

# VENTURA COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE

## Chronicle

AUGUST 2024

### FIRST EDITION OF THE VENTURA COUNTY COC NEWSLETTER!

Welcome, to this first edition of the Ventura County Continuum of Care “Chronicle” newsletter. Stay tuned for future editions where news and updates showcasing amazing partner agency work in the community, upcoming permanent housing developments, volunteer opportunities and all things CoC will be shared.

### TWO NEW POSITIONS FILLED AND AN INTERIM COC DIRECTOR SELECTED!

In an unprecedented move, the Board of Supervisors created two new positions to address the entrenched issue of homelessness. Recognizing that solving homelessness requires access to housing, they created both a Homelessness Solutions and Housing Solutions Director position in the County Executive Office.

We are thrilled to announce that Jennifer Harkey has been appointed as the Interim Homelessness Solutions Director and Tracy McAulay the Housing Solutions Director. Alicia Morales-McKinney has been appointed as the Interim CoC Director. Recruitments are ongoing to fill the vacancies left behind from their promotions and appointments. Stay tuned for future announcements!



Pictured left to right: Christy Madden, Tracy McAulay, Jennifer Harkey and Chelsee Russell



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ENDING HOMELESSNESS  
IN VENTURA COUNTY

# Tracy McAulay, named County of Ventura's first *Housing Solutions Director*

Tracy McAulay was recently promoted as the County of Ventura's first Housing Solutions Director. Tracy is uniquely qualified for this position as she has over 10 years' experience at a prominent local non-profit affordable housing developer and over eight years' experience in the County Executive Office Community Development Division. Tracy has been a champion to increase and secure resources that have contributed to the creation of over 1,000 units of new affordable housing and permanent supportive housing in our County. Tracy has also taken on leadership efforts to work with partners to discuss opportunities around workforce housing for artists, teachers, and other middle-income families. This involves making connections with the art community, school districts, city partners, developers and other County partners to brainstorm possibilities. She is taking her expertise, community connections and knowledge to help lead the way.



In her new role, she will continue the foundational work she began and will continue her work with non-profit organizations, cities, county agencies and more to support the development of affordable housing and help to dispel the myths about affordable housing by highlighting its positive impact in communities.

Beyond Tracy's work with the County, she also serves as the Board Chair for the Housing Trust Fund of Ventura County. Her voice on the Trust Fund Board is respected due to her objectivity while advocating for affordable housing projects. At this year's Ventura County Leadership Academy's (VCLA) Journey to Leadership Awards Luncheon, Tracy was named as the Public Service Leader of the year, an apt recognition of her contributions.

Tracy is a longtime resident of Camarillo where she lives with her husband and daughter.

# Jennifer Harkey, named County of Ventura's first *Homelessness Solutions Director*



Jenn Harkey is the real deal and absolutely PERFECT for the role as the County of Ventura's first Homelessness Solutions Director. Having come up through the ranks in the Human Services Agency and worked as an EMT where she not only saw, but worked to address human suffering, she emanates empathy and compassion in both her professional and personal life. She's well-respected and has earned her interim appointment to this position.

Evidence that her knowledge, skills and abilities has prepared her for this new position include: in 2016 United Way Ventura County honored her with the Douglas Shively Award for Outstanding Community Impact; at the Department of Justice's invitation, she presented to a national audience about building partnerships with law enforcement, and she's leading a new countywide task force to enhance both collaboration and community accountability.

Jenn's thoughtful and reflective approach when facing new and entrenched challenges is evident; she listens, reflects, assesses conditions and evaluates potential solutions BEFORE weighing in. She's attentive to her audience, and sensitive to long-standing approaches that may not align with best practices, and takes care to inform and educate with evidence and data to reinforce recommendations.

We are confident that Jenn's gentle yet firm hand will guide the community task force's work to help make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring in Ventura County.



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## Alicia Morales-McKinney promoted as *Interim County of Ventura CoC Director*

Alicia Morales-McKinney, a licensed clinical social worker with the Ventura County Continuum of Care, began her impactful career in 2013 as the Clinical Director of Programs at the Salvation Army in Ventura. She managed key programs and grants, including transitional housing, Rapid Re-housing, and the Street Outreach, Homeless 2 Home programs. Alicia's commitment to trauma-informed care ensured successful case coordination and resource connection for clients. She spearheaded the launch of the VC CoC's Coordinated Entry System previously known as the Coordinated Assessment, collaborating with Turning Point Foundation, Project Understanding, and the City of Ventura, leading to its countywide adoption.



Alicia then joined the County's Human Services Agency as a Supervisor for In-Home Supportive Services, before transitioning to the Homeless Management Information System team as the Coordinated Entry System Program Coordinator. She updated policies, trained providers, held weekly case conference meetings and led the major update and implementation of the local Vulnerability Assessment Tool. In 2019, she showcased Ventura's Coordinated Entry System at a national conference and webinar in partnership with Human Services Agency and CoC staff.

After five years as CES Coordinator at the Human Services Agency, Alicia became an Analyst with the Continuum of Care. She oversees state grant funding through the California Interagency Council on Homelessness, facilitates the Housing and Services Committee and leads the County of Ventura's Veterans Committee known as the One Team. She manages the 'Veterans By Name List' and coordinates with veteran service providers, ensuring comprehensive support for both sheltered and unsheltered veterans.

Throughout her career, Alicia's work has been unconditionally supported by her family and colleagues, whose encouragement and understanding has been instrumental to her success. Their unwavering support has empowered her to pursue her passion for helping others and making a significant impact in her community.

# UPCOMING EVENTS!

**August 7th 10:00 - 11:30am**

## **CoC Data Committee Meeting**

702 County Sq. Drive Suite 100  
Ventura, CA, 93003

**August 7th 11:00am - 2:00pm**

## **Career & Resource Expo**

County of Ventura Government Center  
800 S. Victoria Avenue Ventura, CA 93003

**September 11th 2:00 - 3:30pm**

## **CoC Board Meeting**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**October 9th 2:00 - 3:30pm**

## **CoC Board Meeting**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**October 16th 9:30 - 10:30am**

## **CoC Housing and Services Committee**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**October 17th 10:30 - 12:00pm**

## **VC CoC Alliance Meeting**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

## **An Evening with the CoC**

**Coming Soon**

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Contact us at  
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*A special thank you to our contributors for this August 2024 edition of the VC CoC Chronicle:  
Christy Madden, Chelsee Russell, Felipe Flores,  
and Morgan Saveliff*



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