



STEPHEN RUSSELL
SDHF PRESIDENT AND CHIEF
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Members,

We are so thrilled with the positive feedback we've received about our week-long virtual conference. Our staff and committees worked hard to hard to put together a compelling and complementary set of workshops that dive deep into the affordable housing sector and what we are facing today amidst COVID-19, racial injustice, and rent insecurity.

Thank you to our board, our committees, our attendees, our volunteers, and our staff on a successful production of our 30th Annual Affordable Housing and Community Development Institutes and Conference. The week we spent together discussing how the pandemic, civil rights movement, and election helped us all to remain inspired in our work and keep focused on our mission. We missed the hugs, the smiles, and the laughter that we are used to, but we know behind our screens we are all working to ensure that every San Diegan has access to a secure and affordable home.

Throughout our conference we were wowed by our sector and how each of you has adapted to the realities of 2020. As described by Conor Dougherty, 2020 is "year zero" for our world in very many ways. We may have little power to change the circumstances of today, but we have immense power in defining the future that we will live in. Events like our conference are intended to provide us all with the tools we need

to make intentional progress in 2021 when it comes to building and preserving affordable housing, and in serving the residents of our communities.

We heard from three keynotes on housing and community economics, housing and public health, and racial injustice. You can view all three keynotes on our [YouTube channel](#). All three provided inspiring insights:

- **"The question isn't how did we get here. The question is why can we not get out of this? Why can it not be solved, generation after generation?"** Conor Dougherty New York Times writer and author of *Golden Gates: Fighting for Housing in America*.
- **"We calculate the societal benefit, take chickenpox, it isn't that good of a deal financially speaking until you think about the societal return. We give vaccines so that parents can continue to go to work, it helps the child in school, it helps the community,"** Megan Sandel, MD, MPH, Co-Director of the GROW Clinic at Boston Medical Center, Co-Lead Principal Investigator with Children's HealthWatch and Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Boston University Schools of Medicine and Public Health.



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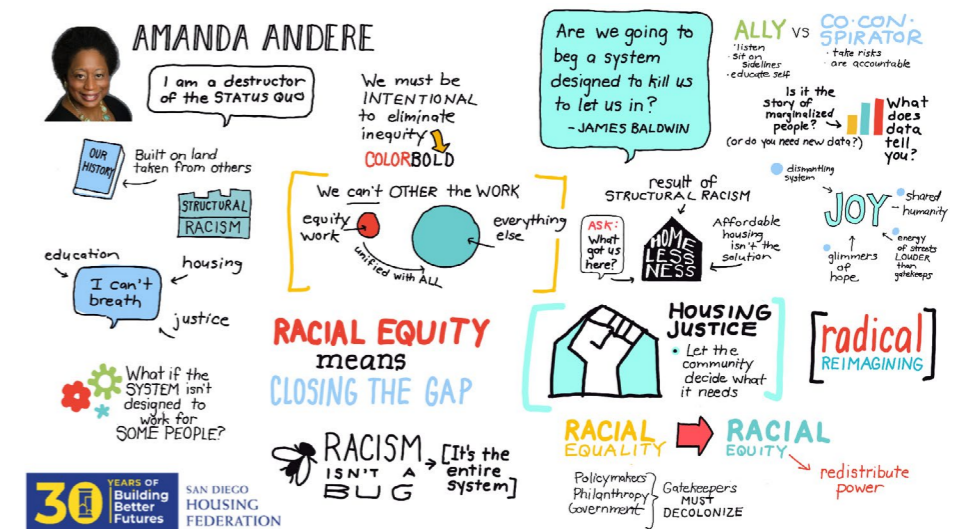
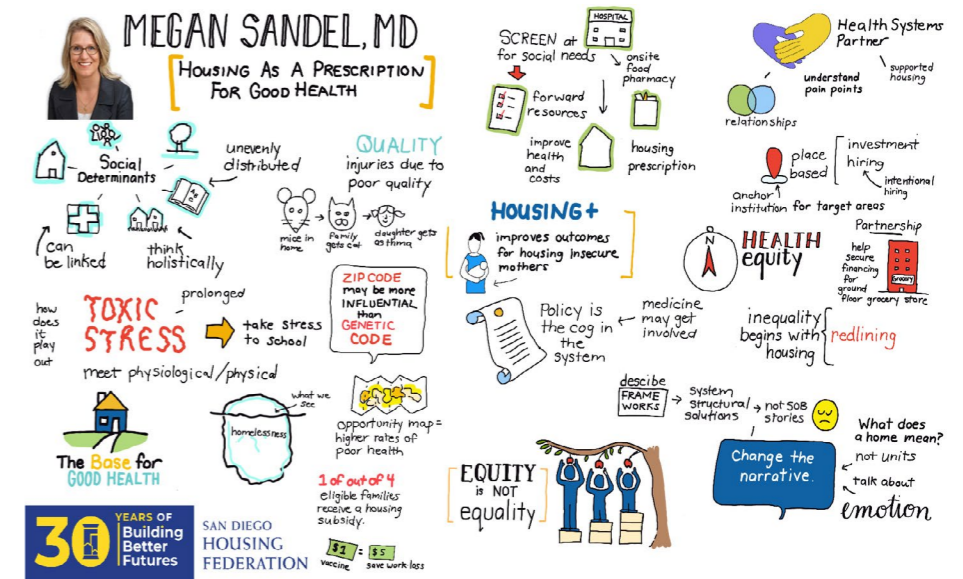
- “Housing justice means that we don’t just move people to the most affordable place in our community...it means we have disinvested in communities of color and we need to ask them what they need to make their communities more vibrant,”
Amanda Andere, Chief Executive Officer, Funders Together to End Homelessness.

