

Pathways to Achieving Race Equity in Housing and Homelessness

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Peggy Bailey, Senior Advisor, Rental Assistance Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Peggy Bailey is the Senior Advisor on Rental Assistance in the Office of the Secretary at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Her responsibilities include improving policy and practices related to the Department's rental subsidy and supply programs. This includes the Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing programs, which help over 3 million people afford housing.

Prior to joining HUD, Peggy was the Vice President of Housing Policy at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP). In this capacity, she oversaw the Center's work to protect and expand access to affordable housing for people with low incomes. Prior to becoming Vice President of Housing Policy, Bailey served as the director of "Connect the Dots: Bridging Systems for Better Health", a CBPP initiative that identifies opportunities to strengthen the link between housing and health policy. Throughout her career, she has provided vision and leadership as health, child welfare, and other systems of care recognize that access to affordable housing is a growing need for people with low incomes. Prior to joining the Center in January 2016, Peggy served as Director of Health Systems Integration for the Corporation for Supportive Housing, where she focused on finding sustainable funding sources for the services that people with histories of homelessness and chronic health conditions need to maintain their housing. Peggy also worked for the National Alliance to End Homelessness and the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs. Peggy holds a B.A in Government from the University of Notre Dame, and a Master of Public Affairs degree from the University of Texas at Dallas.



Susan Thomas, President, Melville Charitable Trust

Susan K. Thomas is President of the Melville Charitable Trust where she oversees the Trust's grantmaking strategy, philanthropic partnerships and administration. Formerly the Trust's Program Director, Susan led the foundation's housing and racial equity efforts for five years, while managing a state and national portfolio of grants supporting solutions to homelessness. Susan has been instrumental in the creation of Funders for Housing and Opportunity, a national non-partisan, cross-sector funder collaborative focused on tackling the housing affordability crisis by supporting advocacy, narrative change work, and efforts to scale effective practices at the intersection of housing, health, economic mobility, and education. While at the Trust, she was also selected to participate in the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Fellowship program targeting leaders working to improve outcomes for children, families, and communities. Her experience as a Casey

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Fellow has been instrumental in helping the Trust develop a targeted grantmaking strategy that focuses on ending homelessness for Black, Indigenous and People of Color.

Prior to joining the Trust, Susan was Project Officer for Mayor Kasim Reed of Atlanta, where she was responsible for leading “Unsheltered No More!,” an initiative to dramatically reduce street homelessness that placed over 1,000 homeless men, women, and children into permanent housing. As the former president of Providence Consulting Group, she helped launch a statewide foundation to assist foster families and co-chaired an effort for the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Atlanta Housing Authority to rehouse 420 families as part of a major HOPE VI redevelopment project. Susan is a former Vice President of Community Investment and Area Development at the United Way of Greater Atlanta. Prior to her nonprofit career, she worked for 15 years in the areas of accounting, management consulting, and strategic planning. She holds a Master of Business Administration from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University and Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of Maryland.



Abby Anderson, Founder, The Justice Walk, LLC

Abby supports nonprofit leaders at all levels through one-on-one coaching rooted in equity and justice. The definition and responsibilities of leadership are changing as organizations and institutions from every sector experience a long-overdue reckoning with racism and other forms of inequity. Developing equity-focused strategic and implementation plans with experts in those fields is critical. Organizational transitions are invigorating and often challenging, sometimes isolating or lonely for leaders. Learning and implementing new ways of thinking about leadership, power, and decision-making is critical and often takes longer than we want. Abby’s role is to walk alongside you, providing space dedicated to processing, incorporating, and implementing those new skills and mindsets. Abby was executive director of a statewide nonprofit focused on criminal legal reform for over a decade. She is white and has never been arrested. Years into her tenure as director, Abby realized that her whiteness, and the fact that she wasn’t directly impacted by the issues she advocated around, caused blind spots in her leadership, sometimes leading to her perpetuation of inequity. She and the team then worked to co-create an evolved organization that centers directly-impacted people and actively supports their leadership. Now, Abby uses her continuing personal and professional growth experiences - they happen together - to walk with people who want equity, justice, and belonging at the center of their leadership. That includes people who have long led from a place of equity and want to work with a coach who holds the same value system, and those who are newer to the work of equity who would like a coach to work with them as they develop these new skill sets.

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Amanda Misiko Andere, CEO, Funders Together to End Homelessness

Amanda Misiko Andere has spent over fifteen years working in the nonprofit and public sector as a leader committed to racial and housing justice through advocacy for systemic change. Prior to joining Funders Together to End Homelessness as their CEO, she served as the CEO of Wider Opportunities for Women, a national advocacy organization. Currently, she serves as a board member of the United Philanthropy Forum and Equity in the Center. Amanda is a founding member and on the leadership team for the National Racial Equity Working Group on Homelessness and Housing. She also serves on the Leadership Council for the DC Partnership to End Homelessness. As a former Co-Chair of A Way Home America, Amanda is a co-conspirator in their work to end youth and young adult homelessness rooted in racial equity.



Jenita Hayes, Equity Manager, Supportive Housing Works/co-Founder of the Connecticut Race Equity Network

Jenita Hayes is the Equity Manager at Supportive Housing Works (SHW). Jenita joined SHW in 2014 as a Public Ally, a national AmeriCorps program where the motto is "Everyone Leads", and has since provided key leadership in training, technical assistance, data management, and program design and development to SHW and its partners in various capacities. As Equity Manager, she supports the advancement of equity for SHW, Opening Doors Fairfield County (ODFC) & Fairfield County's Center for Housing Opportunities (FCCHO).



Steven Hernandez, Executive Director, Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity, CT General Assembly

Steven Hernández, Esq. is the Executive Director for the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity. Prior to serving as Executive Director, he served the CT state legislature as Director of Public Policy and Research for the Connecticut Commission on Children. Mr. Hernandez served seven years as legislative and budget director in the office of Washington, D.C., Council member Jim Graham. He served as a clerk to two judges in the District's Court of Appeals and as a consultant to the Washington law firm Baker & Miller, PLLC. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Bennington College in Vermont in 1995 and a Juris Doctor Degree from the Washington College of Law at American University.

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