

## 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.



**Lahela Mattox**

**Chief Operating Officer**

## 2022 RTFH Staff Member Biographies

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 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.

## 2022 RTFH Staff Member Biographies



**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.



**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.

## 2022 RTFH Staff Member Biographies



**Susan Bower, MSW, MPH**

**Local Government Liaison**

Susan Bower worked with the County of San Diego's Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) 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 HHSA 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.



**Darnisha Hunter**

**Director of Special Projects**

As the Director of Special Projects, Darnisha works with RTFH's executive staff and oversees special events with a focus on homeless veterans and youth. Additionally Darnisha is helping to connect large and small providers with resources and identifying service gaps for unsheltered San Diegans across our region.

During her time with the San Diego Police Department, Darnisha worked hard to rebuild trust and cooperation between law enforcement and San Diegans. Additionally, Darnisha had an impressive and diverse career including time as Military/Veteran Advocate that took her Countywide here in San Diego. Darnisha created career opportunities for men and women as they served in the Army in the 440th Wire and Cable Division on Nellis Air Force Base all while owning several successful small businesses.

## 2022 RTFH Staff Member Biographies



**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 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.

## 2022 RTFH Staff Member Biographies

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.



**Myleya Griffin**

**Senior Administrative Assistant**

Myleya Griffin provides support for the CoC General Membership along with CoC Advisory and RTFH Committees. Myleya first joined RTFH back in October 2018 as a temporary administrator and enjoyed her work so much that she accepted the position to work with RTFH full time. During her employment, she has learned a lot about what the providers do within our community and has gained much insight into what happens within our homeless populations. Myleya is so inspired by the growth and how hard RTFH and their partners work together to end homelessness that she too wants to continue to assist with ending homelessness.

Myleya was born in Daly City in Northern California and at the age of 9, she moved to Sunny San Diego with her mother and stepfather. In the past, Myleya has worked in different service jobs, however RTFH is by far her favorite that she has had the pleasure of supporting. In her free time, she enjoys watching movies (horror is her favorite category), playing with her fur babies, hiking or anything involving nature, spending time with friends and family, and is also a first-time mother and is excited (and nervous) for her new adventure of being a mom.

## 2022 RTFH Staff Member Biographies



**Zoë Ridgway**

**Senior Administrative 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.

## Continuum of Care (CoC)



**JennaMarie Glenna**

**Community Outreach Coordinator**

JennaMarie Glenna is an avid sports fan and cheers for any and all Wisconsin sports teams. Ms. Glenna moved from Madison, WI, to San Diego, CA, in January 2015 and began working as a Case Manager on the Interim floors at People Assisting the Homeless San Diego. For over ten years before arriving in San Diego, she worked with men released from incarceration who were experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Wisconsin.

Since joining the team with The Regional Task Force on Homelessness in July of 2017, she worked closely with the Transitional Aged Youth and Aged population as a Housing Navigation Specialist to those with housing opportunities identified by the Coordinated Entry System. In May 2018, the Leadership team recognized Ms. Glenna's work ethic and commitment to service. She accepted a newly created position within The Regional Task Force on Homelessness as the Community Outreach Coordinator.

Ms. Glennas' responsibilities include facilitating the Diversion Training and supporting community partners by connecting outreach teams to resources throughout San Diego County. Ms. Glenna takes pride in coordinating the annual Point-in-Time-Count. The Point-in-Time-Count is a vital data collection effort used to better inform County and State Representatives to secure funding awarded by the United States Department of Housing & Urban Development. Ms. Glenna is committed to providing excellent communication to serve our unsheltered population in San Diego County.

## 2022 RTFH Staff Member Biographies



**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 binging the newest movies and tv series on Netflix.



**Nina Lakhani**

### **Regional Resource Coordinator**

For the past eight years, Nina Lakhani has been active in coordinating services and resources to San Diego County's most vulnerable population. As a member of the Regional Task Force on Homelessness, her goal is to be of support to the various agencies in our county with a focus on providing a hand up to those in need. As a service provider, she has connected families, veteran households, domestic violence survivors, those with mental health needs, substance abuse individuals, and the general population to a variety of services throughout San Diego County and throughout the nation. Having the opportunity to collaborate and learn with our various community partners is always an exciting opportunity for her.



## 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.

## 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.

## 2022 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**

**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.



**Anna Strahl**

**Data Analyst**

Anna Strahl graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a BA in Political Science and began an eight-year career as a math teacher by traveling to the Mississippi Delta with Teach for America.

After her two-year commitment was complete in Mississippi, she returned to San Diego and taught at local public schools in City Heights and Downtown San Diego where she piloted several data initiatives to better track student growth. It was this dive into student data that sparked a passion for data analysis and at the beginning of 2020, she made the official career change to focus on data full-time as a Data Analyst. She is excited to bring her love of data to RTFH and is happy to be helping her local community. In her free time, she enjoys painting, gardening, and improv.

## 2022 RTFH Staff Member Biographies



**Alex Gloudeman**

**Data Analyst**

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**

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.



**Sheldon Finnell**

**Data Analyst**

Sheldon came to the RTFH from the Texas Department of Transportation with a strong background in data visualization and providing data to better inform decision making for policies and practices. He graduated from the University of North Texas with a BA in Sociology. He has spent most of his career as a Business Analyst and Data Analyst and most recently, he joined the RTFH team in July 2022.

Living in central Texas in the greater Austin area, homelessness is also a major concern faced by the community, and Sheldon is excited to share his expertise and passion for making a difference to support the San Diego community locally. He comes with a breadth of knowledge and believes that data is an impactful tool with the power to help change the world for the better and can help to end homelessness in San Diego. When Sheldon is not working, he enjoys walking his dogs Yuki and Naru, cheering on the Dallas Cowboys and Dallas Mavericks, and traveling.

## 2022 RTFH Staff Member Biographies



**Elizabeth LaBrake**

**Project Support Specialist**

Elizabeth LaBrake graduated from the University of California, San Diego with a BA in Global Health. Her passion to help others and make a positive impact in the community inspired her to volunteer at Father Joe's Villages where she served food in the soup kitchen as a senior in college. This experience sparked her passion towards finding a solution to end homelessness. After graduating she became a LISC AmeriCorp volunteer in October 2019 with RTFH as a Project Specialist. At the end of the 10-month contract she officially became part of the RTFH team in August 2020 as an HMIS Project Support Specialist and Privacy and Security Officer. In this position, she has helped implement a remote HMIS monitoring process, assists with privacy and security concerns, and supports all HMIS participating providers. She is proud to be part of such an amazing team and is excited to be part of the change she would like to see in the world.

Elizabeth is also a certified group fitness instructor and enjoys motivating others to improve their health and wellbeing. In her free time, she loves to travel, workout, and spend time with her husband and three dogs.



**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.

## Coordinated Entry System (CES)



**Justin Creel**

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

## 2022 RTFH Staff Member Biographies

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, someway, 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.



**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.