

Executive Leadership



Tamera Kohler

Chief Executive Officer

Tamera Kohler, Chief Executive Officer of the Regional Task Force on Homelessness (RTFH), has 19 years of senior leadership roles in state and local government specializing in poverty and homelessness, nonprofit, and mortgage lending experience, including spending more than eight years helping lead nationally-noted homelessness reduction programs in the State of Utah. Since assuming the role of CEO in November 2018, Ms. Kohler has led the RTFH in its growth as a trusted leader and expert for the San Diego County region.

Her strategic planning expertise and deep knowledge of the issues and proven solutions have framed the organization's growth, strengthened connections to the community, and fostered trusted relationships with government, civic leaders, and service providers alike. She has attracted top talent to her executive team and has increased funding for the San Diego Region to address homelessness by \$40 million annually, which she and her team administer to programs throughout the region.

At RTFH she has created a unique two-board structure to help ensure that homelessness is a rare, brief and nonrecurring issue for people. One, a 31-member advisory board that brings together a deep array of lived experience, government, civic and nonprofit leaders to enact policy and best practices to address and end homelessness. The other, a smaller non-profit board formed of executives focused on fiscal oversight and philanthropy.

Ms. Kohler joined the RTFH after having served in Seattle's Human Services Department as Division Director of Homeless Strategy and Investment where she oversaw 45 employees, a \$58 million budget, and the implementation of a new homeless strategy. Before Seattle, she served eight years at the State of Utah as the Assistant Division Director of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for the Utah Department of Workforce Services. There she oversaw federal and state funding and strategic planning for CSBG, CDBG, HOPWA, HOME, LIHEP, WAP, EITC, FEMA, TANF, the State housing loan fund, State homeless trust fund, and the Emergency Food Network. She staffed and facilitated the Utah Lt. Governor's Homeless committee with all department heads on the board and oversaw the Community Impact Board fund, including the state mineral rights resources.

Ms. Kohler has served on national committees and panels and as the Vice President of the National Association for State Community Services Programs board. She has a strong track record in community engagement, strategic planning, contracting, and the data-driven system improvements critical today to achieve measurable results and ensure resources are allocated wisely. She is well known and a trusted, effective change agent with indispensable big picture, system-level planning expertise and brings a unique connection and network to the highest level of national and state leaders in homelessness.

2024 RTFH Staff Member Biographies



Lahela Mattox

Chief Operating Officer

Lahela Mattox, Chief Operations Officer at the Regional Task Force on Homelessness San Diego has more than 20 years of experience in direct services and program development in behavioral health, homelessness and housing, poverty programs, and workforce development in both California and Hawaii. Since joining RTFH in 2019 Ms. Mattox supported RTFH in launching a regional Flexible Housing Pool, a nationally recognized model; provided recommendations and fiscal guidance on housing focused solutions during the public health pandemic; and continues to provide expertise in understanding funding and leveraging resources. She has secured more than \$15M in funding including a \$5M grant from the Bezos Day One Family Fund; a contract with the San Diego Port Authority to address unsheltered homelessness; and \$4M in direct funding from the State of California to implement an initiative to strengthen community connections through grassroots organizations focusing on families, the aging population, BIPOC, and other marginalized populations who represent an especially vulnerable segment of the homeless population. Ms. Mattox is also part of a statewide leadership team that focuses on ending the criminalization of individuals with mental illness by supporting proven strategies that promote early intervention, access to effective treatments, a planned reentry, and the preservation of public safety and Prior to joining RTFH, Lahela served as a Director with the State of California's Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC), now Cal ICH. Ms. Mattox worked with California's 44 CoC's and 13 largest cities and was instrumental in executing two State funding programs of \$1.2billion and implementing the State's Housing First Policy.

Ms. Mattox is a respected professional leader, recognized for cultivating partnerships, leveraging resources, addressing racial disparities, and deploying technical assistance to local jurisdictions in addressing the homelessness crisis.



