



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

August 14, 2023

Honorable Members of the City Council
c/o City Clerk
City Hall, Room 395

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have reappointed Ms. Melissa Chinchilla to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Commission for the term ending June 30, 2026. Ms. Chinchilla's current term expired on June 30, 2023.

I certify that in my opinion Ms. Chinchilla is especially qualified by reason of training and experience for the work which shall devolve upon her, and that I make the appointment solely in the interest of the City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Karen Bass'.

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:tga

Attachment

COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

Name: Melissa Chinchilla
Commission: Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Commission
End of Term: 6/30/2026

Appointee Information

1. **Race:** Latinx
2. **Gender:** Female
3. **Council District and neighborhood of residence:** 14 - East LA
4. **Are you a registered voter in the City of Los Angeles?** Yes
5. **Prior commission experience:**
6. **Highest level of education completed:** Ph.D, Urban Studies and Planning: Housing, Community and Economic Development, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
7. **Occupation/profession:** Assistant Project Scientist, David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA; Investigator, Los Angeles Center of Innovation; Associate Investigator, Center on Enhancement of Community Integration for Homeless Veterans
8. **Experience(s) that qualifies person for appointment:** See attached resume/bio
9. **Purpose of this appointment:** Reappointment
10. **Current composition of the commission:**

Commissioner	APC	CD	Race	Gender	Term End
Saunders, Tanisha	West LA	11	African American	F	6/30/2017
Chinchilla, Melissa	East LA	14	Latinx	F	6/30/2023
Greuel, Wendy	South Valley	3	Caucasian	F	6/30/2023
Pearson, Booker	West LA	11	Caucasian	M	6/30/2017
VACANT					6/30/2024

Melissa Y. Chinchilla

Research Area

Social determinants of health, improving health and housing for person with homeless experiences, and affordable housing and community development

Education

Health Service Research and Development Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Veteran Affairs, Los Angeles, CA (September 2018 – August 2019)

Advisor: Elizabeth Yano

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Ph.D., Urban Studies and Planning: Housing, Community and Economic Development (June 2018)

Advisor: Amy Glasmeier

Qualifying Exams (December 2015): Urban Sociology; Community and Health

Dissertation: "Community Integration Among Formerly Homeless Veterans"

MIT Kaufman Teaching Certificate (June 2014)

University of California, Los Angeles, M.S. Health Policy and Management (June 2019)

University of California, Berkeley, Master of City and Regional Planning: Housing, Community and Economic Development (May 2011)

Advisor: Malo Hutson

Thesis: "Rethinking the Redevelopment of Public Housing: HOPE SF, Economic Change and Resident Self-Sufficiency"

San Francisco Department of Public Health, Health Impact Assessment Mini-Course (May 2010)

University of California, Berkeley, B.A., Social Welfare (May 2008)

University of California, Berkeley, B.A., Mass Communications (May 2008)

Highest Social Welfare Departmental Honors (2008)

Publications

Working Papers:

1. **Melissa Chinchilla**, Adolfo Jacobo, and Rajan Sonik. "Addressing housing-status-based inequities in primary care responses to COVID-19"

Under Review:

1. **Melissa Chinchilla**, Jared Greenberg, Stephanie A. Chassman, Rebecca S. Oberman, Alicia A. Bergman, Evelyn T. Chang, Amy N. Cohen, Alison Hamilton, Sona Hovsepian, Sonya E. Gabrielian, Alexander Young. (*under review*). Informing implementation and dissemination of a specialized primary care medical home for patients with serious mental illness: clinician and administrator perspectives." *Psychological Services*.

