



SENATOR CATHERINE S. BLAKESPEAR
REPRESENTING SENATE DISTRICT 38

4TH ANNUAL ENDING HOMELESSNESS SUMMIT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2026
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

DOVE LIBRARY

Shulman Auditorium 1775 Dove Ln, Carlsbad CA 92011



Colleagues and friends,

Welcome to the 4th Annual Ending Homelessness Summit. Each year, this summit brings together policymakers, community leaders, and partners to take an honest look at what is working, where we are falling short, and what we can do better in our efforts to address homelessness in California. My goal is to move from talking about the problem to finding effective solutions.

This year, we are focusing on one of the most difficult parts of this crisis: the intersection of unsheltered homelessness and behavioral health — including serious mental illnesses, substance use disorders, and the challenges that arise when people need both treatment and housing. We cannot solve one without addressing the other. Too often, our housing, homelessness, and behavioral health systems operate separately, leaving people to fall through the gaps between them.

People need treatment and a pathway to care. Patient rights must remain at the center of our approach, but that should also include meaningful access to appropriate care, particularly for people whose mental health or substance use make it impossible to navigate a fragmented system on their own.

California has taken important steps through CARE Court, the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act, behavioral health services, and homelessness programs, but these systems must work together. Too many people, including those who leave or are dismissed from CARE Court, are left without a clear pathway to ongoing treatment, housing, or support.

This year, I introduced a package of legislation focused on strengthening these pathways. SB 989 will allow first responders to work with counties to file CARE petitions. SB 16 will strengthen county procedures for 5150 evaluations, and SB 561 will improve the public guardian referral process, so vulnerable adults are not left waiting without a clear path to care. I am also a proud co-author of the \$11.25 billion Housing Bond that will be on the November ballot, which would invest in affordable and supportive housing across California.

This year, I secured \$1.67 million in state funding for the County of San Diego's Homelessness Prevention Landlord Incentive program. This helps people experiencing homelessness access housing by supporting landlords who rent to them.

In Vista, over the past 4 years, I secured \$8 million for the Buena Creek Navigation Center, a low barrier, non-congregate, facility serving adults, couples, families, and pets. They provide safe shelter, meals, communal spaces, and supportive services to help people move toward stability.

In Oceanside, I secured \$3 million to start a new "tiny home" project on city-owned land. This will expand the community's capacity to provide immediate housing to transition people from the streets into a safe, stable housing environment.

Legislation and state funding are important parts of the work I can do, but lasting change also requires bringing the right people together to find solutions. Thank you for being here today and for sharing my commitment to building a California where everyone has a pathway to safe, and stable housing.

With urgency and resolve,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'C' followed by 'S. Blakespear'.

Catherine S. Blakespear

State Senator, 38th District

AGENDA

TIME	DESCRIPTION
8:30 am	Welcome Reception & Registration
9:00 am	OPENING PERFORMANCE <i>Voices of Our City Choir</i>
9:30 am	REMARKS Steph Johnson <i>Creative Director, Voices of Our City Choir</i>
9:35 am	OPENING REMARKS & PRESENTATION Senator Catherine S. Blakespear
10:00 am	PRESENTATION Dr. Aaron Meyer MD <i>Health Sciences Associate Clinical Professor, UC San Diego and City of San Diego Behavioral Health Officer</i>
10:25 am	PRESENTATION Doug Becht <i>Director, Orange County Office of Care Coordination</i>
10:50 am	PRESENTATION Elizabeth Funk <i>Founder and CEO, DignityMoves</i>
11:15 am	PRESENTATION Greg Anglea <i>CEO, Interfaith Community Services</i>
11:40 am	PRESENTATION Mayor Matt Mahan <i>City of San José</i>
12:05 pm	Closing Remarks
12:10 pm	Networking
12:30 pm	Event Ends



Voices of Our City Choir

Voices of Our City is an internationally recognized choir that amplifies the voices of people impacted by homelessness through music and the arts. Voices provides a safe space for self-expression, belonging and the opportunity to reclaim one's life. With its collaborative alternative to case management, Voices helps San Diegans move from homelessness into permanent housing. In 2018, Voices attracted national attention as the subject of the PBS documentary *The Homeless Chorus Speaks*, later earning international recognition for its Golden Buzzer win on NBC's *America's Got Talent*. Voices' approach and effectiveness in spotlighting unhoused San Diegans has earned praise from *The New York Times*, the National Conflict Resolution Center, the American Psychological Association, *San Diego Magazine*, *La Jolla Symphony & Chorus*, San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria and others.



Catherine S. Blakespear
California State Senator, District 38

Catherine S. Blakespear was elected in 2022 to represent California's 38th State Senate District, covering north coastal San Diego County and southern Orange County. She previously served eight years in local government – six years as the Encinitas Mayor and two on the Encinitas City Council.

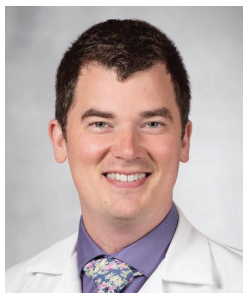
In the Senate, Blakespear has focused on reducing homelessness, curbing the cost of living, preventing gun violence, protecting the environment, improving public transportation and countering climate change. Blakespear chairs the Senate Environmental Quality Committee and Senate Transportation Subcommittee on LOSSAN Rail Corridor Resiliency.

Blakespear has authored dozens of bills that have been signed into law, including legislation on reducing plastic waste, gun violence prevention, and clean energy. She has also hosted and attended dozens of events in Senate District 38 to raise awareness about pressing state and regional issues and engaged with constituents in the communities she represents.

A lawyer and former journalist, Blakespear lives in Encinitas.