The theme for this year’s conference – “30 Years of Building Better Futures” – gave us a moment to stop, think, and dream for the future we’re creating, a future where we have ended homelessness and housing insecurity in our region.

With your help we can build a better future for all San Diegans.

Thank you for all your hard work during these unusual times and for giving your time to join in our conference.

Steve Russell, President and CEO
steve@housingsandiego.org



2020 Conference Recap

Every year, the Affordable Housing and Community Development Conference and Pre-Conference Institutes bring developers, financiers, elected officials, service providers, residents, and other housing professionals together to learn more about affordable housing, housing policy, and emerging trends in the field.

The theme for this year’s conference – “30 Years of Building Better Futures” – gives us a moment to stop, think, and dream for the future we’re creating and would like to see to end homelessness and increase affordable housing in our region. This year has given us all an opportunity to re-think what home means, what a home needs, and how everything intersects with where we lay our heads at night. We hope you’ve used this conference as an opportunity to think about the future you want to create, how you can help, and who can help you achieve it.

Thank you for joining us for this year’s virtual format of our annual Affordable Housing and Community Development Institutes and Conference. We know that the pandemic, civil rights movement, and election are pulling us in many directions so we appreciate you making the time to learn. It is the moments and events like today that we are reminded of the power, importance, and impact of our work to ensure that every San Diegan has access to a secure and affordable home.

This year marks our 30th year of advocacy and education for our members and what a year it has been! We started off the year eager to get our ‘Homes for San Diegans’ bond measure on the ballot and planning a Ruby Awards to remember. In March we had our final committee meeting before the City of San Diego for the bond measure and our last time together as a full team. As we all experienced, the world stopped in March and we all scrambled to adjust to a remote work. Through this all we’ve been able to continue to connect with our members through Federation Forums and bi-monthly webinars with CSH and LeSar Development to deal with critical topics. We’ve moved into a virtual rhythm with our monthly LISC Roundtables, RSSN and SHLN. And yes, our bond measure officially made it to the November ballot as Measure A, learn more [here](#).

We are in awe of how you, our members, have adapted to the current state of our reality. Service providers have rallied together to make sure that residents have food, toilet paper, internet access, and more. We’ve witnessed our frontline personnel work with their residents to combat isolation, overcome distant learning challenges, and more. During this week you’ll hear how developers are handling construction during COVID and from the top leadership of our affordable housing development community and how they were able to nimbly pivot in response to the current crisis.



SARAH BUCHANAN
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

For questions, please contact Sarah Buchanan, Chief Operating Officer at sarah@housingsandiego.org

FEDERATION EVENTS

This year, we gathered virtually over the week of October 5 – 9, 2020. With approximately 500 attendees and presenters during the week and more than 34 sessions to choose from, there was no shortage of education and enrichment.

The week focused on various aspects of the Affordable Housing industry in Southern California. Workshops covered a wide range of topics from housing market trends to prefabricated housing to community engagement and support. Our presenters brought with them a vast experience of the intersection of housing and a sustainable San Diego. And each recognized that racial and social justice, education, mental and physical health, and economic success must be addressed in all solutions.

We encouraged our attendees to take breaks, watch workshops from their couches, and participate in the [daily yoga movement](#). Workshops have been recorded and will be available through the end of the year.



2020 Conference Recap cont.

The Pre-Conference Institutes were held across three days and the tracks offered were: Fundamentals of Affordable Housing Institute, Resident Services Support Network (RSSN) Institute, and the first-ever Supportive Housing Learning Network (SHLN) Institute.

The **Fundamentals of Affordable Housing Institute** was a 3-day educational training that provided an overview of the affordable housing development process, including feasibility, design, construction, finance, and operations.

The **Resident Services Support Network (RSSN) Institute**, designed and implemented by the Resident Services Support Network (RSSN) in conjunction with the San Diego Housing Federation, brought together a wide array of successful Resident Service professionals and providers. This 1-day intensive learning event offered essential training, support, and networking opportunities around key and relevant topics related to providing programming in affordable housing communities. The Pre-Conference Institute is the culmination of a 2020 RSSN Training Series of monthly workshops, providing certification for those who attend five of the eight workshops and the Institute.

The **Supportive Housing Learning Network (SHLN) Institute**, designed and implemented by the Supportive Housing Learning Network (SHLN) in conjunction with the San Diego Housing Federation, the 2020 SHLN Institute is the second annual gathering of professionals and providers. This 2-day intensive learning event offered essential training, support, and networking opportunities around key and relevant topics related to providing programming in affordable housing communities. The conference is the culmination of a 2020 SHLN Training Series of monthly workshop.

