lake County Aging & Adult Services</p> 	<p>Kelly has a master's in social work from Simmons University in Boston, and has worked with Salt Lake County Aging & Adult Services since 2003. In her years with AAS, Kelly has worked in various positions; since 2017 she has focused on working on senior housing issues. The Housing Liaison position involves working with older adults faced with housing instability for various reasons, and in helping them navigate the complexities of obtaining and retaining housing. In 2019 she won the DWS Statewide Leadership Award for her work on housing issues for seniors.</p>

**Kena Jo Mathews,
Housing Director,
Community Action
Services and Food Bank**

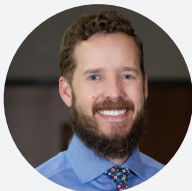


Kena Jo Mathews was raised in Orem, Utah, and graduated from Orem High School. She received her associate degree in general education from Utah Valley Community College (now Utah Valley University), a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and History from the University of Utah, and a Master of Public Administration from Brigham Young University.

Ms. Mathews worked in the local non-profit and government sector for over twenty-five years before coming to Community Action Services and Food Bank as their Housing Director a year ago. In the past, she worked as the Associate Director for Neighborhood Housing Services of Provo, as the Mentor Director for the Food and Care Coalition of Utah Valley, as the Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity of Utah County for several years, and most recently as the Community Services Manager for the City of Orem. She feels fortunate to work in a profession where she can empower individuals and families in need and make a difference in people's lives.

Ms. Mathews enjoys serving the community. She currently serves as the Co-Chairperson of the Mountainland Continuum of Care and as the Board Chairperson for the Democratic Women of Utah County and the Exchange Club of Utah Valley. She also serves in a board role with Utah Valley Interfaith Association, Fuller Center for Housing, BYU External Advisory Board for Civic Engagement, Vineyard Cares, and Intermountain Healthcare's Orem Community Council and as a committee member on various other community committees. She also volunteers her time at Utah Valley Hospital in Provo and with the Keeping the Faith campaign to restore the historic Provo Community Church in downtown Provo.

**Kevin Curtis, Operational
Administrator**



Kevin Curtis, LCSW, has worked in mental health for 19 years in clinical and administrative capacities. He is passionate about creating efficient, evidence-based, and human-centered access to mental health care for all in crisis. He is the operational administrator on the planned Kem & Carolyn Gardner Mental Health Crisis Care in Salt Lake City and the leader responsible for all of the physical Huntsman Mental Health Institute mental health crisis access programs. Kevin is also a zealous evangelist for the power of design (built environment, programmatic, care delivery and quality improvement focused design) in reducing stigma, facilitating effective care, and operationalizing organizational values.

**Kiana Tuckett (she/her),
Veteran SSVF Outreach
Supervisor, The Road
Home**



Kiana holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and a Master of Management degree from Mars Hill University. She joined The Road Home in 2023 and is currently the Veteran Outreach Supervisor for the SSVF Program. Kiana has diverse experience working in homeless services and conducted IRB-approved research on Public Perception of Homelessness while completing her undergraduate degree. She is a passionate advocate for vulnerable populations and supporting veterans experiencing homelessness.

Kirk Moorhead, Real Estate Development Director, Housing Connect



Kirk Moorhead is the Real Estate Development Director at Housing Connect, which is the Housing Authority for the County of Salt Lake. Kirk is involved with all aspects of housing development, from inception to construction completion. Kirk especially enjoys seeing the results of deals, whether from their impact on residents' lives, or how the developments positively affect the built environment of the surrounding community. Before coming to Housing Connect, Kirk worked in affordable housing development in the Minneapolis–Saint Paul area for over 24 years, creating or preserving about 1,500 units of housing; before that, he worked as a community organizer and completed undergraduate degrees in Psychology and Anthropology and a graduate degree in English Education.

