



# Housing Transitions QUERI

*Meet the Team*

Implementing and sustaining Critical Time Intervention (CTI) to support housing transitions for homeless-experienced Veterans in the VA Grant and Per Diem (GPD) case management grant program

## Project Leads



**Sonya Gabrielian, MD, MPH**, is the Corresponding Principal Investigator (PI) of Housing Transitions QUERI. She is a psychiatrist and health services researcher at the VA Greater Los Angeles (VA GLA); an investigator with the VA HSR&D Center for the Study of Healthcare Innovation, Implementation, and Policy (CSHIIP) and the Desert Pacific Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC); and an Assistant Professor at UCLA. Dr. Gabrielian's work is focused on implementing and evaluating services that improve health and housing for Veterans with homeless experiences and diagnoses of serious mental illness.



**Kristina Cordasco, MD, MPH, MSHS**, is a Multiple PI of Housing Transitions QUERI. She is a general internist, health services researcher, and quality improvement (QI) leader at VA GLA; a Core Investigator at CSHIIP; and Clinical Professor of Medicine at UCLA. Her work focuses on implementing and evaluating care coordination across Veteran transitions in care settings and providers.



**Erin P. Finley, PhD, MPH**, is a Multiple PI of Housing Transitions QUERI. Dr. Finley is a medical anthropologist, health services researcher, and implementation scientist with expertise in post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), healthcare needs and services for post-9/11 Veterans, and implementation evaluation. She is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at UT Health San Antonio, and a Research Investigator with CSHIIP.

## Project Staff



**Jenny Barnard, BA**, is the Project Director for Housing Transitions QUERI. Ms. Barnard has over a decade of experience coordinating projects and programs within the VA, including a pilot implementation initiative of Critical Time Intervention (CTI) in VA Grant and Per Diem (GPD) case management aftercare grantees at GLA, and the Coordination Toolkit and Coaching (CTAC) project, which was part of the Care Coordination QUERI program. She has also supported other projects within CSHIIP and the GLA Geriatrics Research Education and Clinical Center (GRECC).



**Ron Calderon, MSW**, is a Coach for Housing Transitions QUERI. He is a social worker and Health Science Specialist at CSHIIP and MIRECC. Mr. Calderon's work focuses on the implementation, practice, and research of evidence-based mental health practices. As a social worker, he has served the some of the most vulnerable communities in Los Angeles County. He is a passionate advocate for the improvement and development of services that increase the quality of life for vulnerable adults and their families.



**Alec Chapman, MS**, is a data scientist for Housing Transitions QUERI who is affiliated with the University of Utah Division of Epidemiology and VA Salt Lake City IDEAS Center. He holds an MS in Biomedical Informatics and is currently a PhD student in biostatistics. His research interest lies primarily in leveraging electronic health record data using methods such as natural language processing to enable population health research and support clinical operations. He has worked on a range of clinical topics including homelessness, infectious disease surveillance, and patient safety.



**Stephanie Chassman, PhD, LCSW**, is a Community of Practice Co-Lead and Case Consultant for Housing Transitions QUERI. Dr. Chassman is a Program Specialist with MIRECC and has over 4 years of clinical experience in direct practice among unhoused adults. She has a background in the integration of research evidence into social work practice, diagnosing and treating mental disorders, and helping shape mental health policy. Her current work centers around homelessness, mental health, and health disparities among veterans experiencing homelessness.



**Camilla Cummings, PhD**, is a member of the Housing Transitions QUERI evaluation team. She is trained as a Clinical-Community Psychologist and is currently a postdoctoral fellow in Health Services Research and Development at the West LA VA. Dr. Cummings is a mixed methods researcher with expertise in homelessness, housing interventions, substance and alcohol use disorder, PTSD, and program evaluation.



**Erica Hua Fletcher, PhD**, is a member of the Housing Transitions QUERI evaluation team. Dr. Fletcher is a post-doctoral fellow at the UCLA/VA Center of Excellence for Veteran Resilience and Recovery. Her current research in the fields of social medicine and health services research investigates issues related to homeless-experienced Veterans, including those with serious mental illness. She has also written about U.S.-based mental health social movements, peer-led mental health programs, stakeholder engagement in research, and the education of health professions and paraprofessionals.



**David A. Ganz, MD, PhD**, is a Co-Investigator for Housing Transitions QUERI, focused on the economic evaluation of CTI implementation in the VA GPD case management aftercare grant program. He is a geriatrician at GLA GRECC and CSHIIP. He is also Professor of Medicine at UCLA and Adjunct Physician Policy Researcher at the RAND Corporation. Dr. Ganz's research program focuses on fall prevention, care coordination, implementation science, and quality improvement.



**Taylor Harris, PhD**, is a Community of Practice Co-Lead and Case Consultant for Housing Transitions QUERI. Dr. Harris is a post-doctoral fellow with the National Center on Homelessness among Veterans (NCHAV) based at GLA. Drawing upon 10 years of direct practice and research experience with homeless-experienced adults, her current work focuses on improving housing and health, mental health, and social services for homeless-experienced Veterans. Dr. Harris served as a Coach and Community of Practice Lead on the pilot implementation initiative of CTI in VA GPD case management aftercare grantees at GLA.