Peer-reviewed:

1. Howard Padwa, Benjamin F. Henwood, Roya Ijadi-Maghsoodi, Bikki Tran-Smith, Anna Darby, Ricky Bluthenthal, **Melissa Chinchilla**, Katherine Diaz Vickery, Randall Kuhn, Alexander Lawton, Ena Fenderson, Elvin Galarza, Anthony Haynes, Dennis King, Emily Martiniuk, Pamela Marshall, Sonny Mendoza, Theodore Patton, Suzette Shaw, Reba Stevens, and Lillian Gelberg. "Bringing lived experience to research on health and homelessness: The experience of the Patient-Centered Housing Options, Services, & Environment (PCHOOSE) study." *Community Mental Health Journal* (2023).
2. Benjamin Henwood, Randall Kuhn, Howard Padwa, Roya Ijadi-Maghsoodi, Gisele Corletto, Alex Lawton, Jessie Chien, Ricky Bluthenthal, Michael Cousineau, **Melissa Chinchilla**, Bikki Tran-Smith, Katherine D. Vickery, Taylor Harris, Maria Patanwala, Whitney Akabike, Lillian Gelberg. "Investigating the comparative effectiveness of place-based and scatter-site permanent supportive housing for people experiencing

homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic: protocols for a mixed-methods, prospective longitudinal study." *JMIR Research Protocols* (2023).

3. **Melissa Chinchilla**. "Addressing barriers to homeless services for Latinxs: qualitative insights from a community health center." *Journal of Social Distress and Homelessness* (2023): 1-9.
4. **Melissa Chinchilla**, Gloria Itzel Montiel, Monica Perez Jolles, Matthew Charles Lomeli, Carolyn F. Wong, Anne Laure Escaron, Evelyn González-Figueroa, Joanna Garcia, Aisli Briceida Valencia, Mika Kadono, Arturo Acosta, Corina Martinez, Ana Laura Herrera, and Rajan Anthony Sonik. "Linking patient education, civic engagement, and research at a large Federally Qualified Health Center to address health disparities." *Health Services Research* 57 (2022): 105-110.
5. **Melissa Chinchilla**, Dahai Yue, and Ninez A. Ponce. "Housing Insecurity Among Latinxs." *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health* (2021): 1-10.
6. **Melissa Chinchilla** and Sonya Gabrielian. "Examining Unsheltered Latinx Homelessness in Los Angeles County." *Cityscape* 23.2 (2021): 159-179.
7. **Melissa Chinchilla**, Sonya Gabrielian, William P. Horan, Amy Glasmeier, Gerhard Hellemann, Jonathan K. Wynn, Peter Capone-Newton, and Michael F. Green. "Comparing Tenant and Neighborhood Characteristics of the VA's Project-Based vs. Tenant-Based Supportive Housing Program in Los Angeles County." *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved* 30.4 (2019): 1373-1393.
8. **Melissa Chinchilla**, Sonya Gabrielian, Amy Glasmeier, and Michael F. Green. "Exploring Community Integration Among Formerly Homeless Veterans in Project- vs. Tenant-Based Supportive Housing." *Community Mental Health Journal* (2019): 1-10.
9. **Melissa Chinchilla** and Sonya Gabrielian. "Stemming the rise of Latino homelessness: lessons from Los Angeles County." *Journal of Social Distress and Homelessness* (2019).
10. **Melissa Chinchilla**, Sonya Gabrielian, Gerhard Hellemann, Amy Glasmeier, and Michael F. Green. "Determinants of Community Integration Among Formerly Homeless Veterans Who Received Supportive Housing." *Frontiers in Psychiatry* 10 (2019): 472.
11. **Melissa Chinchilla** and Mariana C. Arcaya. "Using Health Impact Assessment as an Interdisciplinary Teaching Tool." *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 14.7 (2017): 744.

Book Chapters:

1. Ceasar McDowell and **Melissa Chinchilla**. (2016). "Partnering with Communities and Institutions." *Civic Media: Technology, Design, Practice*, MIT Press.

Conferences/Speaking Engagements

Presenter. Melissa Chinchilla, Adolfo Jacobo, Joanna Garcia, Gayathri Nagaraj, Randall Kuhn, Daniella Meeker, Rajan Sonik, and Margot Kushel. (June 2023). "Examining Homeless Services Linkage and Health Outcomes Among Housing Unstable Patients with Diabetes at a Federally Qualified Health Center in Los Angeles County." Poster presented at 2023 Annual Research Meeting AcademyHealth, Seattle, WA.