Kathryn Durant

Chief Program Officer

Kat Durant has worked at the RTFH since July of 2017. Her initial role at RTFH was as the Point-in-Time Count (PITC) Coordinator where she worked closely with HUD TA to develop and implement the regions current engaged PITC that provides more actionable data about those experiencing homelessness in San Diego County. In her current her role at RTFH as the Chief Program Officer, she continues to lead the annual PITC, the annual CoC Program Competition and provides technical assistance to CoC funded programs including the monitoring of projects. Part of her responsibilities is to build and maintain the membership for the CoC that is done by holding a monthly meeting for all members with CoC updates and trainings. She coordinates the RRH Learning Collaborative, Diversion Training, Resolution Strategies and acts as the HR liaison for the RTFH team. She manages the daily tasks and responsibilities of the administrative staff and outreach team.

She has always been passionate about social issues and has worked on the Fight for 15 campaign and with the Center on Policy Initiatives with a focus on the working lives of San Diego restaurant workers. She completed her MA in Sociology from San Diego State University in 2016 and is committed to solving homelessness and believes that her position at RTFH has direct impact on homelessness in San Diego. Previously she had a 15-year career in the field of interior design.

2024 RTFH Staff Member Biographies



Jegnaw Zeggeye

Chief Data Officer

Jegnaw Zeggeye, MSc joined the Regional Task Force on Homelessness about 5 years ago as a data analyst. In the past five years, he has implemented several data management processes to improve system data quality, data privacy and data analysis. He also led the change of the legacy Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) project to a new software system, which is currently used by over 1000 users in San Diego and Imperial Continuum of Care (CoC). He also led data sharing and system integration projects including the integration of Homeless Management Information System with the 211 Community Information Exchange (CIE). He has been responsible for CoC required federal reports like Annual Performance Reports (APR), System Performance Measure (SPM), Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) and ESG CAPER. He is responsible for the administration of the Coordinated Entry System in the region of San Diego. He is a strategic advisor to the CEO, several committees, researchers and the community in a wide range of data related functions.

Jegnaw Zeggeye has a background in software engineering and teaching. He worked in various capacities as a software engineer for about a decade. He automated business process reengineering and implemented a variety of software solutions for a number of government agencies. He also implemented a process for software quality assurance, software project management and agile software development methodology. Prior to that, Jegnaw taught physics at both the high school and college levels for about 8 years. He has two Bachelor's degrees, one in Physics and one in Computer Science and Master's degree in Computer Science.



Andrew Hening

Chief Strategy Officer

Andrew Hening joined the RTFH in January of 2024 as the nonprofit's Chief Strategy Officer. With nearly 20 years of social sector leadership experience, Andrew came to the RTFH after 13 and a half years working to end homelessness in the San Francisco Bay Area. During that time he provided frontline street outreach in some of the region's largest encampments, managed a growing workforce development nonprofit, held an executive-level leadership role in city government, and founded his own consulting firm working with city and county government agencies on strategic planning, financial planning, and housing development services. Andrew is passionate about envisioning, implementing, and spreading awareness about systemic solutions to "The Modern Homelessness Crisis," which has included publishing a book, *So You Want to Solve Homelessness? Start Here*, as well as teaching graduate-level coursework at UC Berkeley on systems thinking.

A native of Richmond, VA, Andrew moved to California in the summer of 2010 to pursue an opportunity with AmeriCorps VISTA. He holds an MBA from UC Berkeley and a BA from the University of Virginia. Prior to becoming a dad the first week of the pandemic, Andrew had been an avid backpacker, which included completing the John Muir Trail and sections of the Yosemite High Route. These days, however, his favorite "hiking" is walking around the San Diego Zoo with his family.

Administration



Paulette Martinez
Executive Assistant to the CEO and Administrative Manager

Paulette Martinez has over 15 years of experience in non-profit organizations, driven by a passion for helping disadvantaged communities. Paulette had a background in Early Childhood Education and certifications in various fields, she excels in building relationships and navigating complex challenges.

In her recent role as Executive Assistant to the CEO at Feeding San Diego, Paulette managed various special projects, provided executive support, and fostered partnerships. Previously, as Partnership Coordinator, she orchestrated food programs and maintained positive relationships with community partners.

