



Moderator:

George Nashak, President and CEO for the Care For the Homeless



George Nashak joined Care For the Homeless (CFH) as President & CEO in October of 2017. He came to CFH from HELP USA, where he served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer over the organization's \$100 million portfolio of housing and supportive services for people experiencing homelessness. Before joining HELP USA in 2012, George spent 8 years at the NYC Department of Homeless Services. He began as the Assistant Commissioner for Housing and Program Planning and worked on the New York/New York III Agreement. Later, as Deputy Commissioner for Adult Services, he oversaw the single adult shelter system, street homelessness programs, and the re-housing of homeless adults' services. He holds a

bachelor's degree from Columbia University.

Panelists:

Dr. Kelly Doran, MD, Assistant Professor in the Departments of Emergency Medicine and Population Health, NYU School of Medicine and Emergency Physician, Bellevue Hospital



Dr. Kelly Doran is Assistant Professor in the Departments of Emergency Medicine and Population Health at NYU School of Medicine, where she directs the Health x Housing Lab. She also works as an emergency physician at Bellevue Hospital. Dr. Doran attended medical school at the University of Michigan, completed emergency medicine residency at NYU-Bellevue, and earned a master's degree in health sciences as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar at Yale. Dr. Doran's research spanning topics including homelessness and substance use is funded by the NIH and the CDC. She previously served as a Senior Advisor to the New York State Department of Health on novel efforts to use Medicaid to fund supportive housing and has been an invited panelist at the National Academies of

Science on the topic of social determinants of health. Her research has been published in journals including Health Affairs and the American Journal of Public Health, and she co-edited a recently published textbook, Social Emergency Medicine: Principles and Practice. She has been active in homelessness-related work since serving as a director at a student-run homeless shelter as an undergraduate.

Karen Ford, LMSW, Chief Operating Officer, HELP USA



Karen Ford has served her community for more than 30 years, from her early days as a residential aide at the NYC Department of Homeless Services and a Youth & Family Services administrator at the NYS Department of Health to her current role as Chief Operating Officer of HELP USA. Ms. Ford directed teams for treatment, outreach, re-housing, real estate, and shelter services at Samaritan Daytop Village. She then crafted policy as Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Homeless Services for NYC. Today, in her role with HELP USA, Ms. Ford directs the operations of more than 1000 staff at 32 homeless services and prevention sites. Karen has been recognized for her distinguished work in homeless services by several elected officials, has received numerous leadership awards and

fellowships, and holds an MSW from Fordham University.

Rangi McNeil, MFA, Poet and Lived Experience of Homelessness



A native of Laurinburg, NC, **Rangi McNeil** earned a BA in history from Rice University & his MFA from Columbia University School of the Arts. The Sheep Meadow Press published his poetry collection, *The Missing*, in April 2003; The Song Cave Press his chapbook, *Occasional Poems*, in August 2015. McNeil's poems have appeared or are forthcoming in: *Bennington Review*, *Paris Review*, *poetry daily*, *Smartish Pace*, *Western Humanities Review* as well as several anthologies including *Between & The Queer South*. He has led creative writing workshops at Bank Street College, Borough of Manhattan Community College, Columbia University, Evötös Collegium in Budapest, Hungary; and received Fellowships and/or funding from: The Academy of American Poets, Columbia

University School of the Arts, The Community Word Project, The Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, The Mayer Foundation, PEN America & The Poetry Project at St. Mark's Church & The Vermont Studio Center.

Frederick Shack, LMSW, Chief Executive Officer, Urban Pathways



Frederick Shack joined Urban Pathways, a leading social services nonprofit serving homeless New Yorkers, in January 2005 and is the Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Shack was a founding member and past president of Homeless Services United, a coalition of organizations serving the homeless. Under Mr. Shack's leadership, Urban Pathways developed more than 800 units of affordable and supportive housing, which includes the construction of nine buildings located in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx. Prior to joining Urban Pathways, Mr. Shack spent 14 years at HELP USA as Senior Vice President of Client Services and Public Policy. Mr. Shack holds an MSW and BA in psychology from Rutgers University. He is the former Vice-Chair of the Board of the Human Services Council of New York, serves as the Vice-Chair of th

Board of the Supportive Housing Network of New York, and a former member of the Board of the NASW- New York Chapter. He is a member of the Mayor's Supportive Housing Taskforce and serves as a Co-Chair of the Mayor's Non-Profit-Resiliency Committee. He has been a Field Instructor for social work interns since 1997 and he is a Senior lecturer, teaching Homeless Policy since 2007 and the Seminar in Field Instruction course since 2011 at the Columbia University Graduate School of Social Work.

Felipe Vargas, MA, Vice President of Programs, the DOE Fund



Felipe Vargas is the Vice President of Programs for The Doe Fund, which provides housing, paid transitional work, and holistic programs to thousands of formerly homeless and incarcerated men. Here, he leads the organization's direct service design, management, and oversight. Before coming to The Doe Fund, Mr. Vargas held leadership positions at Acacia Network, The Exodus Transitional Community, and the City University of New York. He brings over two decades of experience serving individuals involved in the criminal justice system in various capacities, including workforce development, chemical dependency treatment, HIV/AIDS services, homelessness services, correctional programming, prisoner reentry, alternatives to incarceration, supportive

housing, and youth services. Mr. Vargas' work in the community has been recognized by Citizens Against Recidivism, the New York State Senate, El Diario and Crain's New York Business. He has also served on the Board of Directors of Park Slope Center for Mental Health and Exodus Transitional Community. Mr. Vargas holds an MA in Sociology from SUNY New Paltz and is a graduate of the Columbia Graduate School of Business' Institute for Not-for-Profit Management.