

# 2019 Annual Training Institute

## Presenter Bio's and Contact Info

### **Rebecca Allen**

Senior Program Officer  
Melville Charitable Trust  
New Haven, CT  
rallen@melvilletrust.org

Rebecca Allen is a Senior Program Officer for the Melville Charitable Trust, a national foundation dedicated to finding solutions to prevent and end homelessness. Her portfolio includes economic security and ending family homelessness.

### **Beau Anderson**

Statewide CAN Manager, Data Analysis  
Connecticut Department of Housing  
Hartford, CT

[Beau.Anderson@ct.gov](mailto:Beau.Anderson@ct.gov)

Beau Anderson is a Statewide CAN Manager for the Connecticut Department of Housing, the co-chair of the Executive Data and Estimated Needs group, and is one of the top 5 BNL experts in the state. Beau earned master's degrees in Survey Research and Public Administration from the University of Connecticut, and a bachelor's degree in Government from Wesleyan University. His favorite color is blue, his favorite food is pizza, his favorite website is [www.ctcandata.org](http://www.ctcandata.org), and his favorite BNL sub-status is "Housed."

### **Lisa Bahadosingh, MS, LPC**

Dir. of Youth Initiatives & Special Projects  
Bridgeport, CT

Lisa Bahadosingh has worked at Supportive Housing Works for 8 years where she has worked to replicate a Housing First Collaborative model throughout Fairfield County that has had a significant impact on ending chronic homelessness in the region. Currently, she is responsible for coordinating and implementing local strategies to prevent and end youth homelessness by 2020. She facilitates the work of the Youth Engagement Team Initiative (YETI) and Youth to Lead Change, the youth advisory board for Opening Doors Fairfield County. Additionally, she develops partnerships between healthcare and housing providers to create a more integrated system and improve outcomes for vulnerable populations.

### **Lydia Brewster, MSW**

Asst. Director for Community Services  
St. Vincent de Paul Middletown  
Middletown, CT  
lydia@svdmiddletown.org

Lydia Brewster is the Assistant Director for Community Services at St. Vincent de Paul Middletown. At SVDM Lydia directs a busy soup kitchen that serves up to 200 people per day in addition to extensive involvement in local community-based coalitions. Prior to joining SVDM Lydia directed community organizing initiatives at the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH). Lydia was the founder and past Executive Director of the North End Action Team, a community development corporation in Middletown, CT. Lydia has a Masters in Social Work degree from UCONN

### **Jered Bruzas**

Homeless Resource Center and Shelter Director  
St Vincent DePaul Mission of Waterbury  
Waterbury, CT.  
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Jered Bruzas currently serves the Mission as the Director of the Shelter and Homeless Resource Service Center. He has served those experiencing homelessness at the Mission since 2012. Jered studied at St. John Seminary, Boston College and St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. In 2006, Jered was introduced to Fr. Cascia, SVDP Founder, who introduced him to the Mission and the City of Waterbury. Jered is driven and inspired every day by the incredible people that the Mission serves and the generous staff who give their all to ensure the greater good of the shelter guests. Knowing that people can and do recover provides Jered with great joy and hope in humanity. He truly believes that no one should have to experience homelessness and looks forward to the day when shelters become obsolete.

**Kara Capobianco, LCSW**

Coordinated Access Network Manager  
State of Connecticut, Department of Housing  
Hartford, CT  
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Kara began her commitment to ending homelessness in 2007 working at Martha's Place, a shelter for women and families in New Haven. Over the course of her career she has managed shelters, supportive housing, community case management teams and affordable housing projects. For the last three years she has been working for the State of Connecticut on optimizing Coordinated Access. She and her fellow CANagers deploy training, technical assistance, policy and guidance to the entire homeless response system in CT. She also enjoys teaching at Quinnipiac on homelessness. In her spare time she likes to chase around her two children and practices power vinyasa yoga to stay happy and grounded.