This year we were thrilled to have three keynotes to teach us about key important aspects of affordable housing: housing and community economics, housing and public health, and racial injustice.

On Monday, October 5th, [Keynote Speaker, Conor Dougherty](#), The New York Times; author of *Golden Gates: Fighting for Housing in America*, called for a cultural shift.

- “We have to change how we feel a neighborhood should look like.”
- “There is no evidence that dense housing is unsafe, the real problem is crowded housing.”

For questions, please contact Sarah Buchanan, COO
at sarah@housingsandiego.org



2020 Conference Recap cont.

On Wednesday, October 7th, **Keynote Speaker, Dr. Megan Sandel**, Co-Director of the GROW Clinic at Boston Medical Center, Co-Lead Principal Investigator with Children’s HealthWatch and Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Boston University Schools of Medicine and Public Health, connected the housing dots.

- “We have to think about all the things that drive people’s basic needs, housing, food, health-care, etc. When we isolate one thing we lose the ripple effect.”
- “We calculate the societal benefit, take chickenpox, it isn’t that good of a deal financially speaking until you think about the societal return. We give vaccines so that parents can continue to go to work, it helps the child in school, it helps the community.”
- “Policy is the cog in the wheel in advocating.”
- “For all of them to have equity you must see everyone’s differences.”
- “Affordable housing not only gives you housing but also reduces your health care cost.”

On Friday, October 9th, **Keynote Speaker, Amanda Misiko Andere**, CEO of Funders Together to End Homelessness and founding member and on the leadership team for the National Racial Equity Working Group on Homelessness and Housing, urged us to close the gap.

She also serves on the Leadership Council for the DC Partnership to End Homelessness.

- “If we want to achieve housing justice, it is so important to recognize how we got here. And that began in this country by taking land that wasn’t ours.”
- “The work to end homelessness must center racial equity.”
- “Our movement needs to be explicit and intentional if we are going to address racial inequities in housing and homelessness.”
- “Racial equity means closing the gaps so that race does not determine outcomes and improves outcomes for all.”

Each keynote address inspired us to rise up and take positive action in our communities as well as how we can connect on a deeper level with each other.

Thank you to those who attended the Conference in any portion and to our wonderful Keynote Speakers, Workshop Speakers, Generous Sponsors, and Volunteers who made this a successful event and year! Each of you contributes to the important conversations about these difficult issues, and each of you is critical in helping our movement to achieve our collective vision of a decent, affordable home for everyone in this region. The road to realizing this vision is steep, but we can get there together.

[Click here to view the Virtual Conference Program.](#)

DAILY RECAPS

- [Monday, October 5, 2020 - Day 1](#)
- [Tuesday, October 6, 2020 - Day 2](#)
- [Wednesday, October 7, 2020 - Day 3](#)
- [Thursday, October 8, 2020 - Day 4](#)
- [Friday, October 9, 2020 - Day 5](#)

For questions, please contact Sarah Buchanan, COO at sarah@housingsandiego.org

FEDERATION EVENTS

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Supportive Housing



13 San Diego Housing Federation | 2020 Annual Conference and Pre-Conference Institutes

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For questions, please contact Sarah Buchanan, COO
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FEDERATION EVENTS

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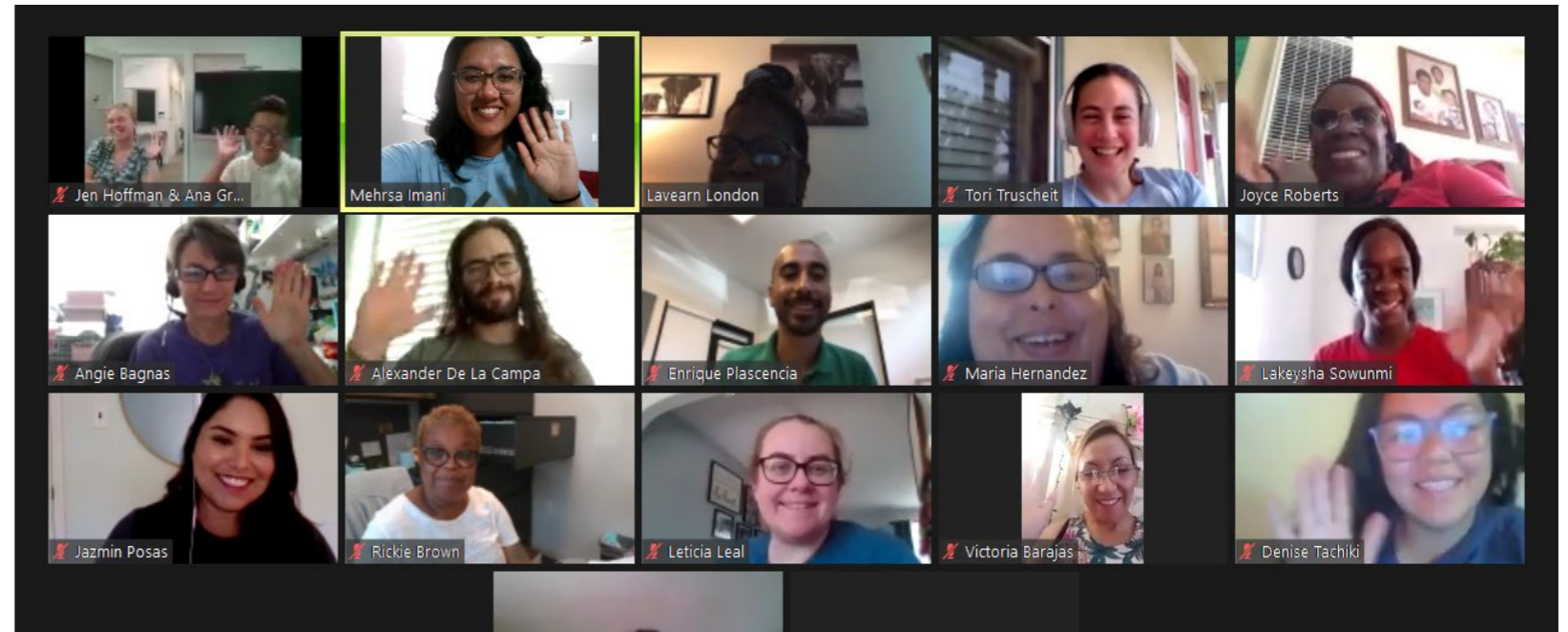
RUN's head start into 2021