Paulette's diverse experience includes roles such as Activities Coordinator and Human Service Specialist, where she supported families and individuals in need. Beyond work, Paulette enjoys family gatherings and quality time with her daughter, exploring the zoo, and cheering on the Padres. Her dedication to her family drives her commitment to making a positive impact in San Diego.



Carrie Stemrich
Senior Office Technician

Carrie Stemrich joined the RTFH in August 2015 and previously worked with the HMIS team assisting with system training, reporting, and aiding in the transition between the former HMIS system to the current software system, and also helped to formulate and guide the provider community in using ticketing software for the first time. She currently assists with a variety of administrative assignments from capturing board meeting minutes to updating the website.

In San Diego County, Carrie previously worked in an office performing the duties of a home independent study classroom office for the La Mesa/Spring Valley school district, and she has also worked at an immigration law firm. A transplant from northeastern Pennsylvania who first arrived here after riding her bicycle across this beautiful country, she is proud of the San Diego community's drive to move forward and solve problems as they arise. She always looks forward to taking part in those solutions that embolden her work ethic.

Carrie currently lives in North Park and spends her free time gardening, reading, writing, watching tv, and whipping up new recipes - sometimes unsuccessfully, but always worth the process.

Continuum of Care (CoC)



Alma Vasquez

CoC Program Coordinator

Alma Vasquez has 8 years of non-profit work experience with 7 of those years dedicated to homeless services. At RTFH, Ms. Vasquez has provided technical support to providers who belong to the San Diego HMIS Trust Network. Currently Ms. Vasquez supports the CoC program by conducting annual CoC monitoring, providing technical support for San Diego's Diversion Training, and assists in the planning and coordination of the Annual Point-In-Time Count.

Prior to her work with RTFH, Ms. Vasquez has experience working with various populations including adults and children with special needs, foster youth, and has provided academic support to incoming freshman and transfer students at the university level. Educationally, Ms. Vasquez holds a BA in Sociology from the University of California San Diego (Thurgood Marshall College) and an MS in Nonprofit Management from Argosy University. At a young age, Ms. Vasquez has always been interested in volunteerism and in 2008 Ms. Vasquez decided to further the Thurgood Marshall College philosophy of the "Scholar and Citizen" and dedicated two years of service with AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) and AmeriCorps VISTA programs. In her first year of service, she was awarded a Bronze Congressional Award presented to youth civilians for achieving personal goals in voluntary public service, personal development, physical fitness, and expedition/exploration.

Over the years, Ms. Vasquez has proudly served the Southwest region and parts of the Southern region by participating in service projects in energy conservation, infrastructure improvement, natural and other disaster services, and urban and rural development. She does this work not for the paycheck, but as a true service to her community: a community who has always supported her and has instilled the importance of supporting those who are in most need. Living in a high cost of living community only reinforces her drive to help those without a place to call home.

Outside of work, Ms. Vasquez loves sushi, exploring national parks, and spending way too much time bingeing the newest movies and tv series on Netflix.

2024 RTFH Staff Member Biographies



Jan Walton

Regional Outreach Coordinator East/South

Jan Walton joined the RTFH team as Regional Outreach Coordinator for the East and South county. After years working corporate administrative positions, Jan entered the human/social service field in 2001, by way of a Ministry Outreach position. The outreach position took Jan into various county jails in the North East United States. Hearing the difficulties that the inmates faced, and the circumstances that brought them into the jail system, Jan decided she wanted to be a voice for the disadvantaged and begin working in direct service support. Two decades later, Jan has continued working with men, women, families, and Veterans in underserved circumstances to have that voice and to receive the help necessary for self-sufficiency.

Having served in various capacities as Director of Outreach, Case Manager, Career Specialist, Operations Manager, and Program Site Manager, Jan decided it was time to change from direct support services. For the change to be effective, Jan chose to go back to school and achieve her BS in Behavioral Health, from Evangel University in Springfield, MO. Now, working with the RTFH gives Jan the opportunity to work with community initiatives in a larger scope.

In her free time, Jan enjoys TV time with the family, knitting, reading, and sunrise car rides with her husband. Her latest indulgence is baking homemade bread.