**Crane W. Cesario, MBA**

Chair, CT Hartford Continuum of Care  
Director, Housing and Homeless Resources  
Managed Services Division  
Capitol Region Mental Health Center  
Hartford CT

Serving the State of CT's Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services since 1992, Crane has been Chair of the Hartford Continuum of Care and was one of two writers of the HUD application that earned the highest score in the nation in 2004. She oversees Greater Hartford Rental Assistance program's multiple grants, is the Chair of the Statewide CT Homeless Management Information System Steering Committee, and is a leader in the Greater Hartford Coordinated Access Network. Crane is also a Consumer Rights Officer and trained in mediation. In the community, Crane has many interests, including the arts, being an emergency translator, a committed platelets donor, and an active proponent for peace and equity.

**Beatrice Codianni**

Founder and Executive Director  
Sex Workers and Allies Network (SWAN)  
New Haven, CT  
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Beatrice Codianni is SWAN's Executive Director and founded the organization in response to local police brutality and public shaming toward sex workers. She is a lifelong political activist and a Just Leadership USA Fellow. Beatrice has not only lived through the realities of street-based sex work and addiction, she also survived over fifteen years of incarceration.

**Philip Costello**

Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center: Homeless Healthcare  
New Haven, CT  
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Phil Costello serves as the Clinical Director of Homeless Care for Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center in New Haven. In this role, he leads medical and case management teams that work with people who are formerly or currently experiencing homelessness. He also provides medical care to people in substance use rehabilitation programs and to people who have recently been released from incarceration. Phil and his team work throughout the city to provide onsite services including outreach, first aid, specialty referrals and prescriptions.

**Rochelle Currie**

Program Manager  
The Connection Inc. ®  
Hartford, CT

Rochelle Currie is Program Manager for The Connection- Start Program for Young Adults. She was born and raised in Colorado and moved to Connecticut in 2000. Since moving here, she worked as a victim advocate and a case manager in a family shelter in New Haven. She started working at The Connection in 2010 working for Supportive Housing for Families and in 2015, she became Program Manager for The Start Program. The Start Program has allowed her the opportunity to work with such a diverse population with a goal to End Youth Homelessness.

**Anderson Curtis**

Smart Justice Field Organizer  
ACLU of Connecticut  
Hartford, CT  
[acurtis@acluct.org](mailto:acurtis@acluct.org)

Anderson Curtis serves as a Smart Justice Field Organizer for the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT). In his role, Anderson is tasked with mobilizing and expanding the ACLU Smart Justice Connecticut campaign through strategic public engagement, identification, education, and recruitment of supports and volunteers to participate in ending mass incarceration in Connecticut. Anderson is a proud alumnus of Gateway Community College Drug and Alcohol Recovery Counselor (DARC) and was the DARC 2009 Student of the Year. He recently completed the Community Foundation of New Haven's Neighborhood Leadership program. Anderson developed Life Support, which is a Pilot program funded by Community Foundation and an extension of his mentoring of men on parole, helping them navigate their reentry. After 12 years of seeking paths of healing and freedom, Anderson lives with hope and dignity, despite barriers to employment and housing from the collateral consequences of incarceration, by being a voice for the unheard and uninvited.

**Fionnuala Darby-Hudgens**

Community Education & Outreach  
Connecticut Fair Housing Center  
Hartford, CT  
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Ms. Darby-Hudgens has spent her professional career with the goal of pursuing meaningful, civic-minded work, with a focus on advocating for high needs populations. Finn's research on exclusionary zoning was published in Connecticut's 2013 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing. She earned her B.A. from Trinity College and was awarded an M.P.A. from the University of Connecticut in May of 2018.

**Sarah DiMaio**

Program Director  
The Salvation Army  
Hartford, CT

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Sarah DiMaio is the Program Director of The Salvation Army for Hartford and New Britain. She currently manages programs which include: Shelter Diversion, Homeless Prevention, Youth Navigators, Supportive Housing (services only), Youth Crisis Housing, Warming Center, and Emergency Shelters (men, women, and families). She has her Bachelor of Social Work from Southern Connecticut State University and is currently pursuing a Master of Business Administration. Sarah has worked with men, women, and families experiencing homelessness since 2011.

**Dana Dixon**

Director of Health Services  
New London Homeless Hospitality Center  
New London, CT

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Dana Dixon is Director of Health Services at the New London Homeless Hospitality Center, where she has worked since 2007. Dana has been managing the medical respite there since it start in 2014. She collaborates closely with staff at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital (now part of the Yale Hospital System) and other local health services providers.