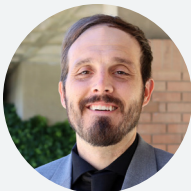
Kristen Mitchell, Founder and Executive Director, Youth Futures



Youth Futures was founded by Kristen Mitchell and Scott Catuccio, who had been conceptually planning to provide youth shelter and case management services for over six years. It was identified that there was a lack of shelter services for the estimated 5,000 youth who experience homelessness for at least one night a year in Utah, so Scott and Kristen began researching other states that provide shelter services to youth. It was quickly identified that the largest barrier to providing services to homeless youth in Utah was a law prohibiting the opening of shelter facilities for youth.



During the 2014 Legislative Session, HB132 was passed, which allowed for rewriting the prohibitive law and drafting licensing procedures for residential support programs for temporary homeless youth shelters in Utah. Youth Futures and other homeless youth service providers participated in the rules writing process. The licensing rules enrolled on October 22, 2014, and the founders began to set up the facility for licensing. Youth Futures received the first license for homeless youth shelter granted in the State of Utah under the new law. Youth Futures opened Utah's first homeless Residential Support Temporary Youth Shelter on February 20, 2015. The shelter, which has 14 temporary overnight shelter beds, is located in the heart of downtown Ogden. Our shelter and drop-in services are available to all youth ages 12-17, and we will not exclude any youth who fall within these age ranges, regardless of circumstance. Intensive case management helps youth reunite with family or become self-sufficient, contributing community members. Weekly outreach efforts assist in building rapport with street youth, ensuring they receive food and other necessities, and educating them about options for living in unsafe conditions. Youth are guided in a loving, supportive, and productive way, encouraging their own path to a healthy future.

Kyle Rehn



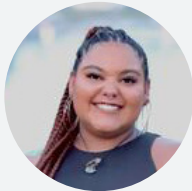


Kyle Rehn previously worked at The Road Home for five years and holds a Doctorate in Social Work and a Master's in Economics from the University of Utah. Kyle's research focuses on assisting practitioners, service providers and policymakers with the information they need to make decisions that drive meaningful and intentional positive social change for persons experiencing homelessness.







<p>Lainee Meyers, Program Specialist, Office of Homeless Services</p> 	<p>Lainee Meyers uses she/they pronouns and is a Utah native and currently resides in the mountains of Utah with their two dogs, Luka and Murphy. They graduated from the University of Utah with degrees in Psychology and Mandarin Chinese. With over 10 years of experience in direct homeless services, Lainee began their career in street outreach and case management at St. Joseph Center in Los Angeles, California, where they developed a deep passion for creating human connections and assisting some of the most vulnerable individuals and families. Currently, they are halfway through a Master of Public Policy Program at the University of Northern Iowa. Lainee's work is driven by a passion for social justice and a commitment to addressing systemic inequalities. Their focus areas include advocating for policies that promote equity, inclusivity, and fairness, particularly in housing, healthcare, and environmental justice. Known for their empathy, active listening, and communication skills, Lainee excels at building meaningful connections. They continually seek to improve their cultural awareness and bring expertise in policy development, strategic thinking, and a strong dedication to equity and inclusion to their role in the Utah Balance of State Continuum of Care.</p>
<p>Libby Hughes, Program Specialist, Office of Homeless Services</p> 	<p>Libby Hughes has been a program specialist on the Office of Homeless Services' data team for the last two years. Before that, she worked at a large homeless services organization for six years providing case management to families and veterans. She obtained her undergraduate degree at the University of Utah in Health, Society, and Policy and is pursuing a graduate degree in Data Science at Ball State University.</p>
<p>Lily Ward, Program Specialist, Office of Homeless Services</p> 	<p>Lily Ward has a master's in Social Work and has a Certified Social Work License. For the past ten years, her career efforts have demonstrated commitment to improving public health through direct services, education, research, policy development, evaluation, and grant development and administration at the community, state, and national levels. She has been a lead on several large projects such as evaluating local and state-wide homeless service programs, conducting urban and rural needs assessments and developing corresponding public health and programmatic improvement plans, and serving as an author on many peer-reviewed national journal articles.</p>
<p>Linda Cole, Deputy Directory, MAG Aging and Family Services</p> 	<p>Linda Cole is a licensed social services worker with a Master of Gerontology degree from the University of Utah. She is the Deputy Director at MAG Aging and Family Services, which is the Area Agency on Aging for Utah, Wasatch and Summit Counties. She is also a State-Certified Long-term Care Ombudsman. Through working with hundreds of older adult clients over the years, Linda has gained insights into the struggles and concerns of aging individuals. She has a particular interest in the plight of older adults who are aging alone, without a support network—sometimes known as “elder orphans.” Linda has conducted extensive research on the vulnerabilities of individuals aging alone and seeks to bring awareness to their challenges.</p>



