

Seattle-King County, WA Continuum of Care Advisory Committee Recommendation October 7, 2020

RECOMMENDATION

After a thorough and thoughtful review of 65 applicants, a pool comprised of talented leaders in this community, the Selection Committee would like to **recommend the following 18 applicants** to serve as the Continuum of Care Advisory Committee:

Benjamin Allen Miksch	Linda Peoples
Brianna Franco	Marisol Tapia Hopper
Jenna Burgoyne	Marvin Futrell
Jesse Benet	Nawiishtunmi Nightgun
Karen Taylor	Norine Hill
Kelle J. Brown	Robin Tatsuda
Kristi Hamilton	Shanée Colston
Kristina M. Sawyckyj	Sherry Tillman
Leeze Castro	Tamara Bauman

Additionally, the committee **recommends holding a public application process to select the final 19th position, specifically to fulfill the role of an additional public or private funder.**

The table below summarizes the seats members will hold and demonstrates the dynamic and diverse expertise of each recommended applicant:

	Lived Experience (at least 4 members)	Homeless Housing Providers (no more than 6 members)	Funders (at least 2 members)	Faith-Based Community (at least 1 member)	Intersecting Systems	American Indian/Alaska Native (at least 2 members)	Black/African American (at least 1 member)
Brianna Franco	X	X			X		
Jenna Burgoyne	X						
Karen Taylor	X				X		X
Kristina M. Sawyckyj	X				X	X	
Leeze Castro	X					X	
Linda Peoples	X			X	X		X
Shanee Colston	X	X		X	X		X
Marvin Futrell	X	X					X
Nawiishtunmi Nightgun	X	X			X	X	
Norine Hill	X	X		X	X	X	
Robin Tatsuda		X					
Sherry Tillman	X	X					X
Tamara Bauman	X	X					
Benjamin Allen Miksch			X				
Vacant			X				
Kelle J. Brown				X			X
Jesse Benet		X			X		
Kristi Hamilton	X	X		X	X	X	
Marisol Tapia Hopper		X		X	X		

DEMOGRAPHICS / AFFILIATIONS:

This group of recommended applicants represent substantial expertise and leadership in the community. Their analysis of equity, commitment to centering the voices of people with lived expertise, and knowledge of homelessness in our region were evident in both their applications and interviews. These candidates also reflect the diversity of experiences and demographics of the broader population of people experiencing homelessness within the region.

Race:

- Black, Indigenous or People of color – 16 members
 - Black/African American - 6
 - American Indian/Alaska Native - 5
 - Latinx - 4
 - Pacific Islander - 1
 - 1 person with known refugee/immigration experience
- Caucasian – 2 members

Gender Identity:

- Transgender or gender non-conforming members – 3 members
- Cisgender female – 13 members
- Cisgender male – 2 members

Sub-Population Expertise

(applicants could select more than 1 category)

- Youth/Young Adults – 9 members
- Families – 11 members
- Chronic Homelessness – 9 members
- Single Adults (Non-Chronic/Non-Veteran) – 9 members
- Domestic Violence- 10 members
- Veterans – 4 members
- Immigrant/Refugees – 5 members

Sexual Orientation:

- LGBTQ – 6 members
- Heterosexual – 6 members
- Unknown – 6 members

Age:

- 18-24 years – 3 members
- 25-55 – 10 members
- 55+ - 2 members
- Unknown – 3 members

Disability Status:

- Yes – 7 members
- No – 7 members
- Unknown – 4 members

Regional Representation

(applicants selected more than 1 category):

- Regional – 9 members
- City of Seattle – 6 members
- South King County – 4 members
- East King County – 2 members
- North King County – 2 members

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

See the attached seating process, affirmed by the Coordinating Board in July, 2020.