MEHRSA IMANI
SDHF RESIDENT AND
COMMUNITY ORGANIZER



[CLICK](#) for more information on the
Residents United Network.



RUN Convening

San Diego RUN kicked off the series of Regional Convening events held across California in September. RUN members participated in “There Ought to be a Law” process through Regional Convenings, where resident leaders begin identifying ideas and policy priorities for their 2021 advocacy work. After all five Regional Convenings were held in September and October, **224 ideas** were generated by RUN leaders through the ‘There Ought To Be a Law’ process.

This was the highest record of ideas listed. A quarter of those ideas were from San Diego’s Regional Convening around issues homelessness prevention, tenant protection, and housing development in California. We are grateful for 30 participants of our event, from RUN leaders, advocates, and service providers in our first virtual RUN Regional Convening.



MEHRSA IMANI
SDHF RESIDENT AND
COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

HEAL Network at the Conference

HEAL held a workshop at our Annual Conference this month, on HEAL's effort to build a network of leaders with lived experience of homelessness. The workshop was an engaging, uplifting, and empowering, including the voices of individuals who have experienced the harsh reality of housing insecurity and homelessness. Building on last year's introduction to the HEAL Network program, we discussed how HEAL Network has been refining its structures to give greater agency to the Network with the development of a new Policy Coordinating Committee, HEAL Network's impact in the region, and where the Network is going next.

We had a chance to hear from Anthony White and Kuni Stearns, who are members of HEAL Network and the Policy Coordinating Committee, as well as Councilmember Corinna Contreras, of City of Vista who has been collaborating with HEAL Network, as well as MaryLynn McCorkle as our moderator.

HEAL Network also debuted a new video, sharing stories of homelessness and impact of the program in lifting up their voices. You can find a clip of the video on our [website](#).



HEAL Panel at Annual Conference.



[CLICK](#) for more information on Homeless-Experienced Advocacy and Leadership.

First Ever Virtual Supportive Housing Learning Network (SHLN) Pre Conference Institute



BROOKLYN DEL PRIORE
EVENTS & PROGRAMS COORDINATOR

The pre-conference institute was split into two 2-hour days on October 6th and October 8th.

The first day was dedicated to the question, “You’re in Supportive Housing Now, What Next?” The speakers for this educational opportunity were *Tanisha Harrell (Director of Partner Engagement, 2-1-1 San Diego), Simonne Ruff (Corporation for Supportive Housing), and Doug Becht (Corporation for Supportive Housing)*. This session aimed to provide proven solutions to some of the supportive housing communities toughest problems.

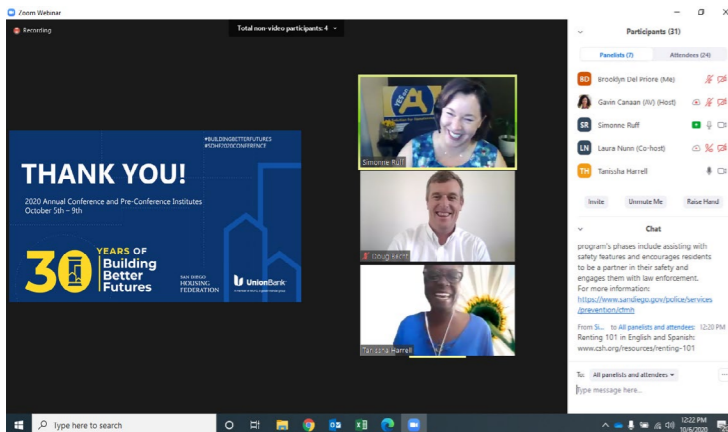
The speakers had a desire to help attendees to provide a holistic view of supporting clients as they grow toward self-sufficiency. One of the most valuable resources that those who attended this session were able to find out about was 2-1-1 San Diego. Tanisha explained how 2-1-1 SD is able to go through 7,000 calls per month and it is through these calls that can receive help through defined needs and be referred to local service providers so those needs can be addressed. Other parts included how to help residents work through trauma and information of Community Information Exchange.

