

# CoC Board/Advisory Committee Candidates

Listed below are the candidates that will be voted on during the June 23, 2023 CoC Member Convening. Candidates were asked to provide biographies which are below.

## Current Board

### Tamara Bauman

Described as a tenacious justice-seeker and fierce advocate for housing and racial justice, Tamara Bauman is actively involved in multiple cross-sector projects aiming to achieve transformational and enduring social change. Tamara firmly believes in applying a **#Wellbeing** analysis to our region's homeless response system as a means of challenging status quo policies and dominant narratives around homelessness, specifically those that endeavor to pathologize, criminalize, or otherwise oppress our unhoused neighbors. Tamara has lived experience of homelessness/housing instability and domestic violence—and these experiences have been foundational to her learning and professional development.

### Leeze Castro

Leeze Castro (he/they), 24, is passionate about ending youth homelessness, focusing on the unique challenges faced by BIPOC and LGBTQIA2S+ individuals. Leeze brings over 5 years of experience from systems-level change work as a young person with lived experience. Having started with the King County YAB (Youth Action Board) while it was facilitated by the Northwest Network, the Mockingbird Society, and eventually itself, Leeze now sits on the KCRHA's (King County Regional Homelessness Authority) advisory committee. Having double majored in mathematics and sociology, Leeze now joins those two passions as the Data and Evaluations Fellow for A Way Home Washington, a non-profit focused on ending youth and young adult homelessness throughout Washington State. There, Leeze makes use of data-driven strategies to tackle the organization's mission, and to take an immediate and direct approach in addressing the ultimate goal of bringing an end to systemic inequity.

### Marvin Futrell

Marvin Futrell is a staff organizer at Nickelsville and a Clinical Instructor at the University of Washington's School of Public Health. Marvin is working on expanding systems to address the needs of Seattle's growing number of people experiencing homelessness and supporting participatory, democratic processes in organizations owned and operated by individuals experiencing homelessness.

### Kristi Hamilton

Kristi Hamilton is a member of Samaritan Beacon and volunteers with organizations like Companis, Chief Seattle Club, and was one of the original members of Operation Night Watch. Kristi has worked as a geriatric, psychiatric nurse, and as a drug and alcohol counselor. Kristi brings a unique perspective with lived experience of homelessness, as well as a background as a homeowner and landlord. As an older, Native woman with lived experience of homelessness, Kristi brings hope and sees opportunities for systemic change.



## Kristina Sawyckyj

Kristina M. Sawyckyj is the vice chair for the South King County Healthcare for the Homeless Advisory Group, an appointed member to the Seattle's Commission for People with Disabilities, a Vice Co-Chair of the Washington State Behavioral Healthcare Council, the Disability Access Coordinator for the Transit Rider's Union, a member of the Lived Experience Coalition Leadership Team, and an instructor with the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill. Kristina believes that in order to change homelessness, we need to change oppressive forces and make housing a human right for all.

## Sherry Tillman

Sherry Tillman is the Director of Intake Services at Mary's Place where Sherry connects families experiencing homelessness to shelter. Sherry wants to bring front-line perspective to this committee to help create solutions that are focused around the needs of those who are experiencing homelessness and improve the system so that families have a voice, feel respected and represented, are able to become self-sufficient, and have options where they don't have to experience homelessness at all.

## Board Nominees

### Patricia Barnes-Sam

Dr. Patricia Barnes-Sam was born and raised in Seattle, WA. In 2020, she received her doctorate degree from Midwest University of Theology. Patricia currently works at DESC Crisis Solutions Center as Mental Health Professional for the Behavioral Health Response Team (BHRT). Formerly employed at Seattle Central College as a Faculty Counselor in TRIO Student Support Services. In June of 2018, Patricia graduated from the University of Washington, with a Master of Social Work degree. While at the UW, she studied abroad in Ghana, doing service work in one of Ghana's rural area orphanage and educational non-profit organizations. Additionally Patricia has served in various local community organizations, such as: Seattle Union Gospel Mission (SUGM)-Hope Place, Mary's Place & Conquest Center. She is a humble and active servant leader, Evangelist Missionary of Mt Calvary Christian Center, COGIC. As a Family Advocate Outreach Specialist, Patricia's passion is working with individuals, families, and systems of care using a holistic approach to provide resources (housing, education, coaching, mentoring, legal, financial, health, food, and spiritual, etc.) to those in greatest need. Patricia's work is inspired by one of her favorite scriptures, Then He (Jesus) said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (Luke 10:2 NKJV).

### Kenyatta Carroll-Hillman

My name is Kenyatta Carroll-Hillman, 47, and Lived Experience. Currently I have been enrolled with Seattle Central Community College soon to be receiving a degree in Social and Human Services. Where I have not only been briefed on Social Justice, but different things related to Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Grief and Loss. Gladly also attended other workshops with certificates of approval to work and assist in the field of services for the need of our homeless trauma filled addicted community. Never had I known the streets and the horrible things that could come about in a non-structured well applied life. But when I experienced it firsthand, I became determined to make a change in my life and others. I have always had a passion for people and love to see society what it would become if we all work together mending what we know is broken. Starting to see the trauma and mental health that our community has suffered from will be a good start. I have sought out resources and spoke with people on the streets in the community assessing the needs of the people. I also have a non-profit 24/7 Street



Ministry working along the side other non-profits for the betterment of the people to repair. I have a voice and I pledge to understand repair and acknowledge the need for change. This is my passion and will continue the work for life of others who need someone to care and give them a proud change I believe in the system and resources to reach out for the need of others. Thank You.