**Lauren Hoffmann, MA**, is a member of the Housing Transitions QUERI evaluation team. She is a Health Science Specialist at CSHIIP and MIRECC with a background in psychology and qualitative methods. Prior to working for VA, she performed qualitative research with an active-duty military population, solving issues in human factors engineering.



**Sona Hovsepian, MSW, LCSW**, is a Coach for Housing Transitions QUERI. Ms. Hovsepian is a licensed clinical social worker and Health Science Specialist with 10 years of experience in health services research with CSHIIP and MIRECC. She also serves on the safety committee for GLA's homeless program, the Community Engagement and Reintegration Services (CERS). Ms. Hovsepian's clinical work and research aim to improve care for vulnerable populations with diagnoses of severe mental illness and addiction.



**Nicholas Jackson, PhD, MPH**, is the Statistician for the Housing Transitions QUERI evaluation team. He is an Assistant Professor with UCLA's Department of Medicine Statistics Core. Dr. Jackson holds advanced degrees in biostatistics (MPH) and quantitative psychology (PhD), which he uses to explore the intersection of statistics, behavior, and public health. His research interests are in longitudinal modeling and demography with a focus on age-period-cohort analytic methods and designs for capturing unmeasured sources of longitudinal change.



**Bridget Kranke, MSSA, LSW**, is the Implementation Workgroup Coordinator for Housing Transitions QUERI. Her experience includes working in non-profit, government, and public education settings. As a social worker, she assisted populations including children, youth, and families; individuals with severe mental illness; and Veterans experiencing homelessness. Her current work includes coordinating a variety of health services research projects at CSHIIP to help improve services for Veterans.



**Matthew McCoy, PhD**, is a member of the Housing Transitions QUERI evaluation team. He is a health services researcher and medical anthropologist at CSHIIP. Dr. McCoy has expertise in homelessness among Veterans, PTSD, substance use, mental health, racial and ethnic disparities in healthcare, and women's health. He is also affiliated with the UCLA-DMH Public Mental Health Partnership (PMHP) where he researches outpatient conservatorships for gravely disabled homeless clients.



**Ann Elizabeth Montgomery, PhD**, is a Co-Investigator for Housing Transitions QUERI, focused on the impacts of CTI implementation on housing and health service use outcomes. Dr. Montgomery has 20 years of experience working in the field of homelessness and housing. Since its inception in 2009, she has worked with the NCHAV to develop and implement a diverse research agenda emphasizing homelessness prevention, interventions to prevent and end homelessness among high-need Veterans, and the demography, epidemiology, and services utilization of Veterans experiencing homelessness.



**Richard Nelson, PhD**, is a Health Economist for Housing Transitions QUERI, focused on the economic evaluation of CTI implementation in VA GPD case management aftercare grantees. Dr. Nelson is a health economist and Research Health Scientist at the George E. Wahlen VA Salt Lake City Medical Center. He is also an Associate Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine and the Associate Director of the Health Economics Core of the Clinical and Translational Science Institute at the University of Utah School of Medicine. Dr. Nelson is an expert in health economics, cost-effectiveness, and health services research and has interests in a wide variety of research areas including homelessness, rural health, and infectious diseases.



**Mariam Nazinyan, MPA**, is a project coordinator for Housing Transitions QUERI. She has extensive experience supporting projects at both the VA and UCLA, including budget management, coordination and hosting stakeholder advisory boards, conducting and analyzing semi-structured interviews and focus groups with VA employees and Veterans, and administrative management. Her efforts have focused on serving Veterans with complex mental health, substance use, and physical health disorders, as well as homelessness and other social vulnerabilities. For Housing Transitions QUERI, Ms. Nazinyan assists with communication to the GPD case management programs as well as other administrative duties.



**Agatha E. Palma, PhD**, is a member of the Housing Transitions QUERI evaluation team. She is a health services researcher at CSHIIP investigating issues related to homeless-experienced Veterans and women's health. Prior to the VA, Dr. Palma spent two years researching housing and welfare for migrants in Europe and worked as a case manager and mediator at a legal clinic for migrants in Palermo, Italy.



**Maharshi Rawal, MPH**, is the Evaluation Coordinator for Housing Transitions QUERI. His experience includes working in surgical oncology research coordination and clinical trial settings. As a research coordinator, he assisted patients and physicians by working closely with each one to enroll and consent patients in a variety of cancer research studies across the country. His current work includes coordinating several health services research projects at CSHIIP to help improve the lives of Veterans.



**Eleni Skaperdas, MA**, is a member of the Housing Transitions QUERI evaluation team. Ms. Skaperdas is a doctoral candidate in sociology at UCLA. Her dissertation, entitled "The High-risk Pregnancy in Two Americas," is a comparative ethnography of the high-risk pregnancy across extremes of socioeconomic class in Los Angeles. As an ethnographer with a mixed-methods background, she is interested in how ethnographic methods can be used in health services research and quality improvement to answer research questions not accessible through other methods.



**Gracielle Tan, MD**, is a Fidelity Assessor and the Toolkit Coordinator for Housing Transitions QUERI. She is a Health Science Specialist with CSHIIP with experience working on a variety of health services and quality improvement projects that aim to improve care for Veterans. Dr. Tan is a retired international figure skater for the Philippines and in her free time, likes to salsa dance and directs a Latin dance team.