Presenter. Melissa Chinchilla, Jared Greenberg, Stephanie Chassman, Alicia Bergman, Sonya Gabrielian, Evelyn Chang, Amy Cohen, Rebecca Oberman, Sona Hovsepian, and Alexander Young. (June 2023). "Preparing for Scale-up of a Primary Care Medical Home Tailored for Patients with Serious Mental Illness." Poster presented at 2023 Annual Research Meeting AcademyHealth, Seattle, WA.

Presenter. Melissa Chinchilla, Dylan Agans, Stephanie Chassman, Sonya Gabrielian, and Alexander Young. (June 2023). "Enhancing Social Integration Among Homeless-Experienced Adults with Serious Mental Illness." Presented at 2023 Annual Research Meeting AcademyHealth, Seattle, WA.

Invited Presenter. Melissa Chinchilla. (May 2019). "Latino Homelessness: A Growing Crisis for California Municipalities." Presented at the California Latino Legislative Policy Briefing, Sacramento, CA.

Invited Panelist. **Melissa Chinchilla**, Irene Muro, Jose “Che” Ramirez, and Rhiannon Diaz. (April 2023). “Moving toward an anti-racist system for ending and preventing homelessness: Latinx homelessness.” Presented at Homeless Policy Research Institute Seminar, Los Angeles, CA, <http://ow.ly/kmwZ50NHqY2>

Invited Presenter. **Melissa Chinchilla** and Alex Visotzky. (February 2023). “The Numbers are Alarming: Why is Homelessness Growing among Latino Populations In LA?.” Presented at National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference, Oakland, CA.

Invited Panelist. **Melissa Chinchilla**. (November 2022). “Planning better cities: How do we build the healthy city of the future?” *The resilience of cities: Where we work, live, and play*. Boston University, Department of Public Health. Boston, MA.

Collaborator. Kate Diaz Vickery, Benjamin Henwood, Alexander Lawton, Randall Kuhn, **Melissa Chinchilla**, Roya Ijadi-Maghsoodi. (November 2022). “Medication adherence changes among homeless-experienced people in Los Angeles County.” Poster presented at 2022 North American Primary Care Research Group’s (NAPCRG) 50th Annual Meeting, Phoenix, Arizona.

Presenter. **Melissa Chinchilla**, Adolfo Jacobo, Karina Ramirez, Gayathri Nagaraj, Randall Kuhn, Daniella Meeker, and Rajan Sonik. (June 2022). “Examining the Role of Federally Qualified Health Centers in Homeless Services Connection.” Poster presented at 2022 Annual Research Meeting AcademyHealth, Washington, D.C.

Presenter. **Melissa Chinchilla**, Gloria Itzel Montiel Hernandez, Matthew Lomeli, Evelyn Gonzales-Figueroa, Joanna Garcia, Aisli Valencia, and Rajan Sonik. (October 2021). “Linking Patient Education, Civic Engagement, and Research at a Large Federally Qualified Health Center to Address Health Disparities.” Presenter at 2021 Academy of Public Health, Annual Conference, Denver, Colorado.

Discussant. **Melissa Chinchilla**. (October 2021). “Opening Doors for All: Improving Health in Housing and Homelessness.” Discussant for 2021 E.R. Brown Symposium, University of Los Angeles, California.

Presenter. **Melissa Chinchilla**. (June 2021). “Community Health Centers’ Efforts to Assist Latinx Patients Experiencing Homelessness: Early Lessons Learned.” Poster presented at 2021 Annual Research Meeting AcademyHealth (virtual meeting).

Presenter. **Melissa Chinchilla** and Sonya Gabrielian. (June 2021). “Factors Associated with Unsheltered Latinx Homelessness in Los Angeles County.” Poster presented at 2021 Annual Research Meeting AcademyHealth (virtual meeting).

Guest Speaker. **Melissa Chinchilla**. (February 2021). “Reflexivity in Research.” University of California, Sacramento, Sacramento, CA.

Guest Speaker. **Melissa Chinchilla**. (December 2020). “Research Design.” University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA.

Panelist. **Melissa Chinchilla**. (November 2020). “Advancing Housing Solutions for a Healthier Sonoma County.” Presented at Generation Housing (virtual meeting).