The second day was meant to be a perfect follow up conversation for the question that was asked on the first. The session focused on how to take a collaborative approach to housing stability and eviction prevention. The speakers for this session were

Maria Brown (Director of Supportive Housing Services, PATH), Kathy Booton-Wilson LCSW (Chief Strategy Officer, Deborah’s Place), Tricia Tasto Levien (Supportive Housing Director, Wakeland), and Joyce Robert (Resident Popular Educator, RUN). In this session the speakers shared practices of several industry leaders around the collaborative approach and the plan that their different organization have taken towards ensuring housing stability especially towards those who have struggles in maintain their housing.

A lot of the conversation circled around the topic of eviction prevention and one of the most memorable quotes was, “We ended up evicting the people that needed help the most and that is what led to the evolution of the eviction prevention program.” question and answer portion of this session was led by Joyce who has front line seating with residents who may find themselves in trouble because of her work in the Resident United Network and many of the questions asked were due to the urgency caused by the uncertainty in the time that we currently find ourselves in. The session was informative and enlightening.

Though the current season causes us to do things differently this year all of the speakers did a great job and all of the attendees benefited greatly from both days.



[CLICK](#) for more information on the
Supportive Housing Learning Network



The Virtual RSSN Conference Institute

This institute like the rest of our conference took place virtually on October 7th. Our RSSN Advisory Board planned helpful content that was hopefully beneficial to all the resident service providers who attended. The institute showcased Rebecca Louie (Wakeland Housing) as the keynote and three hot topic conversations about virtual programming for during times of COVID-19, youth about race and trauma, and financial strategies and preparations to help during COVID-19.

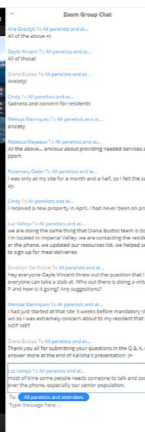
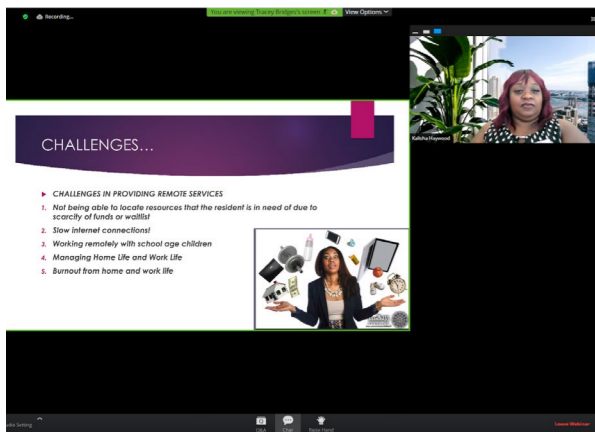
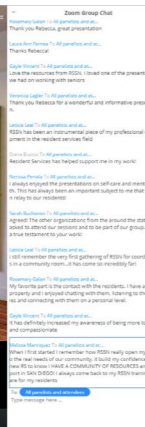
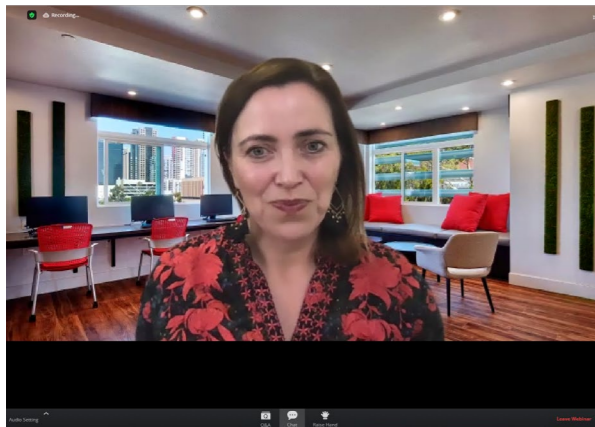
Rebecca began the session with a beautiful history of the RSSN. She answered questions about how it began and what the vision of RSSN was. The RSSN was started by one woman who had a simple desire to connect with others in her same position who needed support and resources to survive in the hard work of resident services. Many who attended commented during her speech about how helpful RSSN has been to their work, like Melissa who said, “When I first started I remember how RSSN really open my eyes to the real needs of our community, it builds my confidence as a new RS to know I HAVE A COMMUNITY OF RESOURCES and support in SAN DIEGO! I always come back to my RSSN training to care for my residents.” This session was helpful for the network as a whole and all attendees were encouraged by Rebecca’s words.