**Marc Dones**

Executive Director  
National Innovation Service  
New York, NY

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Marc Dones is the Senior Lead for Equitable Systems at Future Laboratories and Executive Director of the National Innovation Service. Marc is a leader in equity-based systems transformation. Marc's work has focused on transforming service delivery systems to better care for vulnerable populations. Currently, Marc leads work across the country helping governments and system administrators transform their work to center historically marginalized populations. Previously, Marc has served as the Director of SPARC (Supporting Partnerships for Anti-Racist Communities) where they helped transform the national conversation around homelessness to include a racial equity lens. Prior to that Marc worked at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services designing and implementing program and policy responses for youth violence, youth experiencing homelessness, and LGBTQ communities facing health inequities.

**David J. Dudley**

Program Manager  
New Opportunities Inc., / Shelter NOW  
Meriden, CT

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Mr. David J. Dudley, Program Manager of Shelter NOW, David does more than manage a shelter. With more than 13 years in the human services field, he's driven by innovative new ways of creating service delivery models that's effective and beneficial.

**Katie Durand**

Housing Specialist

Hartford, CT

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Katie Durand is a Housing Specialist at the Connecticut Department of Housing, currently serving as youth housing services coordinator at DOH, helping lead the statewide effort to end youth homelessness, and managing the HUD Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program grant implementation. Along with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Katie helped lead the statewide collaborative effort to end Veteran homelessness. She continues to work on the Veteran effort to sustain functional zero and manages other special projects for DOH. Prior to joining the department, she worked as a congressional aide to U.S. Senator Joseph Lieberman, handling housing matters. Katie graduated from Boston University and earned her Juris Doctorate from the UConn School of Law.

**Felicity J. M. Eles, BSW**

Meriden-Middlesex-Wallingford CAN Coordinator

New Opportunities – Shelter NOW

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Felicity Eles is a social worker whose career has focused on systems change with a variety of populations. From therapeutic foster care in Washington, DC, to Money Follows the Person and the Coordinated Access Network process in CT, Felicity's focus has always remained person-centered. In her role as MMW CAN Coordinator, Felicity led the her team as they housed 31 families during the 2018 Governor's Family Challenge by employing creative and collaborative diversion strategies whenever possible. Her passion for maintaining human relationships through any change process guides her daily.

**Shirley Fan-Chan**

At Large Board Member/Higher Education Committee Member

National Association of Education

for Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY)

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Shirley Fan-Chan currently is the statewide Education Manager at the MA Department of Children and Families (MA DCF). She oversees K-12 education services and federal policy related to education for foster care youth and children. Her new role allows her to continue advocating for the vulnerable student population succeeding in K-12 public schools. Before she joined MA DCF, she was the Director of U-ACCESS at the University of Massachusetts Boston. At UMass Boston the Office of U-ACCESS, she oversaw the office that offered student services on campus primarily for homeless and foster care students who were in need of non-academic support. The office was one of its kinds among the higher education institution across the Commonwealth and a few across the country. She also had served on the advisory council of the Commonwealth Compact, an organization to promote diversity of leadership in the Commonwealth. She is currently serving her second term as an at-large board member of the National Association of Education for Homeless Children and Youth, a national organization advocating for homeless children and youth

**Kelly Fitzgerald**

Greater New Haven CAN Director

United Way of Greater New Haven

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Kelly Fitzgerald is Director of the Greater New Haven CAN at United Way of Greater New Haven. In her role, Kelly oversees the implementation of coordinated access as well as convenes cross sector partners to reach the goal of ending homelessness in Greater New Haven. Prior to that role, Kelly spent ten years focused on economic mobility of individuals, including youth and families, through education and employment. In her role

at Capital Workforce Partners, Kelly played a critical role in linking local workforce programs with the homeless system. Kelly holds a masters degree in Public Policy and a bachelors degree in Political Science.

**Amanda Gordon, MSW**

Deputy Director

Journey Home, Inc.