Vanessa Graziano

Community Partnership Liaison

Vanessa Graziano is a dedicated community leader and lived experienced expert based in San Diego, with a strong focus on helping families and individuals in need. For the past two decades, Vanessa has resided in North County and has actively engaged with various initiatives to support her community.

In response to the challenges brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, Vanessa founded a nonprofit organization aimed at assisting shelter families and individuals. Through her efforts, many people were provided with safe shelter during the pandemic and eventually transitioned into permanent housing, offering them a fresh start.

Building on the success of her nonprofit, Vanessa established a shared housing space that thrived, showcasing the power of community support and collaboration in creating positive outcomes. Vanessa's work has not only provided tangible solutions but also inspired the community to come together and make a difference.

Beyond her direct initiatives, Vanessa serves as a passionate advocate for those in need, working tirelessly to bridge gaps and bring vital resources to individuals struggling in the community. Her dedication to creating positive change has made a significant impact on improving the lives of many.

In addition to her community work, Vanessa is a loving mother to three wonderful children, Dylan, Asher, and Haddie. She enjoys spending time in the community, connecting with others, and taking her dog Diesel for walks. Vanessa's commitment to service and her compassion exemplifies the spirit of giving back and making a difference in the lives of others.

2024 RTFH Staff Member Biographies



Merlynn Watanabe

Systems Project Manager

Merlynn Watanabe joined the RTFH in September 2024 as the nonprofit's Systems Project Manager, bringing nearly a decade of experience in the nonprofit homelessness sector. Her commitment to social justice is rooted in her upbringing in Guam, where she witnessed and experienced the profound generational impacts of poverty and homelessness. During her tenure as a senior nonprofit leader, Merlynn successfully spearheaded innovative services and advocacy campaigns that pioneered human-centered approaches in addressing critical needs like hygiene, nutrition security, menstrual health, and access to vital documents for more than 6,000 people experiencing homelessness in San Diego County. Her strategic vision and collaborative approach have been pivotal in enhancing effective homelessness solutions, supported by her expertise in research through partnerships with universities like the University of San Diego, San Diego State University, and University of Pennsylvania.

Merlynn holds a Master of Arts in Peace and Justice Studies from the University of San Diego and a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts with a concentration in International Studies from Soka University of America.



Alexis Guerra Luz

CoC Support Specialist

Alexis is a passionate and driven creative with over 6 years of experience in marketing, graphic design, and advocacy. She began her career as an AmeriCorps member with the Regional Task Force on Homelessness (RTFH), supporting the Point-in-Time Count (PITC). Now, as a CoC Support Specialist on the Continuum of Care (CoC) team, she continues to grow with RTFH, contributing to the mission of preventing and ending homelessness. With a Bachelor's degree in Marketing from Arizona State University, Alexis blends her love for design with the business and marketing principles she learned, using them to drive meaningful change.

Outside of her professional life, Alexis is always on the move. Whether roller skating through San Diego with a great playlist, surfing glassy waves, or getting her hands dirty at a local garden, she's dedicated to living with purpose and finding inspiration in the world around her. Through both her work and personal pursuits, Alexis strives to make a positive impact, fueled by creativity, passion, and a desire to help others.

Finance



Chris Pfeifer

Accounting Manager

Chris has worked with the RTFH for over a year as a consultant and was excited to join the team as a permanent employee in November 2021. He has brought more than ten years of accounting experience to his new role as the Accounting Manager. Chris has a financial background in a variety of fields, such as electronics, thermoelectrics, digital marketing, and insurance. He has a degree in Business Economics with an emphasis in Accounting from the University of California, Santa Barbara. In his free time, he enjoys swimming, biking, spending time with his wife and two sons, and coaching baseball for their local Little League.

Grants and Contracts



Susan Kim

Senior Grants & Contracts Manager

Susan Kim joined RTFH in August of 2022 as the Grants and Contracts Manager. She oversees grant management for RTFH funded grants, including those funded through the HUD Continuum of Care's Youth Homeless Demonstration Project (HUD CoC Y) and those funded through the California Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention program (HHAP). Susan brings more than 10 years of non-profit compliance and grant management experience to RTFH. Previous to her role at RTFH, she was the Compliance Director at Veterans Village of San Diego, with over 7 years' experience in the San Diego homeless service industry.