<p>Margay Witzdam, Program Specialist, Office of Homeless Services</p> 	<p>Margay (she/her) is a Program Specialist on the Homeless Systems Coordination team at the State of Utah Office of Homeless Services. Based remotely in Escalante, Utah, she works with Iron, Grand, San Juan, and Washington Local Homeless Councils, and supports the Balance of State Coordinated Entry and Performance Evaluation Workgroups. Margay has a Master's in Social Work with a focus on organizational leadership and policy practice and a Master's in Legal Studies, both from the University of Denver. With ten years of experience in housing and homeless response systems across several states, she values collaboration and communication. In her free time, Margay enjoys hiking with her dogs, gardening, reading, and spending time with friends and family.</p>
<p>Marissa Beckstrom, Program Specialist, Office of Homeless Services</p> 	<p>Marissa (she/her) is a Salt Lake City local who recently joined the State of Utah Office of Homeless Services as a Program Specialist on the Data Team. With 12 years of experience in homeless services and community non-profits, Marissa has worked in various roles including case management, housing programs and coordinated entry, and most recently place-based environmental education. She is passionate about housing access and community building. Outside of work, Marissa enjoys great food, movies and getting outside.</p>
<p>Maygan Martinez</p> 	<p>Between the ages of 12 and 16, Maygan experienced the Juvenile Receiving Center and Crisis Residential at Salt Lake County Youth Services, during which period her family decided to have her transition to DCFS custody, of which Maygan was placed in Proctor Care until she aged out at age 18. During Maygan's adulthood, she experienced homelessness three different times reaching out to partners such as the Volunteers of America Youth Resource Center, Salt Lake County Youth Services Milestone Transitional Living Program and her awesome car.</p> <p>This experience allowed Maygan the opportunity to be the Founder and Past President of the Salt Lake County Youth Advisory Board for four years and was the Milestone House Manager for two years. Maygan is currently the Co-Chair of the Client-Focused Core Function group for the Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness, Chair of the Lived Expert Task Group, and Co-Chair of the Youth Experiencing Homelessness Task group.</p> <p>Maygan is also working towards her Bachelor's degree in Political Science, at Utah Valley University. Maygan is dedicated to learning and making youth voices loud and heard throughout the world. Maygan's aspiration for the 1999 collective is to create a model of what reality looks like when you include live expertise in the positions of power and decision-making, where we can make effective change not just for those living within our county, state, but possibly throughout the entire United States. Maygan is a part of this group because it is rare, and far between to have a space that is safe and open for those with Lived experts to bring their expertise to the table and acknowledge the reality of why they have that Lived Expertise.</p>