Hartford, CT

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Amanda Gordon is the Deputy Director at Journey Home where she started working as a Program Manager soon after receiving her Master of Social Work degree from UConn in 2011. With the Executive Director, she has helped to grow the agency from two staff to its current 14-person team. In her time there, she has helped to design and implement many pilot programs around housing and healthcare, as well as coordinated systems change efforts. She is responsible for overseeing Journey Home's grants, subcontracts, finances and for ensuring program compliance requirements are met.

**Randy Grant, MSW**

Program Manager

New Reach Inc.

New Haven, CT

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Randy Grant is the Program Manager of the Family Stabilization Department for New Reach Inc. in New Haven, Connecticut. In this role, Mr. Grant supervises staff who work directly with homeless families participating in the Rapid Re-Housing program. He has also overseen the pilot program of incorporating the Critical Time Intervention (CTI) Model into the agency's Rapid Re-Housing Program. Mr. Grant has been managing CTI based programs for 4 years. Previously, he held positions as a case manager and program manager for homeless individuals and families at the Housing Authority of the County of Salt Lake in Utah.

**Karen Hanley, LCSW**

Clinical Program Director/Mobile Crisis Response Team

CHR

Windsor, CT

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Karen Hanley is currently the Clinical Program Director for the CHR Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT), at Community Health Resources in Windsor, CT. Karen has 29 years' experience as a trauma informed clinical social worker and oversees the daily clinical and administrative functions of the program and provides clinical risk consultation to the agency and community partners. Karen facilitates community and family education, community suicide prevention programs, and provides clinical trainings in suicide risk assessment. She facilitates mental health trainings for area police departments as certified Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) Council trainer, is a section presenter for the statewide 40-hour CT-CABLE CIT training program, and is a Certified CIT Mental Health Coordinator. Karen holds an MSW in clinical social work from New York University and she is licensed as an independent clinical social worker in CT and MA.

**Jackie Janosko**

Research Associate

National Alliance to End Homelessness

Washington, DC

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Jackie Janosko has more than 20 years of experience in data analysis, with the last ten focused specifically on homelessness. She specializes in transforming complex data into easily understood visualizations to help

agencies make data driven decisions to effectively prevent and end homelessness. Her work has helped communities transform their systems. Prior to joining the National Alliance to End Homelessness, Jackie worked with the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness where she developed the first Interactive Coordinated Access Data Dashboard in the country and coordinated the statewide Point-in-Time Counts. She has also managed regional Rapid Rehousing programs and served as a local Continuum of Care Standards & Evaluations Committee Co-Chair.

**Alex Katz, MS**

Program Specialist  
University of Connecticut Rising Scholars  
Storrs, CT

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Alex is a Program Specialist at UConn where she helps high school students in foster care graduate high school and matriculate to college. Born and Raised in CT, Alex holds Bachelor's degrees from UConn in Psychology and Spanish, and a M.S. from the University of Rhode Island, where she focused on supporting students aging out of foster care, as well as students who are independent, first generation, or homeless. Her passion for working with this population stems from her own struggles with homelessness. Alex has also been involved in several legislative initiatives in CT and other UConn initiatives to identify and create additional supports for students who are independent, in foster care, and/or experiencing hunger and homelessness.

**Jessica Kubicki, LCSW**

Director of Programs  
Supportive Housing Works  
Bridgeport, CT

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Jessica Kubicki, LCSW, joined Supportive Housing WORKS in January 2016 as the Rapid Exits Manager and transitioned her role to the Director of Programs in May 2017. She provides leadership in maintaining a strong housing placement system, collaborates with providers through the Housing First Collaboratives within the four sub-communities of Fairfield County, and assists in the implementation of statewide housing policies and procedures within the Coordinated Access Network. Jessica also provides clinical and programmatic support to the Rapid Re-Housing Program.

Jessica has 10+ years in the field of social work. Prior to working at Supportive Housing WORKS, she was the Manager of Supportive Housing at Family & Children's Agency in Norwalk for 3 years. Jessica graduated with her Masters in Social Work in 2012 and became a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in 2015.