Presenter. **Melissa Chinchilla** and Sonya Gabrielian. (July 2020). “Stemming the Rise of Latino Homelessness: Lessons from Los Angeles County.” Poster presented at 2019 Annual Research Meeting AcademyHealth (virtual meeting).

Presenter. **Melissa Chinchilla** and Ninez A. Ponce. (July 2020). “Predictors of Housing Insecurity Among Latinxs.” Poster presented at 2019 Annual Research Meeting AcademyHealth (virtual meeting).

Collaborator. Anne Escaron, **Melissa Chinchilla**, Nina Wallerstein, Shannon Sanchez-Youngman, and Efrain Talamantes. (July 2020) “Progress to Date on Health Equity and Access for Latinos through PCOR Capacity-Building.” Poster presented at 2019 Annual Research Meeting AcademyHealth (virtual meeting).

Presenter. **Melissa Chinchilla**. (June 2020). “Latino Homelessness and the Role of FQHCs.” Presented at the National Alliance to End Homelessness Race Equity Research/Data Group (virtual meeting).

Panelist. **Melissa Chinchilla**. (April 2020). “COVID-19 and Health Equity - Impact on Latinx Communities.”

Presented at AltaMed Institute for Health Equity (virtual meeting).

Panelist. Melissa Chinchilla. (February 2020). “Homeless, not Hopeless” Presented at Toastmasters International, Yorba Linda Community Center, Yorba Linda, CA.

Panelist. Melissa Chinchilla. (February 2020). “Protecting and Serving Immigrants Experiencing Homelessness.” Presented at National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference, Oakland, CA.

Presenter. Melissa Chinchilla. (September 2019). “Latino Homelessness in Los Angeles County and Current Research Efforts in Federally Qualified Healthcare Clinics.” Presented at Homeless Policy Research Institute Seminar, Los Angeles, CA.

Presenter. Melissa Chinchilla, Sonya Gabrielian, Gerhard Helleman, Amy Glasmeier, and Michael F. Green. (June 2019). “Factors Associated with Community Integration Among Veteran Affairs Supported Housing Recipients.” Poster presented at 2019 Annual Research Meeting AcademyHealth, Washington, D.C.

Invited Presenter. Melissa Chinchilla. (June 2019). “Latino Homelessness in Los Angeles County.” Presented at The Giving Spirit, Los Angeles, CA.

Invited Presenter. Melissa Chinchilla. (May 2019). “Latino Homelessness in Los Angeles County.” Presented at the California Latino Legislative Policy Briefing, Sacramento, CA.

Presenter. Melissa Chinchilla, Sonya Gabrielian, Gerhard Helleman, Amy Glasmeier, and Michael F. Green. (November 2018). “Factors Associated with Community Integration Among Veteran Affairs Supported Housing Recipients.” Presented at the American Public Health Association, Annual Conference, San Diego, CA.

Presenter. Melissa Chinchilla, Sonya Gabrielian, William P. Horan, Amy Glasmeier, Gerhard Helleman, Jonathan K. Wynn, Peter Capone-Newton, and Michael F. Green. (April 2018). “Comparing Tenant and Neighborhood Characteristics of the VA’s Project-Based vs. Tenant-Based Supportive Housing Program in Los Angeles County.” Presented at the Urban Affairs Association, Annual Conference, Toronto, ON.

Presenter. Melissa Chinchilla and Ceasar McDowell. (April 2017). “What’s Missing From Reflective Practice?” Presented at the Urban Affairs Association, Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN.

Presenter. Melissa Chinchilla. (December 2016). “Community Integration Among HUD-VASH Recipients: Los Angeles County.” Presented at Mental Illness Research Education Clinical Center Psychosis Seminar, U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, Los Angeles, CA.

Presenter. Melissa Chinchilla and Ceasar McDowell. (November 2016). “What’s Missing From Reflective Practice?” Presented at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Annual Conference, Portland, OR.

Presenter. Melissa Chinchilla and Amy Glasmeier. (October 2015). “Ending Veteran Homelessness: A Role for Planning.” Presented at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, 55th Annual Conference, Houston, TX.