<p>Meisha Jensen, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, VA</p> 	<p>Meisha is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who has worked in homeless services at the VA for seven years. Meisha has experience working with clients in many areas such as adoptions, substance use treatment services, crisis work and homeless services. Meisha graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Southern Utah University and a Master's Degree from the University of Utah in 2006. For the past 18 years, Meisha has been driven to speak out for clients and to help them reach their highest level of self-actualization. At the VA, Meisha's role is to work with community partners to provide Veterans with opportunities to address their housing needs. It is only through the great partnerships with community agencies that the VA will be able to end Veteran homelessness in Utah.</p>
<p>Meredith Vernick, Assistant Division Director, Office of Homeless Services</p> 	<p>Meredith Vernick serves as the Assistant Division Director for Utah's Office of Homeless Services (OHS). Before joining OHS, Meredith gained extensive experience working with veterans, individuals, and families facing homelessness in Salt Lake County. Her notable roles included Veteran Housing Supervisor and Director of the Midvale Family Resource Center. Meredith is especially passionate about homeless prevention and rapid rehousing interventions. Meredith holds a B.S. in Public Relations and an M.A. in Community Leadership from Westminster University. Recently, she was honored with the Cornerstone Excellence Award by the State of Utah's Department of Workforce Services. Outside of work, she enjoys hiking in Utah's beautiful landscapes and spending time with her family.</p>
<p>Michelle Flynn, Executive Director, The Road Home</p> 	<p>Michelle Flynn has served as Executive Director of The Road Home since February 2020, having been with the agency for 25 years in various roles. The Road Home is a private non-profit that provides homeless services, including emergency shelter and housing programs in Salt Lake County. Michelle has a B.A. in Political Science from Drew University and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Utah. Michelle serves on the Steering Committee of Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness and numerous planning committees. Michelle's focus areas include best practices, systems planning, emergency shelter, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing. She is a knowledgeable speaker on homelessness locally and nationally. The Utah Housing Coalition selected Michelle as their 2020 Person of the Year, recognizing "individuals who have demonstrated leadership, and innovation, and have gone beyond their job description or call of service to advocate for, preserve or increase affordable housing capacity in Utah."</p>
<p>Mike Young, Division Director of Crisis Services, The Road Home</p> 	<p>Mike Young serves as the Division Director of Crisis Services for The Road Home, responsible for oversight of emergency shelter programs across Salt Lake County. Mike has been with The Road Home since 2013 and holds a master's degree in international affairs from the University of Utah.</p>

Misty Ann, Housing Program Coordinator, New Horizons Crisis Center



Misty is the Housing Program Coordinator at New Horizons Crisis Center. She has been with the agency for nearly 15 years. While at the organization, she has held several positions including Case Manager, Shelter Manager, and Victim Advocate. One thing Misty loves about her job is the opportunity it provides to serve others when they are struggling, and to provide hope. Outside of work, Misty loves hanging out with her three awesome boys and her sweet grandson. They bring her immense joy, and she loves being a mom and a grandma. Misty is a phenomenal crochet artist and enjoys making beautiful blankets and special creations for friends and family. As the Housing Program Coordinator, Misty loves helping clients after they transition out of shelter, and empowering them towards full self-sufficiency.

Nick Coleman, Assistant State Coordinator, Office of Homeless Services



Nick Coleman serves as the Assistant State Coordinator in the Utah Office of Homeless Services. In this role, Nick is responsible for several key projects, including developing new emergency shelter sites and accountability measures. Before his work on homelessness, Nick spent five years leading strategic initiatives statewide on behalf of Governor Spencer J. Cox, and his chief of staff, Jon S. Pierpont. Nick earned both a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Utah. Nick has called downtown Salt Lake City home since 2016, and is an avid skier, rock climber, and traveler.

Peggy Green, Program Manager, Office of Homeless Services



Peggy Green (she/her) is currently a Program Manager in the State of Utah Office of Homeless Services and acts as the Collaborative Applicant for the Balance of State. Peggy leads the Homeless Systems Coordination team supporting Local Homeless Councils in Utah to build effective homeless response systems, based on solutions appropriate to each community. She serves on the Utah Housing Coalition, Association of Fundraising Professionals, and Utah Nonprofit Association boards. Peggy believes every community has the potential to create robust homeless response systems utilizing a collaboration of resources, creativity, and passion within the framework of The State of Utah Strategic Plan on Homelessness.

R. Scott Phillips, City Council, Cedar City, Utah



R. Scott Phillips worked for over 45 years in marketing and entertainment administration. He retired from the Utah Shakespeare Festival as its Executive Director in 2017. As the chief executive officer of the Festival, he was responsible for articulating and implementing the organization's vision and mission. Phillips worked closely with Fred C. Adams and others and raised over \$40M to complete the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Center for the Arts in Cedar City, which opened in July 2016. After retiring from the USF in 2017, Phillips searched for new avenues to serve his community and decided to run for political office. He was elected to Cedar City Council in 2017 and is currently serving his second term, having been re-elected in 2021. Phillips has served as President of the Shakespeare Theatre Association, Rocky Mountain Theatre Association, and the Utah Arts Council Board. He has served, or is serving, on the boards of the Cedar City Chamber of Commerce, Cedar City Wreaths Across America, KUER Public Radio, Golden Spike Sesquicentennial Celebration, Utah Arts Festival, Utah League of Cities and Towns, Utah Homeless Coalition, the Cedar City Tourism Board, and has served as a panel member for the National Endowment of the Arts. Mr. Phillips received his BA degree from Southern Utah University and continued his MA in theater administration at Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho. In his leisure time, he enjoys gardening, theater, travel and supporting many non-profits within our state.