### Zsa Zsa Floyd

I organized the first homeless march in Eugene, Oregon. "I had \$1800 in my pocket and two jobs but no one would rent to me. I was living in a Pinto with 3 kids." I worked with the head of the NAACP to bring attention to local racial and economic injustice and was appointed to the Springfield (OR) Human Rights Commission where she served for a 4-year term.

After experiencing too many years of homelessness, I moved into Camp Second Chance in South Seattle where she quickly became a respected leader and board member. I was trusted to mediate conflicts and counsel campers. I felt like my role was "Creating a community where people felt safe and at least liked, if not loved, although love is best. And I listened because everything matters." I also used my considerable administrative skills to set up the camp's first bookkeeping system and database.

I have since moved into permanent housing and continues to advocate for people experiencing homelessness. I began as a consumer advocate for the Community Advisory Group (CAG) of the Seattle/King County's Health Care for the Homeless Network (HCHN) and was voted onto the Executive Committee. I was former Vice Chair of their (HCHN) Governance Council. where I along with other people develops agendas for the executive board, determines training needs and I facilitates meetings, in addition to outreach work on the streets.

Building community isn't just a strong value for me, it's part of my DNA. My grandmother's family was one of the first Black families in Eugene. Prior to moving into town, they lived in a tent city along the Willamette River. At that time Black people were not allowed to live within the city limits. In the 1960s, My grandmother Mattie Reynolds ran for Eugene City Council and now has a city park named after her, honoring her commitment to social justice.

"This is where my sense of empowerment comes from."

I graduated with honors from Sanford-Brown College in 2009.

"We were oppressed and depressed, but we had one another to raise each other up"

—Mattie Reynolds, My grandmother.

### Antoinette Lambert

Antoinette Lambert is a peer counselor who has worked in the foster care system and has lived experience in homelessness and domestic violence. She is currently in school for social services and volunteers at a local foster care agency. Antoinette is passionate about helping others and using her experiences to make a difference in the world.

### Dorsol Plants

Dorsol is a South King County resident, military veteran, and most recently Program Manager at Fusion, providing family homelessness support in Federal Way. Dorsol has worked and provided support in a wide array of human services across King County over the past decade. These include his work as a housing case manager, chemical dependency screener, and domestic violence advocate across King County. Dorsol is a lifelong learner with a passion for reading and tabletop gaming.



## Ruby Tuesday Romero

A lifelong Seattleite and only child to her parents, Ruby spent her youth working in the family restaurant and seeing live music. She attended Roosevelt High School and Shoreline Community College, interned at *Sub Pop Records*, and is a professional musician. Ruby is an active community member, working with the *Punk Rock Flea Market* in Seattle and Tacoma, and holds the Volunteer Coordinator position at *Nii Modo*, a recipient of the Seattle ReStored program located on 3rd & Union. In 2021, Ms. Romero was hired as a Policy Analyst and began to collaborate with an innovative grassroots organization that aims to connect systems, prevent housing loss, and reduce unsheltered homelessness. In March, she joined the *KCRHA* as a member of the *System Performance Committee*.

Ms. Romero believes the response system should center those with lived experience, and hopes to provide perspective from her experiences as a survivor of domestic violence who has lived unsheltered, in motels, in an RV, and in cars. She also has first hand experience with the eviction process, losing loved ones to substance abuse, individuals in a mental health crisis, housing instability, foster care, and as a street musician-she is constantly engaging with those living on the street. Ruby has always been a strong ally for the LGBTQIA2S+ community and advocates against the current legislative war on queer youth and women's bodies.

## Martha Sassorossi

My name is Martha Sassorossi (she/her/hers pronouns) and I have worked in homeless housing and services in King County for the last five years. My prior work and volunteer experience focused on human services more broadly and includes several years of direct service experience in a different community.

In my roles at the County, I have managed contracts, collaborated with the Youth Action Board established as part of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP), been responsive to HUD monitoring, and supported the annual Continuum of Care (CoC) application processes. In my current role with the Homeless Housing Program, I lead a team responsible for federal, state, and local funding for housing programs, including CoC-funded permanent supportive housing.

My prior experience also includes serving on the CoC System Performance Committee and the Coordinated Entry Policy Advisory Committee. I was also fortunate to have the opportunity to be a part of the CoC Theory of Change committee in the winter of 2020 when community members and staff from the City of Seattle and King County came together to develop plans to establish a regional homelessness authority. The Theory of Change committee followed the leadership of individuals with lived experience of homelessness to develop a framework around the Theory of Change.

## Galena White

I was an autistic kid but I didn't know it. I grew up in abuse which continued even once I was in foster care. I was allowed to become homeless at 17 years old, and I stayed homeless for about five years. I finally became housed at a supportive living apartment building, and then obtained a Section 8 voucher. I was inspired by Barack Obama and began to volunteer, and then I started a grocery cooperative in a West Seattle food desert. I took a break from volunteer work for a few years to start a family, but I continued to educate myself on social issues and intersectional antiracist accomplicing. I am currently a Board member at Northwest Hospitality, a member of the Washington State Permanent Supportive Housing Advisory Committee, and a physically and mentally disabled, nonbinary, bisexual wife, mother, singer, gamer, and crafter.