Participant. Melissa Chinchilla. (August 2015). “Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning 2015 PhD Workshop.” University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA.

Reports

Melissa Chinchilla, Joy Moses, and Alex Visotzky. “Increasing Latino Homelessness—What’s Happening, Why, and What to Do About It.” National Alliance to End Homelessness. (<https://endhomelessness.org/resource/increasing-latin-homelessness-whats-happening-why-and-what-to-do-about-it/>)

Melissa Chinchilla and the Homeless Policy Research Institute. “Latinx Homelessness in Los Angeles.” (https://socialinnovation.usc.edu/homeless_research/latinx-homelessness-in-los-angeles/)

Melissa Chinchilla. “Stemming the Rise of Latino Homelessness: Lessons from Los Angeles County.” (https://latino.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/FINAL-DRAFT-02_08_19-Stemming-the-Rise-of-Homelessness.pdf)

Melissa Chinchilla. “Enterprise Community Partners’ Assessment: Understanding Affordable Housing Developers’ Efforts to Address Resident Health Outcomes.”

Melissa Chinchilla. "Enterprise Community Partners - Health and Housing: Opportunities for Partnership."

Melissa Chinchilla. "Social Cohesion and Community Safety in New and Redeveloped Mixed Income Housing." (<http://www.sfdph.org/dph/files/EHSdocs/HDMT/WhitePaperSocial.Cohesion.pdf>)

Reviewer for Scientific Journals

Frontiers in Psychiatry (2019)

Journal of Social Distress and the Homeless (2019; 2023)

Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved (2019)

Grants

Ongoing Research Support:

HSR&D Small aWard Initiative For Impact (SWIFT) (\$32,976) 2022-2023

Supporting continuity of care: identifying opportunities to improve transitions from Homeless Patient Aligned Care Teams (HPACT) to standard Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACT) model

Chinchilla (PI)

This pilot project uses qualitative data collection (i.e., interviews with clinical staff and Veterans served by the VA healthcare system) to learn from VA GLA's experience implementing HPACT and to identify ways in which transitions of care (i.e., enrollment in standard PACT) can be facilitated to ensure continuity of care.

National Center on Homelessness among Veterans (\$72,024) 2022-2023

Addressing disparities in primary care experiences and health service utilization among Black and Latinx homeless-experienced Veterans: an analysis of Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) models

Chinchilla (PI)

This project uses national survey data and VA administrative records to study the health care experiences of Black and Latinx homeless experienced Veterans. Analyses focus on experiences in Homeless Patient Aligned Care Teams (HPACTs) versus standard PACT and examine the joint effects of race/ethnicity and health care delivery models on care experiences.

Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (\$250,000) 2022-2024

Chinchilla (Co-PI)

Inclusion and equity in engaged research, partnering with Latinos who have lived experience of homelessness

This project will build research capacity among Latino patients/community members who have lived experience of homelessness and will develop a Patient-Centered Outcomes Research/ Community Engaged Research agenda for Latino homelessness. The project team will leverage outreach networks at AltaMed Health Services, a Federally Qualified Health Center in Southern California, to engage individuals in an adapted version of PCORI's Research Fundamentals training program.

Latino Policy and Politics Institute (\$25,000) 2022-2023

Chinchilla (Co-PI)

What the numbers miss: redefining Latinx homelessness

Funding will support pilot project efforts to explore alternative homelessness measures for Los Angeles County, and examine federal, state, and local housing subsidy eligibility by (i) homeless definition and verification, (ii) application requirements, and (iii) constraints by naturalization status.

VA HSR&D Diversity Supplement (\$200,000) 2021-2023

Social Integration Among Formerly Homeless Veterans with Serious Mental Illness (SMI)

Chinchilla (PI)

Two-year mentored research project focused on examining the relationship between environmental factors and social integration among Veterans with SMI who have experienced homelessness.

VA RR&D Center (PI: Green) (\$1,258,900) 2020-2025

Enhancing Community Integration for Homeless Veterans

Chinchilla (Co-I and Steering Committee Member)

Through research and training activities, this center aims to enhance community integration among Veterans who have experienced homelessness. The center focuses on using mHealth technology to assess this vulnerable population.

Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PIs: Henwood and Gelberg) (\$2,584,606) 2020-2023
Comparative Effectiveness of Single-Site and Scattered-Site Permanent Supportive Housing on Patient-Centered and COVID-19 Related Outcomes for People Experiencing Homelessness

Chinchilla (Co-I)

This study aims to test the comparative effectiveness of place-based PSH (PB-PSH) and scattered-site PSH (SS-PSH) on PEH quality of life and whether COVID-19 related health behaviors act as a mediator in this relationship. In addition, this study aims to learn PEH adherence to social distancing guidelines and provider perspectives on challenges of implementing and sustaining COVID-19 related prevention practices and care in PSH.

Completed Research Support:

Preparedness and Treatment Equity Coalition (PTEC) (\$50,000) 2022
Addressing bias in the detection of housing instability to reduce ethnicity-based disparities in service linkage and management among patients with diabetes

Chinchilla (PI)

Funding will support efforts to map out the timing and methods of housing instability identification during clinical encounters and estimate the size and scope of health disparities among patients with diagnosed diabetes that are identified as experiencing housing instability versus those that are stably housed; and revised approaches to housing status screening, as well as development of key guidelines for how diabetes management may be tailored for patients that are housing unstable.

Homeless Policy Research Institute Rapid Response (\$42,000) 2020-2022

Chinchilla (PI)

Examining the role of Federally Qualified Health Centers in homeless services connection

Funding supports effort to examine the extent to which Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) can identify racial/ethnic minorities experiencing homelessness who are disconnected from mainstream homeless services.

Homeless Policy Research Institute Rapid Response (\$29,539) 2020

Chinchilla (PI)

Addressing COVID-19 and homelessness at a large Federally Qualified Health Center

Project informed on-the-ground efforts of healthcare systems to serve all individuals experiencing homelessness and COVID-19. The project examined efforts at a large FQHC facilitate homeless services referrals and to meet the health needs of COVID-19 patients experiencing homelessness.

Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (\$250,000) 2019-2022

Chinchilla (PI)

Health Equity and Access for Latinos through Patient Centered Outcomes Research (HEAL through PCOR)

HEAL through PCOR was a multi-stakeholder effort to transform research at AltaMed. With over 25 active internal and external stakeholders including medical providers, community leaders, and academic researchers, HEAL through PCOR engaged a range of participants to identify ways that community members and patients can be engaged in addressing health disparities through research and civic engagement efforts.

Homeless Policy Research Institute Rapid Response (\$10,000) 2019

Chinchilla (PI)

Latino Homelessness in Los Angeles County

Funding supported analyses of Latino homelessness using Point-in-Time homelessness data and qualitative interviews with key informants.

Priscilla King Gray Public Service Center Project Grant (\$5,000) 2018

Chinchilla (PI)

Project goal was to conduct an exploratory analysis of Latino Homelessness in Los Angeles County.

Veteran Administration Research Enhancement Award Program (\$9,000) 2017-2018

Chinchilla (PI)

Project goal was to undertake qualitative research aimed at comparing Veteran characteristics associated with positive community integration outcomes in project-based vs. scattered-site HUD-VASH housing at VAGLA.

Sagalyn and Hack Dissertation Grant (\$5,000) 2017-2018
Chinchilla (PI)
Funding supported completion of dissertation work.

Priscilla King Gray Public Service Center (\$6,000) 2016
Chinchilla (PI)
Project goal was to develop a proposal for qualitative and quantitative research of community integration outcomes among formerly homeless Veterans housed through HUD-VASH federal housing subsidies.

Awards/Honors

2022 VA Office of Research and Development Leadership Development Fund
2020 National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, and National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) Travel Award Recipient
2016 Hispanic Scholarship Fund Scholar
2013 Presidential Fellow, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
2009 Graduate Opportunity Program Award, University of California Berkeley
2008 UC Berkeley Highest Honors in Social Welfare

Research Experience

Assistant Project Scientist, Department of Psychiatry & Biobehavioral Sciences, David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles (July 2022 – Present)

As project scientist, develop research projects focused on improving health and housing for persons with homeless experiences, and addressing growing rates of Latino homelessness. Identify and lead efforts to obtain research grant support. Disseminate research findings through peer-reviewed publications and conferences.