Rhema Vaithianathan, Professor of Economics, Auckland University of Technology, (New Zealand)



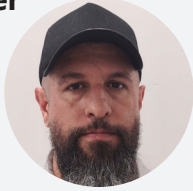


Rhema Vaithianathan is director of the [Centre for Social Data Analytics](#) (CSDA), a research center that uses data analytics for social impact. Rhema leads a multidisciplinary team that works with health and human services agencies around the world to develop and deploy research-led machine learning tools. CSDA takes a human-centered approach to data tools which help agencies serve their communities better. Rhema had led the development of a number of machine learning algorithms in child welfare and homelessness - including leading the team that developed the Allegheny Family Screening Tool, one of the first uses of machine learning in child welfare. Rhema is recognized internationally for her implementation of data science applications to enhance practice and service delivery. Her work has been covered by the *NY Times Magazine*, and *Scientific America*, and featured in the Netflix documentary, *The Trials of Gabriel Fernandez*. She also has an extensive publication record in applied scientific journals such as *JAMA Pediatrics* and *Health Affairs*. Rhema has held research and visiting appointments at Universities in Singapore, Australia, Japan and the US.

Rob Wesemann, Executive Director, NAMI Utah



Rob Wesemann is a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor who has worked directly with individuals with serious mental illnesses for over twenty years. Rob is a member of the USAAV Plus Mental Health and Substance Abuse Advisory Committee and the NAMI National Executive Director Advisory Committee. Rob also served as the past co-chair and is a current member of the Executive Committee of the Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness. Rob is dedicated to improving the lives of those with mental health conditions. In Rob's spare time he works as a Master Scuba Diver Trainer, certified by the Professional Association of Diving Instructors, and helps his wife run our scuba diving business. Rob also enjoys biking and cooking, and has three children and lives in the Salt Lake Valley.



<p>Rocky Corday, Social Worker</p> 	<p>Rocky Cordray has been a social worker in Salt Lake City for eleven years. He developed Housing Survival seven years ago as a harm reduction class to help clients avoid eviction and the traumas of homeless recidivism.</p>
<p>Ryan Wilson, Program Manager, Office of Homeless Services</p> 	<p>Ryan Wilson is the Program Manager supporting Federal and Deeply Affordable Housing Programs in the Office of Homeless Services at the Utah Department of Workforce Services (DWS). He has worked in numerous roles in low-income housing and homelessness over the last 10 years including outreach, service coordination, property management, LIHTC/HOME/811/202 compliance and programs management. Ryan is passionate about service and supporting marginalized communities across our state.</p>
<p>Commissioner Sharon Arrington Bolos</p> 	<p>Commissioner Sharon Arrington Bolos is a graduate of Weber State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting. She later earned a Master of Public Administration degree from Southern Utah University. Her interest in public service began at an early age, as she watched her grandfather, Jack Arrington, serve as a State Representative for 20 years. He taught her the importance of listening to and staying engaged with the people she represents. After moving to her husband Gus's hometown of West Haven, where they raised their six children, Sharon served on the City Council and then as the Mayor of West Haven City. She began her service on the Weber County Commission in 2023. During her years of elected service, she worked for many years as a self-employed accountant, supporting local small business owners. Among the many reasons that Sharon enjoys public service, the opportunity to interact with residents and the employees who serve them tops the list. She practices complete transparency and encourages all to become involved in their local government, stay informed, and join with their neighbors in efforts to improve our community. She is honest, and fair, and enjoys difficult conversations with constituents and working together to find solutions to the issues we face. Sharon has been married to Gus Bolos for thirty-three years. Their growing family includes six grown children, in-laws, and three grandchildren, all of whom have made their homes here in Weber County. She enjoys spending time with her family, volunteering in local schools and at community events, and white water rafting on the Snake River each summer with her extended family. Her other hobbies include running, sewing homemade Christmas pajamas for the family each year, and hosting family game nights.</p>

