



**Saffron Strand's
First Annual
Spring Conference**

bridges out of homelessness

Vocations, Health and Housing

Craneway Pavilion | Richmond, CA | May 10th, 2010 | 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.



Invitation from Mayor McLaughlin:

Dear Conference Participants,

It is my pleasure to invite you to our City of Richmond for the conference **“Bridges Out of Homelessness: Vocations, Health and Housing.”** This first-ever conference has great potential to improve the lives and livelihoods of thousands of Richmond residents and others throughout West County. West Contra Costa, including Richmond, is home to more than half the county’s homeless.

Human suffering is cause enough for us to try to help as individuals and communities. However, the homeless also represent significant public cost, particularly for unreimbursed services such as emergency medical services and hospital treatment. The high public cost of homelessness is another reason why it is important to get the homeless back to work as quickly as possible.

We need **“Bridges Out of Homelessness”** now because we need to learn more about existing approaches which offer proven cost-effectiveness. And we need to explore innovative approaches that help reduce the public cost of services for the homeless.

“Bridges Out of Homelessness” also proves the power of our civic spirit: Together, as a community, we can confront challenges like homelessness and turn them into opportunities. The new ideas and solutions that emerge from this conference represent a collaborative partnership involving all stakeholders. When they succeed in Richmond, they can work elsewhere, too.

During your visit, I hope you have the opportunity to explore Richmond, including our 32 miles of beautiful shoreline, revitalized city center, and examples of many “green” industries that now call Richmond home. We are a city of diverse communities and talented individuals, wide commercial and cultural interests, and innovative solutions to the challenges we face together.

This is our Richmond: A city of unlimited possibilities!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gayle McLaughlin".

Gayle McLaughlin
Mayor, City of Richmond

Bridges Out of Homelessness: *Vocations, Health and Housing*

May 10th, 2010, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. | Craneway Pavilion, Richmond, California

Conference Organized by Saffron Strand, Inc. Co-sponsored by RichmondWORKS, Contra Costa College, The City of Richmond, Courtyard Marriott Richmond/Berkeley, Craneway Pavilion



Conference Goals

- Provide professional education and training targeting key elements of homelessness, with credit available for continuing education (CEUs and CMEs)
- Convene all stakeholders to take a fresh look at the challenges confronting the homeless and opportunities for them to succeed in local job markets
- Identify incentives, disincentives and gaps in existing programs for the homeless and practical ways to integrate new solutions
- Focus on cost-effective, employment-focused programs—current and proposed—to optimize employability and career potential of homeless adults
- Use Richmond—where growing numbers of the homeless face every possible challenge—as the proving ground for new, employment-focused solutions

Who Should Attend

- Local and state homeless program administrators and executive staff
- Public health providers, outreach staff, case managers, and social workers
- Primary and emergency medical care, substance abuse, and mental health providers
- State legislators, their legislative staff, and local elected officials
- Family, drug, and criminal court judges
- Law enforcement leaders and police
- Non-profit organizations and advocates for the homeless
- Community health center and hospital executives, staff, and board members
- Public housing providers, landlords, and tenants
- People who have experienced homelessness and seek new solutions or can share their solutions

Conference Planning Committee Members

Jeff Ritterman, MD *Conference Co-Chair and Vice Mayor of City of Richmond, CA*

Yvonne Nair *Conference Co-Chair and CEO of Saffron Strand, Inc., Point Richmond, CA*

Priscilla Leadon *Dean of Economic Development, Contra Costa College, San Pablo, CA*

Jerome Smith *Community Activist for the Homeless, Richmond, CA*

Jael Myrick *Field Representative of Office of Assemblymember Nancy Skinner, Oakland, CA*