Susan has a degree in Political Science from University of California, San Diego. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family, being a new mom to her daughter and going on hikes with her dog.



Ronnie Boston

Grants & Contracts Manager

2024 RTFH Staff Member Biographies

Ronniece Boston joined RTFH in 2022 as a Grants & Contracts Manager. She oversees grant management for RTFH funded grants to include, various HUD Continuum of Care (CoC Y)- Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) projects, California's Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP), Super NOFO, and Resolution Strategies (RS). Boston brings more than 15 years of Federal and Non-Profit grants and contracts administration, program development, and project management experience.

Prior to joining RTFH, Boston was a Community Development Project Manager, managing CDBG Service and Public Facilities awards and projects, CDBG-CV Cares Act and CDBG Relief Funds and projects. Boston, is passionate about Equal Opportunity and Fair Housing, community advancement, program development, and adult learning and training. Boston obtained a Bachelor's degree from Florida State University, and a Master's degree from Palm Beach Atlantic University. In her free time, she enjoys Journaling and creating memories internationally, spending time with family, hiking, wild swimming, and connecting with nature.



Jessica Torres

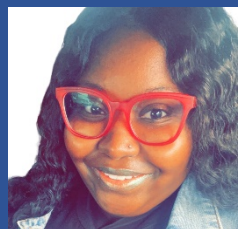
Program Analyst

Jess Torres first joined the RTFH in August 2018 as an HMIS Support Specialist. Jessica was a part of the HMIS transition and has performed monitoring, training, and privacy/security officer duties. She has carried out data analysis, financial management, research, and developed training content to support the subrecipients. Currently, she launches, supports, and provides technical assistance related to state and federal funding managed by the RTFH, including HEAP, HHAP, YHDP, and the CoC Y Renewal.

Jess has worked with the homeless population for 24 years, beginning as a volunteer in her local community in New Jersey when she met a homeless Veteran in 1998. Later on, she graduated from Registered Nursing school and received her Bachelor's to become more knowledgeable about healthcare informatics, policy issues, and improvement. She has worked with nonprofit organizations developing and implementing streamlined approaches for Behavioral Health and the Department of Defense.

Jess believes in investing in personal development, collaborative approaches, and communication improvement. She has worked to improve conditions in multiple states, including NJ, NY, VA, CA, KY, LA, and GA as a National Case Manager, a Quality Improvement Officer, and a Veteran advocate, and has provided a broader lens to solve community issues. She has also developed presentations, budget proposals, performance measurements, and strategic planning related to ethical leadership decision-making, policy issues, and public administration challenges. She is passionate about affordable housing, livable wages, and continues to strive to be a lighthouse for single parent households.

During her off hours, Jess enjoys watching shows, movies, and laughing with her children and dog. She also serves as a mentor for young girls in her local school district, is a Veteran advocate, and is wrapping up her final courses to receive her MPA.



Quanisha "Quinny" Spann

Program Specialist

2024 RTFH Staff Member Biographies

Quanisha “Quinny” Spann earned her BS in Criminal Justice at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. In 2014 she dedicated her work life mentality to higher education and nonprofit organizations. During this time Quanisha learned, enforced, and enhanced policies to support those currently fighting through the higher education, homelessness, and federal aid systems.

While maintaining her dedication to policy change Quinny volunteered at a women and children shelter and a child welfare organization to gain further knowledge and life experience. It was in these environments that led her to pursue a Master’s in leadership, bringing Quinny to San Diego. Quinny chose The University of San Diego, because unlike many schools in the nation, their leadership program is in the School of Education rather than the School of Business. Here she earned her MA in Leadership and a certificate in Restorative Justice Facilitation and Practice.

Quinny Spann is now a member of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) support team where she can continue the work that she has done in the past.