**Shawn McMillen, MPA,
ASUDC, Executive
Director, First Step House**



Shawn began working within the field of substance abuse treatment services in 1987 at the University Neuropsychiatric Institute (UNI). While at UNI, he moved from serving as a counselor on the graveyard shift to the position of Primary Counselor in the Recovery Unit, and Program Manager for Experiential Therapy (Ropes Course). In 1998, Shawn served as the Statewide Intake Coordinator for a substance abuse treatment provider tasked to develop a centralized assessment unit. After joining First Step House in 2003, Shawn earned his Master's in Public Administration (MPA) from the University of Utah, and in 2005, Shawn became the Executive Director of First Step House. Shawn is a strong believer in the idea that treatment is essential, but not sufficient to help individuals achieve stability in the community. Shawn is presently the Chair of the Salt Lake Alcohol & Drug Abuse Coordinating Council, Past-President of the Association of Utah Substance Abuse Professionals, Co-Chair of the Health & Wellness Core Function Group of the Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness, a Member of the Behavioral Health Workforce Workgroup of the Utah Substance Abuse and Anti-violence Coalition and a member of the Mountain/Plains Addiction Technology Transfer Center Advisory Council. He has also served as Adjunct Faculty in the Master of Public Administration and College of Social Work at the University of Utah.

**Shaylee Tulane, Program
Specialist, Office of
Homeless Services**



Shaylee Tulane, MPA, is a Program Specialist in the Office of Homeless Services. She has been responsible for State- and Federally-funded contracts across the State of Utah focused on making homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring. Shaylee recently graduated with a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Utah. Her work focused on the public sector's effect on nonprofit mission attainment and drift. Before joining the Office of Homeless Services, Shaylee was a Trainer and Program Analyst for Arrive Utah. Arrive Utah was dedicated to poverty alleviation and Circle's program coordination. Shaylee has over three years of experience in community organizing and over 12 years of experience in public speaking.

**Shirlee Draper, Director
of Operations, Cherish
Families**



Shirlee Draper was born and raised in "Short Creek." After leaving the community, she obtained a Bachelor of Social Work and a Master of Public Administration. She has served in many capacities in the rebirth of her hometown, including facilitating the election of the first female mayor in 2017; opening a community health clinic in 2019; serving on the board of the UEP Trust and Short Creek Community Center; and part of the Collective Impact project to make Short Creek a Blue Zone, with the target of increased health for all residents. She is employed as Director of Operations for Cherish Families, a social service nonprofit that offers crime victim and wraparound services for people from polygamous backgrounds who need stability. She specializes in bridging the population with mainstream society and provides education for outside service providers and government agencies to facilitate cultural competence in dealing with fundamentalist community members. She also serves on several state and civic committees. Shirlee lives in St. George with her children and relishes the moments when she can spend time with them.

Sue Ativalu, Vice President, Program Operations, Volunteers of America Utah



Sue serves as the Vice President of Program Operations for VOA, Utah. She received her Master of Social Work Degree from the University of Utah in 2015 and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. She is responsible for overseeing our adult and youth homeless services programs, which include the Geraldine E. King Women's Resource Center, our Homeless Outreach Program, our detoxification and withdrawal management programs, and our Youth Resource Center. She has worked for VOA, Utah since 2008, serving as a Staff Coordinator, Case Manager, Program Director for the Detoxification Center, Program Director for the Homeless Youth Resource Center and Division Director of Adult Homeless Services. Sue received the 2024 Program Excellence Innovator Award from Volunteers of America National for her exemplary human service work utilizing trauma-informed care, outstanding leadership and use of best practices.

