



A HOUSING FIRST SYSTEM: *Our Solution to Own* December 13, 2016

Presenter Bios

MICHAEL CHIN is the Civil Rights Enforcement Manager for the Seattle Office for Civil Rights responsible for the enforcement and compliance of local and federal anti-discrimination laws in employment, housing, public accommodations, and contracting. Michael leads a team of civil rights investigators which include proactive enforcement and community outreach engagement in Seattle. Michael was instrumental in the early development and implementation of Seattle's labor standards ordinances which include Paid Sick and Safe Time, Fair Chance, Minimum Wage, and Administrative Wage Theft ordinances. Prior to his role with SOCR, he worked as an investigator for the Washington State Human Rights Commission. Michael has presented trainings on the enforcement and compliance of non-discrimination and employment equity laws throughout Washington and Oregon. He is a certified mediator since 2006 and mediates for the Seattle Federal Executive Board, King County Dispute Resolution Program and serves on the City of Seattle Alternative Dispute Resolution Advisory Board. Michael is a member of the citywide Race and Social Justice Initiative Core Team and department Change Team which addresses racial equity in the community. Michael received his Juris Doctorate from Gonzaga University School of Law and Masters Business Administration from Gonzaga in 2006.

LAMONT GREEN currently serves as a King County Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health Systems Transformation Manager (The Familiar Faces Initiative) and is a Core Member of The People's Assembly. He intersects his love for Humanity and hunger for Racial & Social Justice by joining with others to transform power structures towards a more equitable and humane society for all. LaMont brings experience in policy analysis, community organizing, criminal justice reform, housing & homelessness issues, youth and young adult engagement, curriculum and training development, research and evaluation, and mental health treatment.

LaMont believes collective reflection, collective healing, and collective action across the intersections of race, gender, age, ability, income, education, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, and culture regardless of documented or undocumented status are our greatest hope towards dismantling racism and other structures of oppression. As Dr. King so eloquently stated, "We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied into a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one affects all indirectly."

LaMont received his MSW from the University of Washington, Seattle with a concentration in Community-Centered Integrative Practice, and was recently accepted into a Doctorate of Social Work Program focused on harnessing innovation to address complex social dilemmas.

DEE HILLIS is the Residential Services Director at Solid Ground where they work to end poverty and undo racism and other oppressions that are the root causes of poverty. Dee started at Solid Ground in 2006 and stayed because of the mission. Prior to joining Solid Ground, Dee worked at several organizations as a Program Director designing and implementing successful programs that helped homeless families and individuals get back on their feet

In her current role, Dee leads and oversees the development and implementation of services and supports for children, youth, families and individuals housed by Solid Ground to improve the outcomes for children and youth, support housing stability for all; as well as improve their health and wellness.

Dee has over 20 years of experience working with families and individuals from diverse racial, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. Her range of experience deals with issues from birth to death including family violence and homelessness. She works collaboratively with other organizations in this area doing similar work; and she is committed to social justice and equality for all.

SARA ELIZABETH HOLBROOK has worked at Wellspring for 10 years in Housing Services with families and individuals experiencing homelessness. Her roles have included Housing Stability Specialist, Lead, and Supervisor and now currently Program Manager for Rapid Re-housing and the State of Emergency Program. Sara earned a B.A. from Hood College with a major in Journalism and minor in Sociology. Following college she completed a year of service as an AmeriCorps as a Volunteer Coordinator and after school Program manager at a Family Support Center in Seattle. She has worked for the last 16 years in Seattle with families, children and individuals in shelters, Family Support Centers, transitional and low income housing.

TURINA JAMES is a member of Voice of Community Activist Leaders (VOCAL) and the Familiar Faces Advisory Board. As a member of these groups, Turina informs and advocates for state and local behavioral health and recovery-related policies and services. Turina herself has struggled with addiction and homelessness at various points in her life and has almost lost her life due to severe strep throat and frequent infections in her arm. She is inspired by the special people who have helped her through these experiences and now works as an advocate for others with similar struggles. She works hard to do anything and everything she can to show others the way. Her message is: Never Give Up.