Have questions for Senator Blakespear?
Scan the QR code or tear off this panel
and give it to a staff member.



Dr. Aaron Meyer

City of San Diego Behavioral Health Officer
UC San Diego Psychiatrist

Dr. Aaron Meyer is a Health Sciences Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at UC San Diego, where he provides clinical care and teaches psychiatry residents, nurse practitioners, and other health professionals. He also serves as Co-Director of Clinical and Policy Partnerships between

Imperial County Behavioral Health Services and UC San Diego, advancing psychiatric education, workforce development, and behavioral health innovation.

Dr. Meyer is the first Behavioral Health Officer for the City of San Diego, leading initiatives integrating behavioral health, emergency response, and homelessness services. He is Immediate Past President of the San Diego Psychiatric Society and previously chaired the California State Association of Psychiatrists' Government Affairs Committee. He has testified extensively before the California State Legislature and helps advance statewide policy on crisis care, conservatorship reform, access to treatment, and behavioral health system accountability.



Have questions for Dr. Meyer?
Scan the QR code or tear off this panel
and give it to a staff member.

**Doug Becht**

Orange County Director of Care Coordination

Doug Becht has dedicated his career to advancing solutions to prevent and end homelessness, with extensive experience in homeless outreach, shelter operations, and system leadership. As Director of Care Coordination for the County of Orange, he serves as the County's lead advisor on homelessness policy and strategy, helping inform and implement the Board of Supervisors' vision and approach to addressing homelessness. He oversees OC Outreach & Engagement, the County's homeless outreach team, and his office serves as the Administrative Entity for Orange County's Continuum of Care, leading cross-sector efforts to strengthen the homelessness response system.

Prior to joining Orange County in 2020, Mr. Becht held nonprofit leadership positions in New York City focused on addressing homelessness, including supervising and overseeing homeless outreach teams serving the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, and Midtown Manhattan. He later worked for a nonprofit organization providing technical assistance related to permanent supportive housing in Orange and San Diego Counties. Mr. Becht holds a Master of Social Work from Columbia University.



Have questions for Doug?
Scan the QR code or tear off this panel
and give it to a staff member.



Elizabeth Funk

DignityMoves Founder and CEO

Elizabeth Funk is the Founder and CEO of DignityMoves, an innovative nonprofit organization committed to ending unsheltered homelessness through disruptive and scalable solutions.

Elizabeth has been involved in homelessness in California for nearly two decades. She chaired Glide Memorial's Community Housing initiative and served on the board of LifeMoves, a leading homelessness services organization in Silicon Valley.

DignityMoves follows a career-long pattern of disrupting the status quo for good. In 2004, Elizabeth created Dignity Fund, long before the concept of "impact investing" existed. This fund helped bring dramatic scale to the microfinance sector, demonstrating how capitalism can be harnessed to help address the world's most pressing challenges.

Elizabeth is an active member of Young Presidents' Organization, where she served on the International Board and co-founded the impact networks. Elizabeth holds an undergraduate degree from Stanford University and an MBA from Harvard Business School as a Baker Scholar.



**Have questions for Elizabeth?
Scan the QR code or tear off this panel
and give it to a staff member.**



Greg Anglea

Interfaith Community Services CEO

Greg has served as Interfaith Community Services CEO since 2014. Interfaith has experienced tremendous growth during this time, strengthening and creating new pathways out of poverty, hunger, and homelessness in North San Diego County and the broader San Diego region. Greg has helped develop and launch

multiple recuperative care centers for medically fragile people experiencing homelessness, including complete continuum of addiction treatment programs, emergency shelter and housing for families, homeless outreach and encampment resolution, behavioral health workforce development, and multiple housing initiatives that have ended or prevented homelessness for thousands of local residents. Greg's vision aligns with Interfaith's commitment to bring together a diversity of people and perspectives in common cause and strengthen partnerships with faith communities and philanthropic partners, service providers, local government, and people of compassion. Greg has a BA in political science from UCSD, an MA in Leadership & Nonprofit Management from USD, and completed the Strategic Perspective in Nonprofit Management program at Harvard Business School.



Have questions for Greg?
Scan the QR code or tear off this panel
and give it to a staff member.



Mayor Matt Mahan

City of San José

Matt Mahan is the 66th Mayor of San José. He formerly served as a teacher through Teach for America, before entering the business world where he founded and grew companies dedicated to empowering neighborhoods and holding our government accountable. These core tenets remain key to his policy priorities as he pledges to focus

city government on basic quality of life issues, such as homelessness and public safety, that impact residents every single day. Over the past three years, he changed the city's approach on homelessness – building out a shelter system of over 2,000 beds and reducing by more than one-third the number of people suffering on the streets. He currently resides in San José with his wife, Silvia, and their two children.



Have questions for Mayor Mahan?
Scan the QR code or tear off this panel
and give it to a staff member.

Do you have a housing
or homelessness policy idea?

Share it with us by scanning the QR code below.



Thank you to the City of Carlsbad
for hosting this event!



Please recycle this program.



Senator Catherine S. Blakespear

THIRTY-EIGHTH SENATE DISTRICT

CAPITOL OFFICE

1021 O Street, Suite 7720

Sacramento, CA 95814

TEL 916.651.4038

DISTRICT OFFICES

24031 El Toro Road, Suite 201A

Laguna Hills, CA 92653

TEL 949.598.5850

2385 Camino Vida Roble, Suite 205

Carlsbad, CA 92011

TEL 760.438.2005

SENATOR.BLAKEPEAR@SENATE.CA.GOV

WWW.SENATE.CA.GOV/BLAKEPEAR

To obtain legislative services, call your local district office.