The rest of the institute was broken into a panel speaking on their expertise. The session started with was made up of *Diana Bustos (PSCDC)*, *Tracey Bridges (Wakeland)*, and *Kalisha Haywood (Wakeland)*. They

talked about “A day in the life of remote services”, because of the uncertain times that we are in. Though COVID-19 has had many people scratching their heads in how to transition to a social distancing and virtual contact world this time was dedicated to Diana, Tracey, and Kalisha sharing about how their companies had adapted. There were stories of both challenges and success that were an encouragement for those listening.

Dr. Sheri Parker LCSW, then spoke on youth and race and trauma. Sadly, COVID-19 has not been the only thing that has rocked our nation but also high racial tensions and political unrest. That is why this was an important topic to discuss because as adults this conversation isn’t an easy one. The impact that these current times have on youth is a lifetime’s worth. Dr. Parker provided tools that service providers will need to have difficult conversations. Following that conversation Daniele Johnson (State Bank of India), who spoke on the importance of pursuing financial help and gave practical tools to do so. She covered topics such as the importance in having an emergency fund, a budget, earning, saving, and investing. There was also no shortage of technological tools via smartphone apps such as Mint, YNAB, and EveryDollar.

The session rounded up with a question and answer time were a lot of things were gone over. It was a joy to experience what these women had to say in their area of expertise.



[CLICK](#) for more information on the Residents Services Support Network



Policy Highlights at the SDHF Conference



LAURA NUNN
CHIEF OF POLICY & PROGRAMS

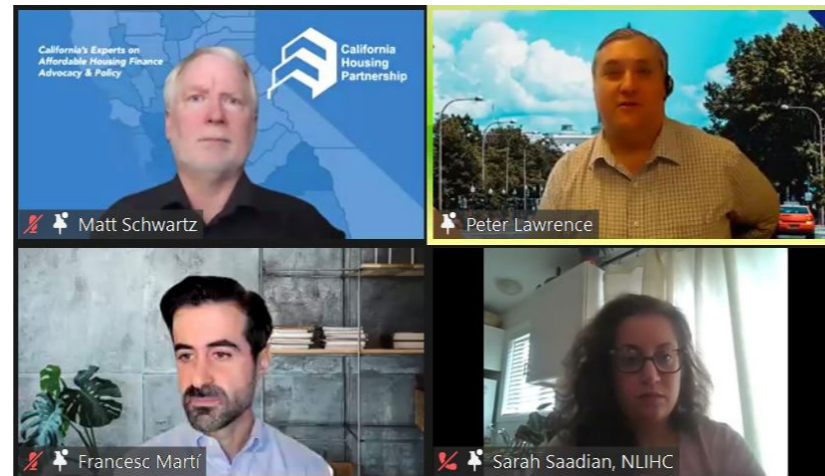
DID YOU KNOW?

The Housing Federation is working rapidly to adjust to the COVID-19 response as it relates to housing policy and advocacy at all levels of government. Please make sure to sign up to receive our [Weekly Brief](#) to get the latest on advocacy action alerts and other time-sensitive items.

To learn more about SDHF's policy positions, visit our [website](#).

Each year, the SDHF Annual Conference and Pre-Conference Institutes provide a sneak preview of what is to come in the year ahead for policy and advocacy. In a year of immense uncertainty, this year's conference provided insight for the work that lays ahead. Below is a snapshot of a few memorable quotes from conference speakers and presenters.

As our country grapples with responding to a global pandemic, addressing economic instability, and a reckoning on racial justice, one thing is clear: our work is as important as ever. Affordable housing keeps people healthy, is the bedrock of economic advancement, and is the foundation for just and equitable communities. As we plan for our policy and advocacy work in 2021, the lessons from rich conversations at this year's conference will help to guide and lead us. I look forward to what we can accomplish.



Policy & Advocacy Panel

- On the solving the housing crisis: “We need to do more tinkering.” – Conor Dougherty, author
- On preservation of affordable housing: “It is important because it keeps our residents in their homes for the next 30 years.” – Mary Jane Jagodzinski, Community HousingWorks
- On California’s Roadmap HOME 2030: “The ‘framework’ is like the structure of the house, the building. It is the heart of the Roadmap.” – Murtaza Baxamusa, San Diego Building Trades Family Housing Corporation
- On what it will take to get it done: “We need all of us to win!” – Lisa Hershey, Housing CA
- On the connection between housing and health: “Housing is a healthcare delivery system.” – Dr. Megan Sandel
- On race, data, and housing: “Data is the guide, not the destination...in creating a just and equitable world.” – Pascale Leon, CSH
- On social and racial justice in the housing movement: “Our movement needs to be explicit and intentional if we are going to address racial inequities in housing and homelessness.” – Amanda Andere, Funders Together to End Homelessness



SAN DIEGO
HOUSING
FEDERATION

How housing negatively impacts our physical and mental health

KUSI- 10/06

Interview with Dr. Megan Sandel as part of San Diego Housing Federation (SDHF) Annual Affordable Housing and Community Development Conference.