MARGARET KING MSW, is the Director of Housing for DESC. As Director of Housing, she is responsible for providing housing and services to nearly 9,000 homeless adults annually and overseeing a budget of \$20 million and 250 employees. Margaret has worked at DESC since 1993 in various roles in the clinical and housing programs including Manager of Supportive Housing prior to assuming her current role. She also provides clinical supervision for clinicians seeking state licensure, and operates a small private practice in adoption. She holds an MSW from the University of Washington and an LICSW in the State of Washington.

DANIEL MALONE is the Executive Director of DESC, a homelessness service organization providing survival and crisis services, behavioral health treatment, and permanent supportive housing. Daniel has been at DESC for the past 26 years, first providing direct client services and later becoming the organization's first Housing Director and then Deputy Director. A major emphasis of Daniel's work has been designing, implementing, and evaluating programs for chronically homeless people with serious mental illness and substance use disorders.

RACHEL MATHISON has been involved in providing services to those in need since 2000 through activities and jobs ranging from community organizing to program design and implementation. She has worked with single adults, families and youth in emergency shelter, transitional housing programs, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing. In the past, Rachel also created and chaired a best practices training program for new advocates working with homelessness and poverty.

JULIE MCFARLAND is a Senior Program Manager for Consulting and Training at CSH, responsible for providing technical assistance to communities nationally, through HUD-funded assignments and the Built for Zero Initiative focused on ending veteran and chronic homelessness. Ms. McFarland brings over ten years of experience as a homeless housing and service provider, starting as direct service staff at a shelter in Missoula, MT and later providing leadership in Division Director roles at two non-profits in King County, Washington, focused on ending homelessness among families and young adults. Additionally, Ms. McFarland provided leadership of coordinated entry system operations for families and young adults experiencing homelessness in King County.

TOM MILES works at Congregations for the Homeless, for two years as the homeless shelter night manager and another two years as a case manager and outreach coordinator. Tom graduated from the University of Oregon with a Bachelors in Political Science.

LINDA OLSEN is the Housing Program Coordinator with the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence. She coordinated the Domestic Violence Housing First pilot project, which tested housing stability strategies for survivors of domestic violence. This project has evolved into a five-year demonstration project focusing on systems change and measuring long-term outcomes for survivors and their children. Linda has worked in the field of domestic violence for 30 years, serving in the roles of shelter director and executive director at two domestic violence agencies. She facilitated the opening of two domestic violence emergency shelters, developed a transitional housing program for survivors with drug/alcohol treatment needs, and piloted rental assistance programs for DV survivors. She currently serves on the Washington State Advisory Council on Homelessness. Linda has graduate degrees in theology and social work.

SIDNEY WILSON is an activist and organizer for Voice of Community Activist Leaders (VOCAL) and the Familiar Faces Advisory Board. As a member of these groups, Sidney informs and advocates for state and local behavioral health and recovery-related policies and services. Sidney is also a board member of Black Village Caucus, Community Advisory Board, AIDS Clinical Trials UNIT, and the Hepatitis Education Project. Sidney also works as a syringe exchange worker for King County Public Health. Sidney is currently experiencing homelessness, but that does not define who he is. For many years, Sidney described himself as part of the problem. Now he is dedicated to helping his community and the people in the community. He wants to make a difference in someone's life.

KIRA ZYLSTRA is Assistant Director of All Home (formerly the Committee to End Homelessness), a broad coalition of government, business, faith communities, nonprofits, and homeless advocates working together to make homelessness rare, brief, and one-time. Kira started in this position in July 2015. Kira graduated from the University of Michigan and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology. Prior to All Home, she worked at Solid Ground, a Community Action anti-poverty organization in Seattle/King County. In her 14 years at Solid Ground, Kira provided education and prevention services to families and individuals at risk of homelessness, fostered community support and facilitated planning for more than 200 units of affordable housing for formerly homeless households, and provided leadership to the agency's efforts to address homelessness and systemic poverty through financial empowerment, civil legal aid, housing counseling, homelessness prevention, and rapid re-housing.