**Kayla Laing, BA**

Youth Navigator, Rapid Rehousing Case Manager  
Noank Community Support Services, Groton, CT  
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I graduated from Eastern Connecticut State University with a bachelor's degree in sociology and minor in criminology. Throughout my five years of working in social services, I am fairly new to the young adult population. I began my work almost two years ago, when the organization (Noank Community Support Services) I was employed at opened up a young adult shelter in Groton – the only one in Southeastern CT. I was affiliated with the shelter by providing general oversight of the day to day functions, as well as working in the front lines with the young adults who were in shelter. Through this position, I provided CAN assessments, diversion, extensive case management and ultimately matched these young adults with a permanent housing solution, with the goal of minimizing shelter stays and removing this vulnerable population from the adult shelters. Once YHDP rolled out, I then entered into a new position as youth navigator and rapid re-housing case manager. Within this role, I “navigate” at-risk and literally homeless young adults through the system,

ensuring positive initial contact and connections to necessary supports and services. I utilize rapid exit and diversion funding through CCEH to continue my work in quick exits from shelter or removing any shelter stays completely. The other half of my position as a rapid rehousing case manager is based upon the housing first model which includes rapidly housing young adults that may be experiencing housing barriers with on-going financial support until necessary, with case management.

**Emma Lo, M.D.**

Psychiatry Resident  
Connecticut Mental Health Center  
New Haven, CT

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Emma Lo is a psychiatry resident at the Connecticut Mental Health Center, who has spear-headed efforts to start a street psychiatry program in New Haven, CT, where she will soon begin as a full time street psychiatrist. She has experience working with the homeless population from work in Philadelphia, PA, Pittsburgh, PA and Rochester, NY. She is passionate about involving trainees in street medicine efforts in order to promote a more humanistic approach to taking care of our society's most vulnerable people.

**Jennifer Paradis, BA, MSOL**

Executive Director  
Beth-El Center, Inc.  
Milford, CT

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Jennifer Paradis has served as the Executive Director of the Beth-El Center, Inc. since June 2018. Previous to this position, Jennifer served as the Director of Programs and Facilities at Beth-El Center, Inc. since 2015. Jennifer received her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Applied Social Relations from Eastern Connecticut State University in 2009 and received her Master of Science in Organizational Leadership with a concentration in Non-Profit Management. The work of Beth-El Center, Inc. has most recently shifted to using Outreach and Engagement efforts as a broader system to engage community partners and build coalitions, creating community-based support and systemic change.

**Maureen Pasko, LCSW**

Director, Homeless Programs  
VA Connecticut Healthcare System  
West Haven, CT

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Maureen Pasko is Licensed Clinical Social Worker currently employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs in West Haven Connecticut . She has been working in the mental health field for over 15 years with multiple years of experience in Psychiatric Emergency Rooms and with patients in crisis. Ms. Pasko is currently the Director of Homeless Programs for VA Connecticut Healthcare System. She works with a team of over 40 staff to meet the needs of Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Connecticut and works collaboratively with community agencies, local and state government. Prior to working with homeless Veterans, she held the position of Suicide Prevention Coordinator at VA Connecticut for 5 years.

**Jessica Loss, LCSW**

Suicide Prevention Coordinator  
VA Connecticut Healthcare System  
West Haven, CT

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Jessie Loss is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who graduated from Providence College and UCONN School of Social Work. She is a Suicide Prevention Coordinator at VA Connecticut, where she provides training and education, consultation, and clinical oversight relative to suicide prevention. Jessie also has ten years of experience in the field of correctional social work, where she provided assessment and treatment to incarcerated women. In addition, Jessie currently operates a part-time private practice and is an Adjunct Professor for a Masters Level Social Work program.

**Rebekah Lyas**

Director of Programs  
ImmCare Inc.  
Hartford, CT  
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Rebekah began her career in homeless services in 2010 as an Outreach and Engagement Case Manager. Since then she has managed various programs serving homeless and formerly homeless clients. She joined ImmaCare Inc. in 2017 as the Quality Assurance Manager and was promoted to the Director of Programs in February 2018. She is responsible for the oversight of ImmaCare's Mobile Outreach, Emergency Shelter and Permanent Supportive Housing programs. She currently serves as member of the Middlesex Habitat for Humanity Event Committee and recently joined the board of Journey Home.

