

2021-2022 RTFH Leadership Staff Member Biographies



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.



Lahela Mattox

Chief Operating Officer

Lahela Mattox, Chief Operations Officer of the Regional Task Force on Homelessness (RTFH) and has more than two decades of experience in behavioral health, homelessness and housing, and workforce development in both California and Hawaii. Prior to joining RTFH, Lahela served as the Director of Local Partnership Programs with the State of California's Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC). Ms. Mattox

2021-2022 RTFH Leadership Staff Member Biographies

worked with California's 44 Continuums of Care and 13 largest cities and was instrumental in executing the \$500 million Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP), implementation of the Housing First Policy, and developing the \$650 million Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP). Her previous State experience included responsibilities for the licensing and certification of inpatient and outpatient psychiatric facilities. Ms. Mattox was also worked on developing the implementation of AB403: Foster Care Continuum of Care Reform. She also worked for two counties providing inpatient and outpatient care for individuals living with severe mental illness, and oversee housing programs. Ms. Mattox was successful in doubling the counties Shelter Plus Care funding; securing one of the first grants for Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding to develop permanent supportive housing-shared housing model.

Ms. Mattox began her career with a local non-profit organization to provide assessments, interventions, and counseling to youth involved with the criminal justice system. Her experience also includes being a Statewide Director of financial benefits to needy families in Hawaii. Ms. Mattox is a respected professional leader, recognized for cultivating partnerships, community engagement, and deploying technical assistance to local jurisdictions in addressing the homelessness crisis. Ms. Mattox holds an MA in Career Counseling from Chapman University and a BA in Psychology from Hawaii Pacific University.



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.



Kris Kuntz

Chief Policy Officer

2021-2022 RTFH Leadership Staff Member Biographies

Kris Kuntz serves as the Chief Policy Officer for the Regional Task Force on Homelessness and has worked on ending homelessness for over fifteen years. Prior to joining the RTFH, Kris worked at LeSar Development Consultants providing consulting and technical assistance to a variety of public entities, non-profit, and healthcare organizations across the state and country on housing and homelessness. Notable consulting engagements included the City of San Diego Select Committee on Homelessness, numerous cities across Los Angeles County, providing HUD Technical Assistance to CoC's, and working for a large national health plan on creating strategies to address homelessness among their Medicaid populations. Before consulting, Kris worked for many years at Father Joe's Villages in various capacities that included managing housing and services programs, training and evaluation, and was an integral part of Project 25, San Diego's groundbreaking Housing First frequent user pilot. While at Father Joe's Kris also participated in various community efforts including creating San Diego's SOAR program with CSH, being a part of the initial advisory group to help launch the Community Information Exchange (CIE), and participating in various CoC groups such as the data committee and systems modeling working group. In addition to his work on homelessness, Kris was an adjunct faculty in the Sociology Department at San Diego City College for five years.

As the Chief Policy Officer at the RTFH, Kris is responsible for supporting the RTFH and CoC with policy and advocacy efforts. Kris is responsible for launching and providing leadership on the local Built For Zero (BFZ) initiatives focused on ending Veteran and youth homelessness. He supports two CoC committees – Veteran's Consortium and the Ad Hoc Committee on Addressing Homelessness Among Black San Diegans. He has supported the launch of the Flexible Housing Pool with Brilliant Corners and is helping educate partners and implement a shared housing model. Kris works closely with the RTFH HMIS team to do data analysis and publish reports such as the 2020 CoC Data and Performance Report.



Aimee Cox

Chief Impact Officer

Aimee Cox is an experienced executive who tackles complex projects and builds systems and culture to improve the health and well-being of people and the places where we live. She pays attention, thinks well with others, is well-versed in HUD systems and programs (CoC, CDBG, HOME, ESG), and approaches intractable problems with unshakable resolve.

Aimee is at her best when she is leading and supporting transformational change. As Chief Impact and Strategy Officer, Aimee works closely with the CEO and COO to build RTFH capacity and direct strategy to make lasting reductions in the number of people experiencing homelessness. She is engaged with youth and youth providers to build a youth-driven ecosystem of housing and care and works with regional leaders to expand housing-focused solutions in San Diego's East County communities. She recently managed critical COVID response projects and worked closely with law enforcement to develop guidelines for addressing unsheltered homelessness.

Aimee joined RTFH in November 2019 after 20 years serving Colorado's Pikes Peak region. She began her career in parks and recreation, then moved into housing, economic and community development. She served a term as Mayor Pro Tem in her hometown of Manitou Springs, CO, guiding downtown revitalization during the Great Recession, then went on to an appointment as the first City Council Administrator for the Colorado Springs City Council. She later led a Mayor's initiative to end homelessness that resulted in the community's first low barrier shelter, day center, and permanent supportive housing complex and plans for 500 new affordable housing units. Understanding homelessness is a health crisis, she left local government to lead a community health nonprofit and integrated the work of the Pikes Peak Continuum of Care into the agency's strategy to advance health equity and improve access to care for 170,000 Medicaid members in the region.

2021-2022 RTFH Leadership Staff Member Biographies



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.



Susan Bower, MSW, MPH

Local Government Liaison

Susan Bower worked with the County of San Diego's Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) nearly 25 years, spending 18 years working in a variety of roles within Behavioral Health Services, followed by establishing the Office of Integrative Services and the "H3" initiative - Health, Housing and Human Services. The goal of the initiative was to develop coordinated systems of services that meet people's housing and service needs, particularly those who may be involved in the criminal justice system, may be homeless, and/or may have complex physical and/or behavioral health issues. Susan developed the County's Whole Person Wellness, pilot which provided intensive care coordination for people who were homeless or at-risk of homelessness, high utilizers of Medi-Cal, and had a serious mental illness, substance use disorder and/or a chronic health condition.

In 2020 Susan joined the Regional Task Force on Homelessness as the Local Government Liaison. In her current role, she works with the 18 Cities and the County of San Diego to coordinate approaches and promote best practices with the various key homeless services points of contact identified by each governmental jurisdiction. Susan provides staff support to the RTFH's Chief Executive Officer for the Intergovernmental Roundtable which convenes elected representatives or their designees from governmental jurisdictions countywide to share best practices and countywide efforts. Recognizing the needs and resources vary in each part of the county, the RTFH is engaging deeply with each of the sub-regions, Susan has established a partnership with HHS to develop a collective impact approach to address homelessness across the jurisdictional boundaries and service providers in South County. Implementing effective housing-focused outreach consistently throughout the county is critical. Susan supports the quarterly Regional Homeless Outreach Meeting which bring together all homeless outreach workers throughout the county to promote best practices, sub-regional coordination, and tools to support effectively conducting housing-based outreach.