



THE MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OF THE HOMELESSNESS

Dupont Circle Citizens Association (DCCA) Zoom Webinar

Thursday, March 4th, 2021

7:30 P.M to 8:30 P.M

The March 4th, 2021, webinar on “The Medical and Mental Health of the Homeless” is the third of six 1-hour Zoom webinars organized by the Dupont Circle Citizens Association (DCCA) to educate residents of the Dupont and broader communities about topics concerning single people who are homeless and unhoused in the Dupont neighborhood. The intent of DCCA’s six webinars running through March 25th is to help residents think differently about the issues so that they are better equipped to help/lobby/volunteer or otherwise engage to support progress toward ending chronic homelessness. Recorded versions of the webinars will be shared online for subsequent viewing via YouTube or other platforms.

This session will discuss the medical and mental healthcare needs and services of the homeless in the District of Columbia, as well as the patterns of addiction and substance use among the homeless population. Each panelist will share their professional knowledge serving the homeless population, but more significantly they will share their experiences, from their perspective as front-line professionals, in their field.

Dante Nicotera is currently serving as the unit clerk at Christ House, a medical respite facility for men experiencing homelessness in Washington, DC. He is at Christ House as a part of their Year Long Volunteer program, in which four to seven young adults serve at Christ House for a full year. As unit clerk, Dante oversees the logistical aspects of patient care, with his primary tasks being scheduling medical appointments for the men, as well as processing and completing orders from the providers at Christ House. He graduated from the Catholic University of America in May with a Bachelor's in Biology and Neuroscience and will be attending medical school in the fall. He was inspired to work at Christ House after his experiences with service in undergrad and plans to continue working with underserved populations during medical school.

Jordan Gulley, LCIS is a Site Coordinator for the Department of Behavioral Health’s (DBH) Community Response Team, a 24-7 multidisciplinary team that works with individuals experiencing emotional, psychiatric, and substance use vulnerabilities to support and promote behavioral health and wellness. She is a licensed clinical social worker who has worked in DC mental health and homeless services for almost ten years. Jordan currently serves as the co-chair for the Outreach Policy workgroup for the Interagency Council on Homelessness. Prior to joining DBH, Jordan served as the Associate Director of Outreach for Pathways to Housing where she managed homeless outreach teams and worked with the business improvement districts to identify creative solutions to systemic issues. When not working, Jordan hits the hiking trails with her two dogs.

Leah Lyons, is the DC Homeless Outreach Clinical Social Worker for the DC Department of Veteran's Affairs. In this capacity, Leah serves as the Point of Contact for Veteran Service Organizations and for Supportive Services for Veteran's and Families (SSVF). Leah has over 13 years of experience working with homeless populations in and around DC, Maryland, and Northern Virginia. Leah previously served as the Assistant Director for the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless, Veteran's Safe Haven program, a short term, 24/7 residential transitional housing program which contracted with DC and Baltimore Veteran's Affairs. In this role, Leah oversaw program staff and Case Workers in providing housing stabilization, crisis intervention, and clinical consultation to assure individuals successfully exited the homeless system. Leah has both public and private sector experience and has worked many years with individuals experiencing street homelessness, mental health, substance use, and housing instability. As a result of Leah's expertise, she has collaborated with local and grass-roots agencies to integrate best practices of trauma informed care (TIA), harm reduction, and "housing first models" to serve homeless Veterans.

Dr. Sarah Meyers, a 2014 graduate of Ben Gurion University of the Negev, is a Family Practice Physician with Unity's Health Care for the Homeless Program and Upper Cardozo Community Health Center. Dr. Meyers is a resident of the Dupont Circle neighborhood, performs medical outreach in the area every Wednesday evening and is an active advocate for improving the lives of those experiencing homelessness. In her work at Upper Cardozo, she is actively engaged in care of refugees and the local immigrant population as well. Dr. Meyers is trilingual and has additional interests in HIV and women's health.

The panel will be moderated by Diane Quinn. Diane is a long-standing local resident and has a long and strong history with the District of Columbia. She gained her MA in Human Resources and Organizational Development at American University and has worked for AT&T, the DC Department of Public and Assisted Housing, (now the DC Housing Authority), the DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the District Department of Transportation (DDOT). After leaving government she worked with Sunrise Senior Living as a Human Resources Manager, she ran her own HR Consultancy and has worked with Total Care Services, a non-profit serving District of Columbia adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.