Jeannie Cummings *Program Coordinator, Lift Your Voice, Richmond, CA*

Roberto Reyes *Community Service Director, United Way, Richmond, CA*

Bill Lindsay *City Manager of Richmond, Richmond, CA*

Susun Kim *Managing Attorney, Bay Area Legal Aid, Richmond, CA*

Katherine Lucero *Superior Court Judge of Santa Clara County, San Jose, CA*

Barrie Hathaway *Executive Director, The Stride Center, Oakland, CA*

Lea Hundley *Seton Medical Center and Chair of Saffron Strand, Daly City, CA*

Larry Gottlieb *MSW, MPA Director of Adult Homeless and Outreach Services at Eliot Community Human Services, Lexington, MA*

Serena Powell *MA President and CEO of Community Work Services, Boston, MA*

Conference Agenda

Breakfast | Registration | Welcome

Good morning: Get Ready to Learn and Enjoy!

7:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Continental Breakfast with Guitar Serenade

Sponsored by Richmond Main Street Initiative, featuring grammy-nominated virtuoso Levi Seacer, who was bassist, songwriter, and producer with Prince and now is at work on his own album in his hometown of Richmond

Conference registration and exhibitor set-up

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Conference Welcome

Welcome to “Bridges Out of Homelessness”

Dr. Jeff Ritterman, Vice Mayor of the City of Richmond and Co-Chair of the Conference Planning Committee

John Gioia, Contra Costa County Supervisor, on increased homelessness, limited funding, and getting homeless adults back to work

Plenary Session

9:30 – 12:00 p.m.

Health and Housing for the Homeless: The Basics for Getting Back to Work

Larry Gottlieb, MSW, MPA, is the director of Adult Homeless and Outreach Services at Eliot Community Human Services in Lexington, Massachusetts, and co-chair of the Education Committee for the National Healthcare for the Homeless Council. Although a majority of homeless people want jobs, poor health and lack of adequate housing can limit their ability to secure and maintain employment. Mr. Gottlieb shares some of the innovations witnessed and advocated in Massachusetts and his experiences as the former director of a Healthcare for the Homeless Program and the current director of the state-wide PATH Program. Housing is essential to improving the health of the homeless and can optimize their potential for job skills training and employment.

Good Jobs: How the Homeless Can Succeed in the Bay Area Job Market

Steven Pitts, PhD, is a labor policy specialist with the University of California-Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education, whose research includes the impact of changes in the Bay Area economy on lower wage employment opportunities. Dr. Pitts examines ways in which structural elements of the current Bay Area job market impede employment and how homeless people can overcome barriers to good jobs.

Career-Based Employment Services for the Homeless in High-Rent Areas

Serena Powell, president and CEO of Community Work Services, Boston, Massachusetts, leads one of the nation's most successful work development programs, which was founded in 1877. Ms. Powell operates a proven service delivery model that provides workplace opportunities and support services for a community's "struggling members." She presents strategies and programs to give homeless people the tools they need to increase their earnings and afford to live in high-rent areas like the Bay Area.

What Works in Richmond: Private/Public Partnerships to Engage the Homeless

Sal Vaca, director of the City of Richmond's Employment & Training Department and the Richmond Workforce Investment Board, oversees 15 employment and training programs, including the nationally recognized Richmond BUILD pre-apprenticeship construction skills and solar installation training program. "Green jobs" and other skilled jobs pay well in Richmond. Mr. Vaca details how private/public partnerships can enable homeless adults to gain the necessary skills.

Luncheon Program

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch, Listen, Share with master of ceremonies Jael Myrick, Saffron Strand Board Member and Field Representative for California Assemblymember Nancy Skinner, who welcomes conference participants to the buffet luncheon.

Music to Build Bridges and Networks

The Ben-Oni Orchestra of Richmond's Grace Lutheran Church, conducted by Dr. Curtis Shaw, sponsored by Richmond Main Street Initiative.

Richmond Journey to Health and Wellness: Possibilities Unlimited

Gayle McLaughlin is the Mayor of the City of Richmond and tireless booster of the extraordinary potential of local residents to change their communities for the better. Richmond residents have suffered high crime rates, extreme economic trouble, and severe challenges to public health and environmental safety. However, now other Bay Area cities can learn from Richmond's green job training program, sustainable business initiatives, human rights empowerment, and public health efforts which encompass the homeless and benefit all Richmond's diverse residents.