Most Residents Agree Housing Issues Are Dire But Consensus on Solutions Is Elusive

Voice of San Diego – 10/29

Despite those differing perspectives, Stephen Russell of the San Diego Housing Federation, the affordable housing group backing the measure, said this week he is hopeful that two-thirds of city voters will sign off on the property-tax hike.

Over the past three years, Russell said, polling funded by the Housing Federation has consistently shown more than two-thirds of city voters would support the affordable housing bond.

Proposed San Diego housing bond divides community leaders along ideological lines

San Diego Union-Tribune – 10/26

Stephen Russell, who has spearheaded the Yes on A campaign as chief executive of the San Diego Housing Federation, said that's because the primary goal of the housing bond is ending local homelessness.

“Children who grow up in stable homes have a head start in reaching their full potential, and that is good for everybody in our region,” Russel said.

Russell, the county taxpayers association and other supporters have focused on San Diego getting its fair share of state matching funds for subsidized housing.



AMANDA NELSON
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Coordinated Street Outreach Program Will Help Homeless San Diegans

[KPBS – 10/29](#)

“The Mobile Homelessness Response Team is really that neighborhood-based team. So, they’re focused in a particular area, building relationships with people who are unsheltered,” Jones said.

She said that the Rapid Response Team will allow social workers in specific communities to stay put with a separate group designated to address urgent issues and “go quickly out to someone who’s been identified needing a significant intervention, but doesn’t need to call 9-1-1 in order to get that done.”

Council Signs Off on New Navigation Center Plan

[Voice of San Diego – 10/28](#)

The City Council voted Tuesday to have the San Diego Housing Commission – with assistance from nonprofit People Assisting the Homeless and the Regional Task Force on the Homeless – take over operations at the homeless housing navigation center downtown.



Meridian Communities by Chelsea Investment Corporation

Meridian Communities Starts Construction On Poway Commons in the Poway Town Center

[Fox40 – 10/27](#)

The mixed-use community called Poway Commons will create a vibrant, family-oriented pedestrian-friendly mixed-use environment and include 97 market-rate townhomes and flats by Meridian Communities, 44 affordable apartments for seniors by Chelsea Investment Corporation, and 2.2 acres for future retail.



New Affordable Housing Community Opens In East LA

[CBS LA – 10/23](#)

The Puesta Del Sol apartment complex is located on the corner of Whittier Boulevard and Downey Road and offers one-, two- and three-bedroom units.

Nearly half of the 71 new housing units will be for people experiencing homelessness who have been referred by the L.A. County Department of Health Services.

These tiny homes were going to help solve Sacramento's homeless crisis. So where are they?

[Sacramento Bee – 10/28](#)

That requirement would make it “next to impossible” to find sites, said Bob Erlenbusch of the Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness. He also urged the city to offer funding to community organizations that open a site on private property.

“As winter rapidly approaches, we call on you to create safeguards and safe parking programs in each of the city council districts and fund them to succeed,” Erlenbusch wrote in an email to the mayor and council members Monday.

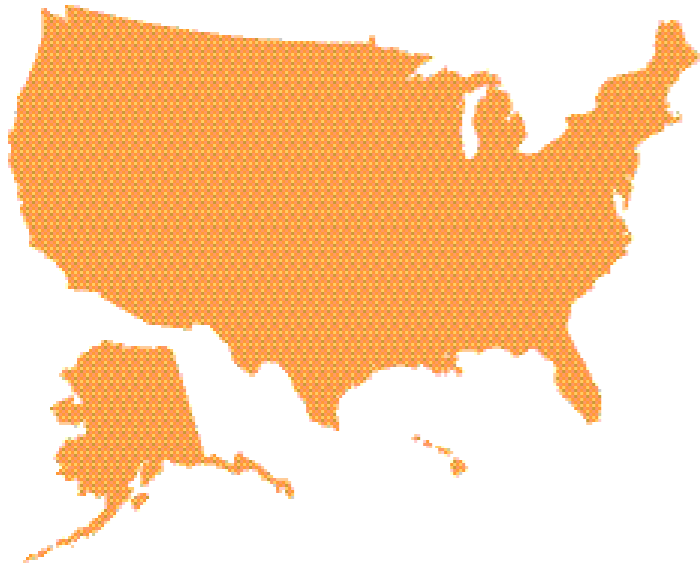


A new affordable housing community opened Friday in East Los Angeles. (CBSLA)

The affordable housing crisis is about to get worse; here's a policy that will help renters

[CalMatters – 10/26](#)

Our bill provides tenants an opportunity to buy any-time an owner is ready to sell the rental property unlike SB 1079 that only applies in foreclosure scenarios. Tenants can collectively decide to make the first offer (right of first offer) and match an outside offer (right of first refusal) to buy the property. If tenants are unable to purchase their home, they can assign rights to a vetted affordable housing developer who promises to keep rents low.



Podcast Illustrates How Building Codes Can Help Communities Prepare for Emergencies

[Green Builder Media – 10/27](#)

What factors can help mitigate the negative effects of a natural disaster or other emergency situation? What planning tools or programs can be used to lessen the impact? How do building codes and other emergency management strategies position communities to be as prepared as possible for disasters?