**Chris Lyddy**

Chief of Police  
Fairfield Police Department  
Fairfield, CT  
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Chris grew up in the Town of Fairfield, graduating from Fairfield Prep in 1978. Chris graduated from Bryant University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice in 1982. Hired by the Fairfield Police Department in 1982, Chris has served the town of Fairfield in a variety of capacities including patrol officer, detective, patrol sergeant, lieutenant, and captain. He served the last eight years as Deputy Chief of Police. Chris is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy, 215th session, an 11 week program in Quantico, Virginia. In addition to his normal duties, Chris serves as Executive Advisor to the Fairfield Police Explorer Post, an educational program sponsored by learning for life, servicing youth between the ages of 13 and 21. Chris is co-chairman of the Agape Society, a charitable organization committed to providing resources to disabled children in the greater Fairfield area. He also serves on the Board of Directors of LifeBridge, CT Yankee Counsel, Boy Scouts of America and the Board of Directors of Operation Hope. Chris served for 7 years as a counselor/instructor for the FBI National Academies Youth Leadership Program where he taught Constitutional Law and Ethics in Leadership each summer in Quantico, Virginia. He is also a member of the Fairfield Chapter of Rotary International.

**Tim Maguire, M.S.**

Director of Housing Programs  
Youth Continuum  
New Haven, CT  
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I have an B.S. in Psychology and Criminal Justice from Marist College, in Poughkeepsie, NY and an M.S. from the University of New Haven in Criminal Justice/Forensic Psychology, with a Victimology certificate. I am currently earning my MSW from Fordham University. I am from the Boston area originally, but arrived in CT for graduate school, making a home here, once I found a career and a passion for working with youth in New Haven. I have been working with youth since I was 14 years old in camp settings, after-school programs, the

YMCA, group homes, as a case manager, as a juvenile probation clinician, overseeing a Work to Learn program for criminal justice system involved youth, and now as the Director of Housing for Youth Continuum.

**Lesley D. Mara, Esq.**

Attorney Lesley D. Mara

Interim Director

Workforce Development, Strategic Partnerships and Sponsored Programs

Connecticut State Colleges and Universities

Hartford, CT

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Attorney Mara currently serves as Interim Director for Workforce Development, Strategic Partnerships and Sponsored Programs at the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities. She serves as Statewide Project Director for the GEAR UP grant, a \$31 million grant from the US Department of Education that focuses on preparing high school students for graduation and enrollment in post-secondary education. Prior to that, Attorney Mara was Senior Project Director for the CT Health and Life Sciences Career Initiative funded by a \$12 million grant from US Department of Labor. She managed a consortium of 7 institutions (Capital, Gateway, Manchester, Middlesex and Norwalk Community Colleges, Charter Oak State College and Eastern Connecticut State University) dedicated to created new Certificate and Associate Degree programs and revising existing programs to prepare students for jobs in the growing healthcare and bioscience fields. Before joining the Initiative, Ms. Mara spent five years as the Deputy Secretary of the State of Connecticut She also served as the first Superintendent of the Connecticut Juvenile Training School, the state's only secure facility for adjudicated youth. Ms. Mara is a graduate of Smith College (cum laude, 1983) and the University of Connecticut School of Law (with honors, 1986) and spent several years as a litigator prior to entering public service.

**Eliza McNamara, RSS**

Chair of Youth To Lead Change (and Peer Support Specialist)

Supportive Housing Works (TurningPointCT.org)

Bridgeport, CT

emcnamara@thehubct.org

Eliza McNamara is a 23 year old advocate and peer support specialist. Eliza uses her lived experience with homelessness, mental illness, and substance to spread awareness, break stigma, and advocate for other young people. Eliza has been involved in Youth To Lead Change, Opening Doors Fairfield County's Youth Advisory Board, since August of 2017 and has been the chair of Youth To Lead Change since May of 2018.

**Laura Noe**

Owner

Laura Noe Communications, LLC

Branford, CT

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Laura Noe lived and worked in the business world in NYC. Ending her corporate career in 2012, she wrote her first book, Travels with My Son: Journeys of the Heart which chronicled her travels around the world with her young son.