The Homeless, Housing Justice, and You

Reverend Phil Lawson of the East Bay Housing Organizations "connects the dots" surrounding homelessness, inspiring with experiences and insights from the long struggle for housing justice.

Workshops

Sessions at either 1:45 – 3:15 p.m. or 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. | Refreshments at 3:15 – 3:30 p.m.

Vocations Workshops

Homeless and Enterprising: Building Expertise for Higher Income 1:45 – 3:15 p.m

Technical or specialized knowledge and training or work experience are essential for the homeless to succeed as employees or entrepreneurs in local small businesses, especially in the majority of enterprises that rely on information technology. Presenters: Alex Gomez (Director, West Contra Costa Business Development Center, El Sobrante), Karuna Jaggar, (East Bay Executive Director, Women's Initiative for Self-Employment, Oakland), Barrie Hathaway (Executive Director, Stride Center, San Pablo)

Working Up and Out of Homelessness: Bridging the Gap to Gainful Employment 3:30 – 5:00 p.m

A diverse network of local Contra Costa resources enables homeless adults to get the necessary real-world training, work-related skills, and job experience to move up to a career that pays more than enough for housing in the Bay Area. Presenters: Montell Currin (Veteran Representative, Inner-City Services, Berkeley), Amanda Pruitt (Program Coordinator, Saffron Strand, Inc., Point Richmond)

More Than Possible: Higher Education for the Homeless 1:45 – 3:15 p.m

Contra Costa College offers a range of college programs designed to optimize higher education and employability for vulnerable populations, including the homeless. Presenters: Priscilla Leadon (Dean of Economic Development, Contra Costa College, San Pablo); Barbara Rance (Financial Aid, Contra Costa College, San Pablo); Kenneth Reynolds and Vicki Ferguson (Extended Opportunities Programs and Services, Contra Costa College, San Pablo); Camille Parker, (CalWORKs); Jeannette McClendon and Rebecca LaCount (Career Technical Education Counselors, Contra Costa College, San Pablo)

Helping the Homeless Client: Overcoming Legal Barriers to Employment and Housing 3:30 – 5:00 p.m

One of the biggest barriers to employment and housing for many homeless persons is their criminal record or "status" as a former inmate. Most legal services agencies operate separately from workforce development and housing agencies to help the homeless access the courts, navigate administrative bureaucracies, and identify legal remedies and solutions to previous incarceration. By contrast, Rubicon Programs' Legal and Workforce Services Partnership (LaWS) combines the services of a workforce development agency with the expertise of an "in-house" staff attorney. This approach creates a vocational case management model where legal barriers are addressed in concert with a client's job readiness and retention needs. This workshop provides an overview of legal barriers to employment and remedies available, focusing particularly on criminal record reporting and expungement laws. It highlights challenges and successes in this program and other innovative workforce-legal partnerships. Presenter: Brian Hogan (Staff Attorney, Rubicon Programs Inc., Richmond)

Our Veterans: Effective Strategies for Preventing and Eliminating Their Homelessness 3:30 – 5:00 p.m

Military veterans make up about a quarter of the nation's homeless population and their numbers are growing. Ending the cycle of homelessness among veterans requires wrap-around attention to all areas of need: Housing, employment, primary and mental health care, substance abuse treatment, and social and income supports. Founded in 1974, the community-based non-profit Swords to Plowshares provides integrated case management and direct services, enabling veterans to increase stability in their lives, mitigate poor health conditions, escape poverty, and attain self-sufficiency, dignity, and independence. Presenters: Wanda Heffernon (Director of Housing) and David Talerico (Director of Health and Social Services, Swords to Plowshares, San Francisco)