Investigator, VISN 22 Mental Illness Research Education and Clinical Center and VA Health Services Research & Development Los Angeles Center of Innovation (COIN) (February 2022 – Present)

As principal investigator, develop research projects focused on improving health and housing for persons with homeless experiences. Identify and lead efforts to obtain research grant support. Disseminate research findings through peer-reviewed publications and conferences.

Associate Investigator, Rehabilitation Research & Development Center on Enhancement of Community Integration for Homeless Veterans (October 2020 – Present)

As part of the Center, serve as a member of the Steering Committee and Co-PI to ensure that research includes efforts to understand the impact of community level factors, including neighborhood and housing characteristics, on community integration outcomes. Co-lead research projects will focus on the impact of social and environmental factors on community integration outcomes. Provide technical assistance and mentorship to post-doctoral fellows as needed.

Research Scientist, AltaMed Institute for Health Equity, Commerce, CA (August 2019 – February 2022)

As principal investigator, developed independent research agenda focused on social determinants of health, including work focused on housing stability and homelessness. Identified and led efforts to obtain research grant support. Disseminated research findings through peer-reviewed publications and conferences.

Health Service Research and Development Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Veteran Affairs, Los Angeles, CA (September 2018 – August 2019)

Participated in interdisciplinary fellowship training in Health Services Research with the aim of developing partnered health services research to enhance access, quality and value of long-term services and support for vulnerable Veterans.

Veteran Affairs Research Enhancement Award Program Visiting Scholar, Los Angeles, CA (June 2016 – August 2018)

Collaborated with the Veterans Administration of Greater Los Angeles' Community Engagement and Reintegration Service (homeless program) to analyze Department of Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) administrative data and conduct qualitative research on HUD-VASH implementation. Research used for the publication of three manuscripts aimed at providing an understanding of HUD-VASH resource allocation and consumer community integration outcomes.

Research Assistant to Mariana Arcaya, MIT Department of Urban Studies & Planning, Cambridge, MA (June 2016 – June 2017)

Collaborated with Professor Arcaya on research exploring the tension between urban planning and public health theoretical frameworks and collaborative work. Worked on drafting two manuscripts.

Research Assistant to Amy Glasmeier, MIT Department of Urban Studies & Planning, Cambridge, MA (Fall 2015)

Collaborated with Professor Amy Glasmeier on research aimed at exploring Veteran homelessness. Undertook an extensive literature review of Veteran services, and an online assessment of benefits offered through the Veterans Administration. Completed and presented draft paper, "Ending Veteran Homelessness: A Role for Planning" at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, 55th Annual Conference.

Research Assistant to Ceasar McDowell, MIT Department of Urban Studies & Planning, Cambridge, MA (February – December 2014)

Partnered with Professor Ceasar McDowell on book chapter, "Partnering with Communities and Institutions" in *Civic Engagement Handbook* published by MIT press. Interviewed practitioners, researched potential case studies, and conducted literature review. Drafted chapter providing a framework for the construction and use of civically inclusive technologies.

Researcher, UC Berkeley Independent Study-Client Report for Potrero Hill HOPE SF, Berkeley, CA (Fall 2010 – Spring 2011)

Conducted literature review, interviewed various stakeholders, and examined multiple case studies to produce "Rethinking the Redevelopment of Public Housing: HOPE SF, Economic Change and Resident Self-Sufficiency" report. Analyzed obstacles to public housing residents' self-sufficiency, documented preliminary lessons learned across HOPE SF sites, and identified opportunities for entrepreneurial endeavors among Potrero Hill residents.

Research Assistant to Robert Schneider, UC Berkeley Department of City and Regional Planning, Berkeley, CA (Fall 2009)

Conducted transportation surveys outside 20 Walgreen stores throughout the Bay Area to gather customers' demographic data and transit patterns. Data was used for Dr. Schneider's doctoral thesis, "Understanding Sustainable Transportation Choices: Shifting Routine Automobile Travel to Walking and Bicycling."