In Quinny’s free time, she enjoys crafting, making t-shirts, up-cycling cool thrift finds, and making natural body care products. Quinny also has a puppy named Wrangler who continues to keep her on her toes. When she is not working or crafting, you can bet that you will find her going on some adventure with Wrangler.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)



Alemayehu “Alex” Feyissa

System Improvement Manager

Alemayehu joined the RTFH five years ago and utilizes performance-enhancing data analysis tools to promote and implement effective process improvements and measurement practices. He works closely with Community Solutions on the implementation of the nationwide Built for Zero initiative, a movement made up of more than 90 cities and counties that have committed to ending homelessness measurably and equitably for entire populations. He also plays a major role in analyzing veteran and youth homeless data.

Prior to his current role, Alemayehu worked as a Data Analyst for the RTFH and developed the annual Alliance for Regional Solution report that analyzes the overall progress and impact during each shelter season. He has also been responsible for the annual HUD System Performance Measure report, and he developed a variety of additional reports required by providers and local government offices. In this position, he also developed an automated HMIS billing system. Before joining RTFH, Alemayehu worked as a Solution Architect at Fairfax Technologies and was part of the implementation of an end-to-end Oracle E-Business Suite (ERP solution) for one of the largest commercial banks in East Africa. Prior to that, he worked at an information network security agency where he was responsible for developing robust and scalable system requirement functionality framework, software testing process, and system development approaches. Alongside his role, he participated in the implementation of strategy framework using the balanced scorecard framework.

Alemayehu has a BSc in Mathematics, a MSc in Information Science, and several professional certifications.

2024 RTFH Staff Member Biographies



Tyler Uhlig

HMIS Manager

Tyler Uhlig is a San Diego native who has been a part of the RTFH team since February 2017. Tyler came to the team with a direct homelessness service background and during his time at the RTFH, he has supported the community in many roles. He has assisted our community as a Project Analyst (Support Specialist), Data Analyst, and currently serves as the HMIS Manager operating the day-to-day activities of the HMIS and Coordinated Entry teams. Tyler has a strong belief that data drives the decisions that can help those in need and that there is power to be found and utilized within data. In his role he helps guide his team in supporting the community in all efforts that include the data collected within the HMIS as well as meeting federal reporting requirements. Tyler's goals, in addition to contributing to ending homelessness locally, include making sure that San Diego can continue to be a major contributor to the national conversation about ending homelessness and bringing best practices from that national collaboration back for implementation to help those in need locally.



Cristian DeLeon

Senior Data Analyst

Cristian DeLeon graduated from the University of California, San Diego with a B.S. degree in Joint Mathematics and Economics. He joined the RTFH out of college, starting out on the Coordinated Entry team as a referrals specialist before transitioning to his current role on the HMIS team as a Data Analyst. Cristian loves being able to combine his passion for helping those in need and using data to make a positive change in the community.

Outside of work, he loves reading math and economics books, spending time with his family, and watching and playing sports.



Alex Gloudeman

Data Analyst I

Alex graduated from the University of California, Irvine with a B.S. in Mathematics and has been passionate about social services from an early age. Originally from Sacramento, he began his community outreach by volunteering and eventually working with the Girl Scouts of Northern California. After relocating for college, Alex spent his free time volunteering for Math Community Educational Outreach (Math CEO), an after-school program centered on educating underserved students about STEM careers and college scholarships and opportunities. Once he completed his degree in March 2020, he worked in sports data journalism but wanted to make a more positive impact in his professional career, leading him to search for a data analyst position in an organization more focused on community outreach. Outside of work Alex enjoys hiking, camping, frisbee, and cooking.

2024 RTFH Staff Member Biographies



Tyeauna Robinson

Data Analyst I

Tyeauna Robinson graduated from Chico State University, with a BA in Social Sciences and began a 5 year career as a case manager and counselor. Throughout her career in Social Services, Tyeauna traveled throughout California and Texas volunteering and working with underserved populations. Tyeauna decided to pivot her career into Data Analytics after working on the Northern California CampFire Project. There she became passionate about data driven decision making and decided to change her career path to Data Analytics with a focus in community outreach. She is excited to bring her love of data and helping those in need to RTFH. Aside from working, Tyeauna enjoys spending time with her family, trying new restaurants, and hiking.