The Selection Committee (committee) took the following actions and discussed the following points to further emphasize the Theory of Change and equity principles:

- The committee requested to conduct a ‘blind review’ of applications and efforts were made to remove identifying information from applications.
- Final recommendations were made utilizing a combination of application and interview scores, and demographic and affiliation information, and was guided by the CoC charter and regional goals and values.
- Committee members worked to ensure that members representing historically marginalized communities would not solely responsible to represent their communities.
- Committee members also discussed the opportunities to engage with community leaders with expertise in providing culturally tailored and community-based programs that offer non-traditional services aimed at building and reinforcing power, namely community-based and BI-POC led organizations.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE – RECOMMENDED MEMBER BIOS

Benjamin Allen Miksch

Benjamin Miksch is the WA State Housing Specialist for the UnitedHealthcare Community Plan and has worked on housing affordability and homelessness issues since 2009 on behalf of Senator Maria Cantwell, the WA Low Income Housing Alliance, the Third Door Coalition, and as a Board Member of the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness. Benjamin will work to amplify the voices of people with direct experiences of homelessness to ensure every single person has access to the safe, healthy, and affordable place to call home that they deserve.

Brianna Franco

Brianna Franco is a foster care and homelessness advocate with The Mockingbird Society and serves on the Youth Action Board. Brianna has experience in public speaking and policy and law development, and believes that it is vital to include young people in decision-making and ensure their voices are elevated, because decisions made now will effect future generations to come.

Jenna Burgoyne

Jenna Burgoyne served on the Youth Action Board and is passionate about housing equity and housing as a human right. Jenna's vision of a successful Advisory Committee is one that partners with providers, policy and advocacy groups, and centers people with lived experience to make long-lasting and radical change.

Jesse Benet

Jesse Benet leads the Co-LEAD program at the Public Defender Association which serves people at the intersection of the criminal legal system, homelessness and behavioral health. Jesse was also a part of the leadership team for the King County Familiar Faces Initiative, a cross-sector and LEAN approach to studying individuals who have repeatedly cycled through King County Jails. Jesse works to change the homelessness service systems to be more responsive and inclusive to people with criminal records.

Karen Taylor

Karen Taylor is the Executive Director of the Lived Experience Coalition, a Village of Hope member, a Diversion Coach, a Black Prisoners Caucus member, a member of the Urban League of Seattle, and an anti-racist organizer with the People's Institute NW. Karen has experienced homelessness several times in her life, and, as a Seattle native knowledgeable about the history of organizing in the city, is a dedicated champion for change and disrupting racism in partnership with community.

Reverend Dr. Kelle J. Brown

Reverend Dr. Kelle J. Brown is a faith leader of a church that has over its history created Plymouth Housing and Plymouth Healing Communities, and is a member of the Washington State Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for a Moral Revival leadership team. Reverend Dr. Brown leads in a community poised to participate in the movement toward justice and equity that produces safe and stable housing for those often blocked from participation.

Kristi Hamilton

Kristi Hamilton is a member of Samaritan Beacon and volunteers with organizations like Companis, Chief Seattle Club, and was one of the original members of Operation Night Watch. Kristi has worked as a geriatric, psychiatric nurse, and as a drug and alcohol counselor. Kristi brings a unique perspective with lived experience of homelessness, as well as a background as a homeowner and landlord. As an older, Native woman with lived experience of homelessness, Kristi brings hope and sees opportunities for systemic change.

Kristina M. Sawyckyj

Kristina M. Sawyckyj is the vice chair for the South King County Healthcare for the Homeless Advisory Group, an appointed member to the Seattle's Commission for People with Disabilities, a Vice Co-Chair of the Washington State Behavioral Healthcare Council, the Disability Access Coordinator for the Transit Rider's Union, a member of the Lived Experience Coalition Leadership Team, and an instructor with the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill. Kristina believes that in order to change homelessness, we need to change oppressive forces and make housing a human right for all.

Leeze Castro

Leeze Castro was a member on the Youth Action Board and provided leadership to the End Youth Homelessness Now Campaign, presenting EYHN data to Seattle City Council and MCing the campaign launch. Leeze also served as a member of the Northwest Network's Youth Leadership Board and feels most fulfilled when doing empowering work that prevents other people from being traumatized when needing help from broken systems.