Health Workshops

Ending Homelessness for Individuals with Severe Mental Illness 1:45 – 3:15 p.m

Severe mental illness creates a unique set of challenges for housing developers and service providers. Rubicon Programs has more than 35 years of experience in supporting individuals with major mental illness to obtain and maintain permanent housing. This workshop highlights the challenges and successes of this effort, spotlighting recent work by the Bridges To Home MHSA team (BTH), which has moved more than 90 individuals and families into permanent housing in the past two years. Utilizing partnerships with a variety of county agencies and community-based organizations, BTH employs an assertive community treatment model to achieve outcomes in a supportive and recovery-based manner. Presenters: Steven Grolnic-McClurg, LCSW (Director of Supportive Services), Gary Cristofani (BTH Team Leader), Judith Lorde (Resource Services Program Manager, Rubicon Programs, Richmond)

Hepatitis C among the Homeless: More Affected, But Fewer Treated 1:45 – 3:15 p.m

Hepatitis C affects less than 2% of the U.S. population, but impacts individuals in up to half of all of America's homeless populations. The evaluation of patients with chronic HCV can be expensive and rates of treatment can be low among resource-poor patients, including the homeless. Mortality rates are rising, especially among homeless minorities of middle-age. Knowledge of the disease and prevention practices can lower risks of transmission. Presenter: Diana Sylvestre, MD (Executive Director of OASIS, Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine at UCSF, and a leading medical researcher on HCV treatment in addicted patients, San Francisco)

Human Trafficking 101: Local Homeless and Runaways at Risk 1:45 – 3:15 p.m

Human trafficking occurs when vulnerable people are tricked, lured, coerced, or otherwise forced to work for little or no payment or on terms which are highly exploitative. This criminal activity takes place elsewhere in California and in Contra Costa where human traffickers exploit homeless adults and children, including runaway youth. This workshop covers the nature and scope of human trafficking at the local level, its root causes and risk factors (particularly for homeless and runaway youth), how to identify and report it, measures to control and reduce it, and how victims may be supported through federal legislation passed since 2000. Presenter: Hanna Hamilton (Outreach & Prevention Educator, Anti-Human Trafficking Project, Community Violence Solutions, San Pablo)

Medical Respite Programs: Improved Recovery at Lower Public Cost 1:45 – 3:15 p.m

Medical respite care can reduce costly hospitalization and medical emergency services while making more efficient use of medical professionals, improving public health, and increasing the health of the homeless. Medical respite care was designed with hospital input to improve health outcomes for homeless at-risk patients by providing on-site recuperative care, coordination of services, and temporary shelter for those who are medically frail. In addition to improving the discharge options of participating hospitals, respite care reduces unnecessary hospital recidivism. Presenters: San Francisco Medical Respite Program (collaboration between the San Francisco Department of Public Health and the non-profit Community Awareness & Treatment Services)

Best Practices in Discharge Planning 3:30 – 5:00 p.m

There are critical similarities and unique challenges in four major health care systems: Prisons, hospitals, foster care, and mental health and substance abuse facilities. This workshop explores best practices for discharge planning for homeless people emerging from each of these systems, as well as how discharge planning interfaces with the crisis of affordable housing. Presenter: Larry Gottlieb, MSW, MPA (Director of Adult Homeless and Outreach Services at Eliot Community Human Services, Lexington, Massachusetts)

Transformative Life Skills: Restoring Empathy and Emotional Effectiveness 3:30 – 5:00 p.m

Those who work with the homeless suffer emotional damage that can degrade their empathy and reduce their job performance. Yoga techniques can help heal providers' emotional scarring, restore the capacity to care, and increase the effectiveness of their work. Presenter: Bidyut Bose, PhD (Director of the Niroga Institute, Berkeley)

Integrating Care for Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Physical Health 3:30 – 5:00 p.m

Homeless people suffer from complex medical, mental health, and substance abuse problems. However, mainstream treatment services are often separate and not coordinated across disciplines. This workshop explores barriers to the integration of HCH services and the most effective strategies for overcoming HCH challenges for the benefit of the homeless and our communities. Presenters: Deborah Borne, MD, MSW (Medical Director Homeless and Community Programs, Tom Waddell Health Center, San Francisco)