Kayla Moore

Data Analyst I

Kayla Moore was born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona, and lived and traveled throughout the Pacific Northwest. With dreams of sunnier days, she moved to Southern California. She has a passion for helping others, with a goal to assist the communities she had been a part of in any way possible. With a love of graphs, reporting, among other things, she hopes she could empower others to continue to make a positive change in the community with data-driven decisions as a data analyst with RTFH.

Moore spends her free time exploring, gaming, tending to her plants, cooking, and sometimes (and also rarely), writes comics. She hopes to become a name recognizable enough to host writing and Q&A groups in the community she grew up in to empower future generations of writers and travelers.



Alice Liu

Data Analyst I

Alice Liu graduated from The University of Texas at Austin in 2022, with a BS in Biology and volunteered as a STEM tutor for underprivileged children and adults. During her college experience, Alice found a passion for data analytics and hopes to use her skills to make a positive impact. After completing her degree, Alice worked as a teacher for kids who have social and learning disabilities, while completing a data analytics and science bootcamp at the University of Texas at Austin. She is extremely excited to grow alongside RTFH and use data driven decisions to make a positive change in the community. Alice enjoys spending her free time gaming, bodybuilding, and wakeboarding.

2024 RTFH Staff Member Biographies



Julia McNally

Project Support Specialist

Julia McNally is a member of the HMIS Support team, providing guidance and problem-solving to partner organizations in the HMIS Trust Network. A graduate of George Washington University in Washington, D.C. with a B.A. in Criminal Justice and Communications, she loves working at the intersection of human services and policy at RTFH.

Julia's prior experience includes studying international political and justice systems at the University of Auckland in Auckland, New Zealand, aiding the CEO of a nonprofit organization in developing a post-incarceration re-entry program, and working as a Registered Behavior Technician. When not at work, she enjoys camping, continuing to learn, and taking her puppy to the beach.



Casey Cunningham

Project Support Specialist

Casey Cunningham is a graduate from the University of San Diego, with a B.A. in Behavioral Neuroscience. From the young age of six, she has always known that her purpose in life was to help others in need, and now serves as a HMIS Support Specialist at RTFH. She comes to us with a background in healthcare. Most notably, she worked as a nursing assistant in the locked geriatric psychiatry unit of a San Diego hospital, where many of her patients were experiencing homelessness at the time. While assisting her patients, she gained invaluable insight into the trials and tribulations those experiencing homelessness in San Diego encounter on a regular basis. As someone who also briefly faced homelessness as a child, she hopes to apply both her personal and professional experiences to bring about lasting change for the community. When she's not at work, she enjoys traveling, cooking, DIY projects, and reading a good book.

Coordinated Entry System (CES)



Justin Creel

**Senior Program Manager -
CES and Housing Strategy**

Justin Creel joined the RTFH in March of 2021 with over a decade of nonprofit leadership experience in homeless response systems, behavioral healthcare, and housing programs. He is passionate about creating strategies to streamline Coordinated Entry Systems and create viable, client-centric solutions to community initiatives. Covering the majority of Southwest Florida, he has led a variety of homelessness programs including homeless shelters and multiple rapid rehousing programs as well as Veteran programs. Justin earned his Bachelor of Science in Clinical Psychology and his Masters in Business Administration from Averett University. If he is not spending time with his wife, 2 daughters, and 3 dogs, it is a safe bet to assume he is somehow, somewhere, someday, on the water.



Phylicia Applewhite

CES Systems Specialist

Phylicia Applewhite is currently attending Eastern Gateway Community College with future hopes of becoming a Psychologist. Born and raised right here in San Diego CA, Phylicia Applewhite has had first-hand experience with homelessness here in San Diego County and has dedicated her real-life experience with helping those in her community. She believes self-representation is important, and has helped implement as well as chaired an Equity and Diversity Committee. While on her quest to support her community, she has gained a fair amount of knowledge about person-centered care and believes homelessness can be prevented.