Prompted by a dying father, Noe began a search to find her brother who had been homeless and absent for more than two decades. She found her brother living on the green in New Milford, Connecticut. In her newest book, Tree Man, she tells the gritty story of her brother's journey into, through, and out of homelessness.

**Victoria Osborne**

Youth Navigator  
The Salvation Army  
New Britain, CT

[Victoria.osborne@use.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Victoria.osborne@use.salvationarmy.org)

I recently graduated from Central Connecticut State University with a bachelor's degree in criminology. For the past eight years I have worked for New Britain Parks and Recreation and Community Services Department. Many of these years were spent with the aquatics program where I ran various programs for the city's youth. During my last semester at CCSU, I interned with a Youth Advocate, who works within New Britain Youth and Family Services (NBYFS). During this internship I worked closely with high-risk youth and young adults. Many of the young adults who were involved in NBYFS came from the Juvenile Review Board, or by referral from a school within the community. Prior to attending Central, I attended Tunxis Community College. While a student at Tunxis, I partook in an internship with Connecticut Court Support Services bail division. In this internship I assisted with the case management of pre-trial clients.

**Caroline Perez, MPA**

Manager of Middlesex Services  
Columbus House  
Middletown, CT

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I have been working with those experiencing homelessness for the past 11 years. I started as a SNAP Outreach Worker while obtaining my Bachelor's Degree in Rhode Island. I travelled to soup kitchens, food pantries, emergency shelters, and community providers and fell in love with helping those in need. After I moved back to Connecticut, I worked part-time at the Salvation Army in Meriden as a Financial Literacy Case Manager where I provided case management to those in the community and assisted with the food pantry. During my time there, I worked with many guests of Shelter NOW which was located next door. In seeking full-time employment, I applied to Shelter NOW and was hired in September 2014. During my 4 years of employment there, I had several roles within the shelter which included the Case Manager for the 26 male guests, the Rapid Re-housing and Transitional Living Program Case Manager, and the Coordinated Access Network (CAN) Coordinator for the Meriden-Middlesex County-Wallingford (MMW) region. My role as the CAN Coordinator was to ensure the system addressing homelessness within the region was operating effectively and efficiently and I was responsible for creating and implementing policies. In October 2018, I was hired as the Manager of Middlesex Services for Columbus House where I am responsible for overseeing several programs which include Rapid Re-Housing, Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH), Recovery Interventions Service Team (RIST), and How Can We Help? I am the Project Coordinator for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project in the MMW region which consists of Rapid Re-housing, Crisis Beds, and a Youth Navigator. I have also been nominated as MMW's Change Steward for the 100-Day Youth Challenge.

**Caitlin Rose, LMFT**

Special Projects Program Manager  
New Reach  
New Haven, CT  
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Caitlin Rose is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in CT and CA, holding a Master of Arts in both Psychology and Clinical Psychology from Pepperdine University, as well as a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Sociology from Northeastern University. Beyond training as a Relational Gestalt therapist within community mental health settings, her career has focused on the youth homelessness response system in a variety of leadership roles across systems of care for literally and imminently homeless young people ages 18-24 across Los Angeles County. Caitlin relocated to CT two years ago and currently chairs the Greater New

Haven YETI and supervises the CAN Family Navigators in Greater New Haven as Special Projects Program Manager at New Reach.

**Dan Shetler**

Data Scientist

Columbus House

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Dan Shetler is a data scientist at Columbus House, with a personal mission to help nonprofits harness the power of data through statistical analysis, data visualization, and machine learning. He strives to create data visualizations that are simple, intuitive, useful and beautiful. Dan likes to approaches data (and life) through play and brings a sense of joy and creativity to his work. He has a master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs which focused on monitoring and evaluating nonprofit organizations. His favorite color is teal, and his favorite food is Ethiopian (like his birthplace).

**Nicola Smith-Kea**

Criminal Justice Manager

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Washington, D.C.