Tessa Nicolaidis, Director, Connie Crosby Family Resource Center



Tessa Nicolaidis is the Director of the Connie Crosby Family Resource Center in Midvale, bringing a decade of experience in housing and homeless services. She attended Saint Mary's College in California, where she competed on the Division 1 College soccer team, before ultimately graduating from Utah State University in 2014 with a BA in English. Shortly after graduation, Tessa began her career at The Road Home as a Housing Navigator. Her journey in the organization saw her progress through various roles, including Eligibility Controller, Housing Navigation Team Lead, Housing Navigation Manager, and eventually Resource Center Director. Tessa is passionate about housing and finding creative ways to break down barriers so that every person and family can find a safe and affordable place to live. She consistently applies a lower-barrier, housing-focused lens to shelter operations, aiming to shorten each family's stay and facilitate their transition into permanent and supportive housing. Outside of work, Tessa enjoys reading, watching movies, and spending time with her dog, Fitzgerald.

Tricia Davis, Director, Office of Homeless Services



Tricia is the Director of the Utah Office of Homeless Services, collaborating closely with State Homelessness Coordinator Wayne Niederhauser. With over 20 years of experience in social services, Tricia has been dedicated to advancing the well-being of children, families, and individuals. She began her tenure with the Department of Workforce Services in 2004, where she has held diverse roles including direct service and case management, training and supervising case managers, monitoring and providing technical assistance to grantees, and designing grants and requests for proposals. Her expertise includes developing and implementing policies, facilitating system-level planning and coordination, and managing state and federal funding. Tricia also serves on the *Council of State and Community Development Agencies* Board of Directors, a national organization that shapes policy recommendations for federal funding related to housing and homelessness. As a strategic thinker, she is committed to fostering positive systemic change through inclusive collaboration, ensuring that clients, providers, advocates, policymakers, stakeholders and funders all have a voice in the process.

Tyson Rogers, Program Specialist, Office of Homeless Services



Tyson has been working in Homeless Services for approaching 10 years as an Outreach Specialist and Supervisor. He began his career as a Client Advocate at the old Road Home Shelter on 210 Rio Grande St. assisting with shelter operations. He was then offered a position as the Street Outreach Specialist for the SSVF Program (Supportive Services for Veteran Families), also based out of The Road Home. He was then promoted to the Street Outreach Supervisor role where he supervised a team of four that was responsible for providing Street Outreach and a Hotel Emergency Shelter program for families who were homeless with minor-aged children in SL County. He then took that experience and moved to the State of Utah's Office of Homeless Services and is currently a Program Specialist for the Homeless Systems Coordination Team.

Victoria Vuyovich, Impact Coordinator, The Road Home



Victoria Vuyovich serves as the Impact Coordinator at The Road Home, Utah's largest provider of homeless services. She manages all facets of the agency's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). With over eight years of experience in the field, Victoria is committed to a client-centered approach in all data-driven initiatives and is passionate about leveraging data to enhance program outcomes. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Gender Studies, English and Sociology from the University of Utah in 2014.

Wayne Niederhauser, Utah Homelessness Coordinator, Office of Homeless Services



Wayne Niederhauser is a former state legislator serving in the Utah State Senate for 12-and-a-half years, six of those years as Senate President. His administration was marked by a measured and collaborative approach to policy. He helped lead the State out of the Great Recession into an era of great prosperity. His efforts and leadership were centered around addressing the challenges of Utah's amazing growth.

Wayne received his education from Utah State University, where he earned a master's degree in accounting. While attending the University, he met and married his wife, Melissa Barrett. They have been married for 40 years and have five children and two grandchildren.

His public service now consists as the full-time Utah Homelessness Coordinator and Chief Administrative Officer of the Office of Homeless Services.

Wayne has worked hard to learn about Utah's homelessness response system. He has traveled the state to meet with local officials and providers of homeless services, but his best understanding has come from visiting with those who are experiencing homelessness, which he does on a weekly basis. Key accomplishments in his first two years as coordinator are: complete revision of Utah's Plan to Address Homelessness, unprecedented funding from the legislature for deeply affordable housing and services, significant policy changes through legislation and more effective coordination.