To end homelessness, follow the science

[The Hill – 10/23](#)

Deregulation alone will not provide the deep subsidies needed to produce and pay rent in units affordable to the very low-income households at most risk of homelessness. The latest Trump budget again proposed deep cuts in rental assistance. One can only hope that the plan will in fact fulfill its promised “moral obligation..to help every single citizen to obtain safe and stable housing.”



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Social Worker-Turned-Planner on How Planners Can Heal the Trauma of Cities

[Planetizen – 10/22](#)

In Aviles’ view, the community comes first. Rather than trying to “change” a community, planners should call on the strengths of community leaders. Similarly, planners shouldn’t let their own training inflate their sense of purpose within a community. “Lived experiences should be leveraged and seen as truth, even when planners can’t connect with them. Remember: we are of service, not to be serviced,” says Aviles.



CSH believes supportive housing can change the trajectory for vulnerable families and, with generous support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, developed the Keeping Families Together (KFT) model to test if safe, affordable supportive housing addressing the needs of parents and their children would help them stay together and thrive.

Public Health and Supportive Housing: Natural Allies

“Public health is what we do together as a society to ensure the conditions in which everyone can be healthy.”

~Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

When 2020 started, no one could have predicted the world as it is now. For those who work in housing, services, and the efforts to align them, the year has brought both new challenges and new allies. Allies who are now learning what those working to end homelessness and to create and sustain supportive housing have long known: our nation woefully underinvests in communities and people who need assistance the most. Our field knows that due to historic patterns of institutional and systemic racism, people of color are more likely to suffer from poverty, homelessness, disabilities, and adverse health outcomes. We know that the voices of those most impacted need to be centered in creating solutions. Yet the lack of political will in many communities coupled with funding constraints has hampered efforts to address these needs in general and take solutions like supportive housing to scale. We must remember and acknowledge while the glare of the national spotlight may shine with new intensity these days, these challenges and incidents go back for centuries.

With focused attention on these issues, new alliances, policy initiatives, potential partners, and collaborations are growing. One of the newest and most important allies is the public health field.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it clear that lack of housing is a public health crisis. The over-representation of People of Color in the rates of positive cases, hospitalizations, and COVID-19 deaths is driven by underlying institutional and systemic racism.

To fully address the impact of both COVID-19 and the affordable housing crisis, the housing and services sectors need to collaborate more than ever with the public health sector. The vastly under-resourced public health sector is struggling to develop strategies that effectively engage marginalized communities. Cross-sector collaboration is needed to protect our communities' well-being and build thriving, healthy communities. This paper outlines many of the commonalities between the public health field and those who work to align housing and services, and offers some thoughts on how we can all collaborate effectively.

The link to the article can be found here at https://d155kunxf1aozz.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Public-Health_and_SH.pdf



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TIPS TO KEEP COOL AND STAY SAFE DURING HEAT WAVES

With elevated fire conditions and increasing temperatures, please keep safety top of mind when trying to beat the heat. Here are some tips to help you keep cool and conserve energy:

1. Use a ceiling or portable fan instead of your air conditioner, health permitting.
2. During the hot hours of the day, cover windows to block the sun's heat. Opening windows in the evening can help your home cool back down.
3. Keep track of your energy use and costs with email or text alerts. Visit sdge.com/myaccount to stay on top of your bill, energy use and more by clicking on "alerts and subscriptions."
4. Download SDG&E's mobile app for an easier way to track your energy use. Download on the App Store or Google Play.
5. Run major appliances, such as your washers and dryers, early in the morning or late at night to avoid peak energy use timeframes.
6. Find your nearest "Cool Zone" at sdge.com/coolzones.
7. Turn down your water heater by a few degrees. Many water heaters are set higher than the temperature we actually use. Reducing this by a few degrees can reduce your energy costs.
8. Use air conditioners safely. Avoid plugging air conditioners into extension cords or power strips. Always keep the area around your air conditioning unit clear of anything that could easily catch fire.

Along with the extreme heat, our region is experiencing elevated fire danger – especially in the backcountry. Everyone is urged to avoid these situations that could spark fires (source – National Fire Protection Association):

1. Clear dead leaves and other flammable debris from gutters, eaves, porches and decks. This helps prevent embers from igniting your home.
2. Wind-borne embers can get into homes easily through vents, like exterior attic vents and other openings, and burn the home from the inside out. Walk around your house to see what openings you can cover with metal wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch, or temporarily seal openings.
3. Remove flammable materials like firewood stacks, propane tanks and vehicles (anything that can act as a large fuel source) within 30 feet of your home's foundation and outbuildings, including garages and sheds. If it can catch fire, don't let it touch your house, deck or porch.
4. If you are ordered to evacuate, make sure all windows and doors are closed tightly and seal pet doors. Homes can be destroyed by embers entering these openings.
5. Don't let debris and lawn cuttings linger. Dispose of these items quickly and rake landscaping mulch to reduce fuel for fire.
6. Inspect shingles or roof tiles. Replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration.



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