Linda Peoples

Linda Peoples is a current leadership team member of the Lived Experience Coalition and Consumer Advisory Council. Linda is deeply engaged in antiracist community organizing as a way to undo systemic and institutional racism to create communities where everyone has housing.

Marisol Tapia Hopper

Marisol Tapia Hopper brings extensive experience providing services that advance the social and economic well-being of immigrants and refugees. In her efforts to advance equity-driven policies in social service programs for systematically underserved communities, she co-chaired the Tri-County Refugee Planning Committee, and currently serves as a member of Governor Jay Inslee's Poverty Reduction Workgroup. Marisol is guided by a strong commitment to equity and dignity in service delivery to fully address and serve the holistic needs of children, adults and families experiencing homelessness.

Marvin Futrell

Marvin Futrell is a staff organizer at Nickelsville and a Clinical Instructor at the University of Washington's School of Public Health. Marvin is working on expanding systems to address the needs of Seattle's growing number of people experiencing homelessness and supporting participatory, democratic processes in organizations owned and operated by individuals experiencing homelessness.

Nawiishtunmi Nightgun

Nawiishtunmi Nightgun is the Deputy Director of Housing for Wellspring Family Services. Nawiishtunmi serves as Vice President of the Executive Committee for the Mockingbird Society Board of Directors, a member of the YWCA Policy Advisory Committee, the Coordinated Entry for All Policy Advisory Committee, facilitator of AI/AN case conferencing, resident action project member, Indian Child Welfare Act staffing member. She has helped lead the work for HMIS tribal designation, and is an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and a descendant of the Blackfeet tribes. Nawiishtunmi's purpose is to learn the systems, hear the stories, and make big impacts for our relatives experiencing homelessness.

Norine Hill

Norine Hill is the Executive Director/Founder of Mother Nation and member of the Oneida Nation. She is a former elected Tribal Council member of her Tribe and Education Board with over 25 years of Executive grassroots management experience building cultural programs, creating non-profits, networking, and collaborating with Tribal entities. Norine is committed to inter-generational governance, where Elders with Mentees move their legacies into the next generation,

while embracing new technologies and synthesis to develop new and better ways to serve and communicate with the community. Norine applies her experience in recovery from multi-abuse trauma, homelessness and alcohol addiction to her grassroots leadership at Mother Nation.

Robin Tatsuda

Robin Tatsuda is the Executive Director of The Arc of King County and has a background in promoting equity and social justice through the lens of disability, including the intersection of disability and other marginalized identities such as race, ethnicity, gender, national origin, etc. Robin’s approach is to ensure programming and services are fully informed by and accountable to the community served. Given over 64% of people experiencing homelessness have one or more disabilities, it is critical to ensure that disability accessibility is included in the strategies to end homelessness.

Shanéé Colston

Shanéé Colston works as a peer counselor and Diversion Coach where Shanée draws on her lived experience to draw out people’s stories to help them find solutions for themselves. The Theory of Change gives Shanée power for her voice to be heard in spaces where normally, it isn’t. It gives her a chance to offer instant feedback, because she is currently on the frontlines and can bring experience and insights that others cannot.

Sherry Tillman

Sherry Tillman is the Intake Manager Specialist at Mary’s Place where Sherry connects families experiencing homelessness to shelter. Sherry wants to bring front-line perspective to this committee to help create solutions that are focused around the needs of those who are experiencing homelessness and improve the system so that families have a voice, feel respected and represented, are able to become self-sufficient, and have options where they don’t have to experience homelessness at all.

Tamara Bauman

Tamara Bauman is a Rapid Re-Housing advocate at Solid Ground and is described as a “tenacious justice-seeker.” Tamara works to amplify the voices of program participants and to ensure anti-racist policies and procedures are operationalized throughout the system.

