



FOUNDATIONS FOR SUCCESS: LEARNING COLLABORATIVE



# Breaking Ground

**October 17, 2023**  
**9:00 am – 10:15 am**

# **DHCS Welcome**

**Ilana Rub, Section Chief**

**Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Section**

**Community Services Division**

**Department of Health Care Services**

# Opening Remarks

**Mark Ghaly, MD, MPH**

**Secretary**

**California Health and Human Services Agency**

# Conference Moderator

**Deborah (Deb) Werner**

**BHBH Program Director**

**Advocates for Human Potential, Inc.**

# BHBH Program Background

- » The BHBH Program provides \$1.5 billion in funding for county behavioral health agencies and tribal entities through June 30, 2027 to address housing needs of people experiencing homelessness and serious behavioral health conditions.
- » The BHBH Program builds on the California Health and Human Services Agency's [Guiding Principles & Strategic Priorities](#) and enables DHCS and grantees to meaningfully contribute to the implementation of the California Interagency Council on Homelessness's [Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California](#).
- » The BHBH program will be implemented in alignment with the CARE Act, which prioritizes BHBH Program resources for CARE Act participants.

# County BHA RFA Overview

- » Approximately \$900 million committed to more than 50 counties through June 30, 2027 for planning and implementation of bridge housing settings for Californians experiencing homelessness who have serious behavioral health conditions (a serious mental illness and/or substance use disorder).
- » Counties determine settings based on local needs:
  - Shelter
  - Interim Housing
  - Rental Assistance
  - Auxiliary Funding in Assisted Living
  - Housing Navigation (required)
  - Start-up Infrastructure (funding limited)

# Perspectives on Homelessness, Housing and Behavioral Health

# Guest Panelists



**Phebe Bell**

Director  
Nevada County  
Behavioral Health



**Veronica Lewis**

Director  
Homeless Outreach  
Program Integrated Care  
System (HOPICS)  
Special Service for Groups



**Marty Fleetwood**

Consultant, Founder of  
HomeBase



# Learning Collaborative Highlights and Logistics

## Tuesday, October 17

9:00 am – 10:15 am

### Welcome to the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program (BHBH) Plenary: Breaking Ground

- *Ilana Rub, BHBH Section Chief Community Service Division, DHCS*
- *Mark Ghaly, MD, MPH, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency*
- *Deborah (Deb) Werner, BHBH Program Director, AHP*
- *Marty Fleetwood, Consultant, Founder of Homebase*
- *Veronica Lewis, Director, HOPICS, Special Service for Groups*
- *Phebe Bell, Director, Nevada County Behavioral Health*

11:00 am – 12:15 pm

#### Rural/Frontier Implementation: Facilitated Discussion

- *Sherri Downing, Senior Consultant II, AHP*
- *Michael Helmick, BHBH Program Deputy Director, AHP*

#### Taking a Team Approach: Outreach and Engagement

- *Valeria Reyes, Senior Program Associate, AHP*
- *Nichole Stevens, Senior Program Manager II, AHP*

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm

#### Finding Units and Engaging Property Owners/ Managers

- *Meadow Robinson, Homebase (Moderator)*
- *Kris Maun, Senior Staff Attorney, Homebase*
- *Nicole McCray-Dickerson, Directing Analyst, Homebase*

#### More than Housing: Building Community and Engagement Facilitated Discussion

- *Sarah Kimbrough, BHBH Program TTA Manager, AHP*
- *Ashlye Durrell, Senior Program Manager I, AHP*

2:45 pm – 4:00 pm

#### Harm Reduction in Bridge Housing: A Facilitated Discussion

- *Sarah Kimbrough, BHBH TTA Manager, AHP*
- *Sherri Downing, Senior Consultant II, AHP*

#### Recovery Housing and Behavioral Health Bridge Housing

- *Andunett Langhum, Senior Consultant I AHP (Moderator)*
- *Deb Werner, BHBH Program Director, AHP*
- *Dave Sheridan, Executive Director, National Association of Recovery Residences*