Sober and Stable: Reducing Alcohol Emergencies among the Homeless 3:30 – 5:00 p.m

A large proportion of homeless adults have substance abuse problems, which are likely to include alcohol dependency. The innovative use of "sobering services" demonstrates how partnerships between police, public safety agencies, and community-based organizations can reduce demand for law enforcement, paramedic, and other emergency services while helping homeless inebriates become sober safely and gain access to long-term treatment services. Presenter: Shannon Smith, RN (Coordinator, San Francisco Sobering Center, San Francisco)

Housing Workshops

Preventing Homelessness: Greater Impact with Targeted Strategies 1:45 – 3:15 p.m

The new federal Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) makes funds available for homelessness prevention at the local level. National and local research on homelessness prevention strategies can help providers make the most effective use of HPRP resources. For workshop participants not directly using HPRP resources, this workshop explains how shelters, transitional housing providers, and others can use available data for more targeted prevention. Presenters: Katharine Gale (Katharine Gale Consulting, Berkeley) and Jennifer Baha (Director of Program Services, SHELTER, Inc. of Contra Costa County, Martinez)

The CHOM Model: Collaborative Supportive Housing – A Foundation for Success 1:45 – 3:15 p.m

Community Housing of Maine (CHOM) provides and maintains community-based supportive housing that fosters pride, stability, and wellness. CHOM's record of success includes periods when 50% of clients met criteria for chronic homelessness and 90% became gainfully employed. Presenter: Cullen Ryan (Executive Director of Community Housing of Maine, Portland, Maine)

Developing Affordable Housing in the Bay Area 3:30 – 5:00 p.m

Bay Area Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) is a leading training and technical assistance provider for affordable housing in the Bay Area. Participants in this workshop receive condensed education and training on the basics of developing affordable housing for homeless and low-income people. Training includes performing feasibility analysis, securing funding, and managing budgets. Presenter: Peggy Jen (Senior Program Officer, Bay Area LISC, San Francisco)

Credit for Continuing Education

Participants in this Conference may be eligible to receive Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and Continuing Medical Education (CMEs) sanctioned by professional medical, emergency services, law enforcement, legal, social work and other organizations. Details will be available at the Conference Registration table. Contact Saffron Strand to receive more information.

Full descriptions on pages 4-6 of Program

- 1:45 – 3:15 p.m.**
1. Homeless and Enterprising: Building Expertise for Higher Income
 2. More Than Possible: Higher Education for the Homeless
 3. Ending Homelessness for Individuals with Severe Mental Illness
 4. Hepatitis C among the Homeless: More Affected, But Fewer Treated
 5. Human Trafficking 101: Local Homeless and Runaways at Risk
 6. Medical Respite Programs: Improved Recovery at Lower Public Cost
 7. Preventing Homelessness: Greater Impact with Targeted Strategies
 8. The CHOM Model: Collaborative Supportive Housing – A Foundation for Success
- 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.**
9. Working Up and Out of Homelessness: Bridging the Gap to Gainful Employment
 10. Helping the Homeless Client: Overcoming Legal Barriers to Employment and Housing
 11. Best Practices in Discharge Planning
 12. Integrating Care for Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Physical Health
 13. Transformative Life Skills: Restoring Empathy and Emotional Effectiveness
 14. Sober and Stable: Reducing Alcohol Emergencies among the Homeless
 15. Developing Affordable Housing in the Bay Area
 16. Our Veterans: Effective Strategies for Preventing and Eliminating Their Homelessness



About Saffron Strand

Education and training are key components of the mission of Saffron Strand, Inc., community-based 501(c)(3) non-profit which applies employment-focused strategies to reduce homelessness in Richmond and other West Contra Costa communities. For more about Saffron Strand, please visit www.SaffronStrand.org.

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