

Webinar: Supporting the Mental Health and Treatment Needs of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness During COVID-19

March 25, 2021 3:30-5:00pm EST

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic there has been an increase in mental health and substance use disorders in the United States. Join SAMHSA's Homeless and Housing Resource Center in exploring equitable and culturally appropriate interventions to engage people experiencing homelessness in treatment and deliver services in non-congregate settings. Participants will hear from the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless and Central City Concern about the creative methods they have used during the pandemic. Participants will also learn self-care strategies from the National Council for Behavioral Health to avoid burnout during and after the pandemic.

Speakers:

1. Dave Iverson, MD, Director of Psychiatry, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Denver, Colorado
2. Eowyn Rieke, MD, MPH, Blackburn Medical Director
3. Walter Bailey, PSS-II, CADC-I, QMHA, CRM, Peer Counselor at the Imani Center, Central City Concern, Portland, Oregon
4. Laura Leone, DSW, MSSW, LMSW, Integrated Health Consultant, National Council for Behavioral Health

Learning Objectives

1. Describe the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the behavioral health needs of individuals experiencing or at imminent risk of homelessness.
2. Identify equitable and culturally appropriate service delivery practices for persons experiencing homelessness and individuals in non-congregate shelters during COVID-19.
3. Recognize emotional and physical signs of stress associated with being an essential worker and increase the knowledge of and engagement in self-care activities.

Presenter Bios

Dave Iverson, MD

Dr. Iverson is the Psychiatric Director for the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH). CCH is an integrated health care program and a national leader in low-cost, supported housing development and management, with an array of services including Outreach and Peer Support Services for people experiencing homelessness. As a forensic psychiatrist, Dr. Iverson has worked in all aspects of the Colorado health care system, including corrections, and understands the fallout when people cannot readily access the support they need. He serves on multiple advocacy committees, has interests in ethics and social justice, and is a Senior Instructor for the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center Department of Psychiatry.

Eowyn Rieke, MD, MPH

Eowyn Rieke, MD, MPH is a family doctor, addictions medicine specialist, and medical leader. She has worked for over 20 years in health care for the homeless and other marginalized groups. She is dedicated to person-centered trauma-informed care that supports the dignity and self-determination of her clients, working collaboratively with them towards their goals with substance use and other aspects of their lives. For the last 6 years, Eowyn has worked at Central City Concern where she supervised shelter-based services and other outreach services. Most recently she was appointed the Services Director at the Blackburn Center which offers integrated substance use, primary care, mental health, housing, and employment services. Eowyn loves to spend time with her daughter and partner, garden, and run with her rascally husky dog Huckleberry Finn.

Walter Bailey, PSS-II, CADC-I, QMHA, CRM

Over the last 10 years, Walter has built a wonderful life in recovery and has dedicated his career to supporting others. Walter began his career in the recovery community at De Paul as a Residential and Addictions Counselor in 2012. He later moved onto Central City Concern as a Peer Support Specialist II and A/D Counselor at the Imani Center in 2015. Walter has worked for the Imani Center since the doors opened in 2015 and has dedicated his professional career to assisting African Americans getting help and support for their mental health and substance use needs.

Laura Leone, DSW, MSSW, LMSW

Laura Leone, DSW, MSSW, LMSW, has worked in the behavioral health field for more than 20 years, she has provided training and consultation on integrated care, mental health, substance use, suicide prevention, evidence-based practices, value-based payment readiness, and other behavioral health topic areas. She has extensive experience in bidirectional integration, engaging primary care in mental health partnerships and in specific clinical treatment modalities. Leone has published and presented nationally and has held leadership, clinical, administrative, supervisory, research and publication positions at a Federally Qualified Health Center; in private practice; at an in-patient psychiatric hospital; and at McLean Hospital's OCD Institute.