## Wednesday, October 18

9:00 am - 10:30 am

### CalAIM Intersections with Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program

- Lucy Pagel, Director, Medicaid Programs, Aurrera Health Group (Moderator)
- Dana Durham, Managed Care Quality and Monitoring Division Chief, DHCS
- Alison Klurfeld, Consultant, Klurfeld Consulting

### Leading Wellbeing: Developing and Maintaining a Healthy Workforce

- Andrew Boutros, Senior Consultant I, AHP (Moderator)
- Tara Fischer, Senior Program Manager II, AHP
- Martina Durant, Senior Program Manager, AHP

11:00 am – 12:15 pm

### Housing Navigation Best Practices

- Michael Helmick, BHBH Deputy Program Director, AHP (Moderator)
- Aram Hauslaib, Directing Attorney, Homebase
- Devra Edelman, Senior Policy Analyst, Homebase

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm

### Overcoming Racial and Cultural Disparities and Barriers

- Keely McCave, Senior Consultant 1, AHP (Moderator)
- Pat Tucker, Director of DEI, AHP

### Rental Assistance Models (101)

- Eli Hamilton, Directing Attorney, Homebase
- Karen Kowal, Directing Analyst, Homebase

2:45 pm – 4:00 pm

### Braiding Funding for Health and Housing

- Ilana Rub, BHBH Section Chief, Community Service Division, DHCS (Moderator)
- Tyler Sadwith, Deputy Director, DHCs
- Molly Brassil, Senior Vice President, Aurrera Health Group
- Jean Field, Director, Homebase
- Cheryl Winter, Associate Director, CA State Policy, Corp. for Supportive Housing

### Rental Assistance Models (101) Policies and Procedures Facilitated Discussion

- Meadow Robinson, Senior Directing Attorney, Homebase
- Alex Michel, Senior Policy Analyst, Homebase

## Thursday, October 19

9:00 am -10:30 am

### AB 977 and HMIS Implementation

- Deme Hill, Principal Consultant, AHP (Moderator)
- Ciara Collins, Research, Methods, and Evaluation Associate, Abt Associates
- Mary Schwartz, Senior Associate, Abt Associates

11:00 am – 12:15 pm

### Using Motels Effectively for Bridge Housing

- Toni Sparrow, Senior Program Associate, AHP (Moderator)
- Leslie Jordan, & Deborah Lever PERCH Projects
- Louie Aguilar, Senior Operations Manager, AHP

### Integrating Meaningful Inclusion of People with Lived Experience

- Rue Mansour, Program Associate, AHP (Moderator)
- Valeria Reyes, Senior Program Associate, AHP
- Nichole Stevens, Senior Program Manager, AHP

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm

### CARE Program and BHBH Implementation Update

- Ilana Rub, BHBH Section Chief Community Service Division, DHCS (Moderator)
- Anne Hadreas, Supervising Attorney, Judicial Council of California
- Ashley Love, CARE Court Section Chief, DHCS
- HMA and Associates CARE Court TTA Team

### Auxiliary Funding in Assisted Living Models

- Kate Johnson, Director, Medicaid Policy & Programs, Aurrera Health Group,
- LA County Department of Mental Health

2:45 pm – 4:00 pm

### Creating Strong Partnerships and Collaborative Relationships

- Toni Sparrow, Senior Program Associate, AHP (Moderator)
- Deme Hill, Principal Consultant, AHP
- Michael Helmick, BHBH Program Deputy Director, AHP

### Auxiliary Funding in Assisted Living Models Facilitated Discussion

- Kate Johnson, Director, Medicaid Policy & Programs, Aurrera Health Group (Facilitator)
- Lauren Block, V. P., Medicaid Policy & Programs, Aurrera Health Group

## Friday, October 20

9:00 am – 10:15 am

### Plenary: Building Forward

- Marlies Perez, DHCS
- Deb Werner, BHBH Program Director, AHP
- Sarah Kimbrough, BHBH TTA Manager, AHP