Nicola is currently the Criminal Justice Manager at Arnold Ventures' in Washington, DC. Previously, Nicola served as Law Enforcement Project Manager at the Council of State Government Justice Center. There, she provided technical assistance to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Law Enforcement Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP) grantees and supported innovative cross-system collaborations for individuals with mental illnesses or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders who come into contact with the justice system. Nicola oversaw the National Law Enforcement–Mental Health Learning Sites Program and worked closely with a diverse cross-section of law enforcement agencies dedicated to helping jurisdictions improve their responses to people with mental illnesses. Nicola has also served as an independent program evaluator for USAID's Bureau of Economic Growth, Education and Environment. Nicola is a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for Montgomery County, Maryland. As a CASA, she is a trained volunteer appointed by the Juvenile Court to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children. She holds an M.S. in sociology from the University of the West Indies, Jamaica and a B.S. in psychology and sociology. She has also received an M.A. in criminology and criminal justice from the University of Maryland, College Park and an M.A. in leadership and change from Antioch University.

**Maria Stoute**

Director of Program Management Division

Imagineers, LLC

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Maria Stoute is the Director of the Program Management Division for Imagineers, LLC. Maria joined the company in 1982 and is responsible for the day-to-day execution of the contractual responsibilities for the various Section 8 programs administered at Imagineers. Maria has chief administrative responsibility for the operation of all Imagineers' housing subsidy management services to client agencies and has extensive experience in the management of HUD housing programs and overseeing Federal and State housing compliance requirements. Imagineers administers multiple housing programs under Maria's direction including the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program, Section 8 Project-Based program, Moderate Rehabilitation program and the Homeownership program.

**Louis Tallarita**

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Louis Tallarita is an Education Consultant with the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE). He currently serves as both the State Coordinator to the Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program and program manager of the Connecticut Family Resource Center Program. Prior to his employment with the CSDE, Louis also administered programs and services with the Connecticut Department of Social Services. Louis received his graduate degree in Social Work at the University of Connecticut, with a major concentration in administration and public policy. This association with UCONN SSW continued through teaching as an Adjunct Professor. In addition to presenting at numerous state and national conferences on educating children and youth experiencing homelessness, Louis has co-authored and published journal articles related to the implementation of the McKinney-Vento Act.

**Jason Villani, MLS**

Reference Librarian  
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Jason has been a reference librarian at the New Britain Public Library since 2008. He is a co-chair of Connecticut Library Consortium's Social Justice Round Table and committed to critical librarianship. "Critical librarianship is a movement of library workers dedicated to bringing social justice principles into our work in libraries. We aim to engage in discussion about critical perspectives on library practice. Recognizing that we all work under regimes of white supremacy, capitalism, and a range of structural inequalities, how can our work as librarians intervene in and disrupt those systems?" (<http://critlib.org/about/>)

**Stacey Violante Cote, JD, MSW**

Director of Operations  
Director, Right Direction: Homeless Youth Advocacy Project  
Center for Children's Advocacy  
Hartford, CT

Stacey Violante Cote is Director of Operations as well as Director of the Right Direction: Homeless Youth Advocacy Project at the Center for Children's Advocacy.

Stacey's work focuses on advocating for youth who are experiencing homelessness or at risk for homelessness. She supervises CCA attorneys, case managers and paralegals who work with youth throughout the state, and oversees two of CCA's innovative outreach methods: the Center's Mobile Legal Office, and Teen Legal Action Clinics at Bridgeport's Harding High School and at Norwalk High School. Stacey and her team work to remove barriers that prevent youth from completing school, and address civil legal issues that are obstacles to long term independence and success.

Stacey also chairs the Youth and Young Adult Homelessness Workgroup of Connecticut's Reaching Home Campaign, working with statewide partners to end youth homelessness in CT.

**Lauren Zimmermann**

Director of System Performance  
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Lauren Zimmermann is the Director of System Performance at Supportive Housing Works, the backbone organization for Opening Doors of Fairfield County. In her current role, she partners with local, regional, and statewide stakeholders to advance all efforts towards a more efficient, effective, and data-informed homeless response system. Lauren earned a master's degree in Social Work Nonprofit Administration and Community Organizing from the University of Connecticut, and dual bachelor's degrees from New York University. She has a strong opinion about which mall pretzel is best (Wetzel's Pretzels, obviously), she's basically a walking advertisement for Smartsheet, and takes great pride in the work CT is doing to end homelessness.