

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.

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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.



Jegnow Zeggeye

Chief Data Officer

Jegnow 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.

Jegnow 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, Jegnow 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.

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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

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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.



Jordan Beane

Director of Policy and Communications

Jordan Beane joined the RTFH as the nonprofit's Director of Policy and Communications in March of 2022. Jordan's role includes developing and implementing a strategic communications plan, elevating RTFH's visibility, and increasing the awareness of RTFH initiatives. Additionally, he oversees the editorial strategy and content development for RTFH's social media channels.

Prior to joining RTFH, Jordan spent the last three years as the Communications Director and Policy Advisor for San Diego City Councilmember Jennifer Campbell. During his time at City Hall, Jordan led all aspects of the Councilmember's communication efforts including messaging, social media, digital outreach, and press releases. He also helped to craft policy on some of the Councilmember's biggest priorities in the environmental space.

Before working in the public sector, Jordan spent a decade in the NFL as a digital media professional for two different teams, winning three local Emmy awards for his work. He grew up in upstate New York and holds a BA from the American University in Washington, DC.

Administration



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

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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.



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.



Zoë Ridgway

Executive Assistant

Zoë Ridgway is a native Southern Californian and has recently graduated, earning a B.A. in Political Science from San Diego State University with a focus in law, receiving a certification in public law. Prior to her time at RTFH, Zoë worked as an intern at the San Diego County District Attorney's Office. Zoë now provides administrative support for the Regional Task Force on Homelessness Board and respective Committees, as well as being executive assistant to the CEO, Tamera Kohler. Ever since she can remember, Zoë has been passionate about public service, changing her community, and developing pathways for whom the system fails, and is grateful every day to be a part of the team at RTFH.

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Margareth Diamante

Executive Assistant

Margareth Diamante joined the RTFH team as an Administrative Assistant in October 2022. Currently, she is the Executive Assistant to COO, Lahela Mattox. She continues to support the administrative team, various committees, and the annual RTFH Conference on Homelessness.

Margareth is a longtime LA resident and has recently moved to San Diego. Her background encompasses hospitality, event management, leasing, retail, and education. Margareth earned her BA in Communication Studies at California State University Northridge.



Amanda King-Schmidt

Administrative Assistant

Amanda King-Schmidt is a recent addition to the RTFH administrative team. A transplant from the “Windy City”, she has lived in the Ocean Beach community for 13 years. Prior to beginning at RTFH, Amanda studied at the Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and has worked at multiple medical facilities of various specialties throughout San Diego County, most recently in mental health.

As an active volunteer within community organizations aiding the homeless through various drives and fundraisers, she feels honored to join the RTFH team and support the many committees that endeavor to find housing solutions for our unsheltered neighbors.

Continuum of Care (CoC)

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Alma Vasquez

CoC Program Coordinator

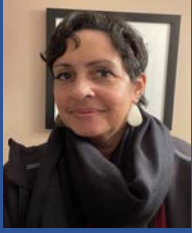
Alma Vasquez has 8 years of non-profit work experience with 7 of those years dedicated to homeless services. At RTFH, Ms. Vasquez has provided technical support to providers who belong to the San Diego HMIS Trust Network. Currently Ms. Vasquez supports the CoC program by conducting annual CoC monitoring, 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.

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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.

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.

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Susan Kim

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

Ronnie Boston joined RTFH in Summer 2022 as a Grants & Contracts Manager. She oversees grant management for RTFH funded grants to include, HUD Continuum of Care - Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP/CoC Y), and California's Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP). Boston brings more than 10 years of Federal and Non-Profit program development, project management, and grants and contracts administration experience. Prior to joining RTFH, she was a CDBG Project Manager, managing the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Facility projects, CDBG-CV Cares Act Funding, and CDBG CRF (Corona Relief Funds) projects. She is passionate about 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 brunching on Sunday's, spending intentional time with loved ones, hiking, wild swimming, and connecting with nature.

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.



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.

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Cristian DeLeon

Data Analyst II

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.



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.

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Daniel Kim

Data Analyst I

Daniel Kim is a graduate from Western Governors University with a B.S. in Computer Science. Following his graduation, he joined RTFH as a Data Analyst, eager to continue his learning journey. Daniel is grateful for the opportunity to work in a position that allows him to make a positive impact on the San Diego community. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family and friends.



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.



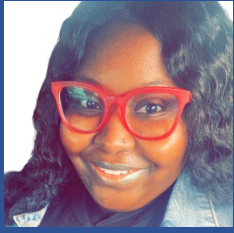
Julia McNally

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.

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Quanisha “Quinny” Spann

Project Support Specialist

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.

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.

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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.



Nica Hermosillo-Vanella

CES Systems Specialist

Nica MaryJane was born and raised here in San Diego and grew up in the Little Italy area. Recently, she graduated from University of California, Riverside in 2022 with a BS in Sustainability and minor in Spanish. Her junior year of college, she created "Feeding Daygo", a local mutual aid that serves San Diego's unhoused population. As founder and lead organizer, she actively works to gather local donations to feed and clothe the local homeless population. This mutual aid is made up of volunteers from all backgrounds and ages with the common goal of helping the community however they can. Shortly after establishing the mutual aid, she began her work with RTFH. Both organizations impact the community in positive ways, and she is thankful to have the opportunity to learn and contribute to both.