Teaching and Mentorship

Courses (MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning)

Teaching Assistant, "Thesis Preparation" (Spring 2018)^[SEP]

Assisted with class logistics and worked one on one with students to guide thesis proposals. Graded and provided feedback on assignments.

Teaching Assistant, "Introduction to Spatial Analysis" and "Geographic Information Systems Workshop" (Fall 2014; Fall 2015; Spring 2016)^[SEP]

Prepared materials for and facilitated weekly lab session for fifteen master's/ undergraduate students. Supervised students' final projects, provided one-on-one troubleshooting, and graded problem sets.

Teaching Assistant, "Healthy Cities Graduate Student Instructor" (Spring 2016)

Prepared class study guides, assisted with class logistics and worked one on one with students to understand topics covered in course. Graded and provided feedback on assignments.

Guest Lecture Presentations

Guest Lecturer. Melissa Chinchilla. (July 2022). "Improving care for people experiencing homelessness."

AltaMed Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) Summer Program. AltaMed Health Services. Los Angeles, CA.

Guest Lecturer. Melissa Chinchilla. (March 2021). "Equity and Social Justice: Covid-19 and Vulnerable Populations." Boston University. Boston, Massachusetts.

Guest Lecturer. Melissa Chinchilla. (March 2021). "Pandemics and the City: Covid1-9 and Race/Ethnic Disparities." University of Toronto. Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Guest Lecturer. Melissa Chinchilla. (February 2021). "AltaMed Health Equity Lecture Series – Bringing Latinx Homelessness into Conversation: Revisiting the Latinx Paradox." AltaMed Health Services. Los Angeles, CA.

Guest Lecturer. Melissa Chinchilla. (February 2020). "Stemming the Rise of Latino Homelessness: Lessons from Los Angeles County." UCLA, Los Angeles, CA.

Guest Lecturer. Melissa Chinchilla. (February 2019). "Stemming the Rise of Latino Homelessness: Lessons from Los Angeles County." University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA.

Guest Lecturer. Melissa Chinchilla. (May 2016). "Health Communications: Framing, Organizing, Advocacy" MIT, Cambridge, MA.

Mentorship

University of California, Los Angeles. National Clinician Scholars Program protocol committee member for National Clinician Scholars Program (NCSP) fellow Maria Patanwala, MD. Protocol Project: "Describing social health experiences among adults entering permanent supportive housing in the Patient Centered Housing Options, Outcomes, Services, and Environment (PCHOOSE) Study."

Nonacademic Work

Health and Housing Summer Intern, Enterprise Community Partners, Los Angeles, CA (Summer 2014)

Interviewed Resident Services Coordinators from 14 affordable housing organizations to produce a partner assessment focused on understanding current efforts to address resident health outcomes. Interviewed key stakeholders in the health field working at the intersection of health and housing to identify opportunities for partnership. Produced "Health and Housing Report" which identified opportunities for cross-sector collaboration and innovation under Enterprise's national health and housing initiative. Presented summer findings and recommendations to Enterprise Southern California staff.

Program Associate, United Way of Greater Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA (August 2011 – July 2013)

Co-led Coordinated Entry System (CES) Pilot Project in Skid Row; Project focused on creating a system to match and prioritize homeless individuals for housing and services required under Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations. System served as basis for countywide CES scale up. Reviewed, scored, and made funding recommendations for Request for Proposals under Housing Stability action area for 2014-2016 grant cycle. Compiled quarterly progress reports including collection of housing placement data, partner narratives, and success stories. Coordinated Community Investment Department's HomeWalk (annual 5K fundraiser) partner recruitment and served on cross-functional team for logistics and creative planning. Executed social media strategy for Home For Good initiative via daily Facebook and Twitter posts, weekly blog posts, and by working with consultants to assure website redesign. Assisted with communication and outreach to community stakeholders, and Home For Good convenings - including registration, event flow, and day of logistics.

Program on Health Equity and Sustainability Intern, San Francisco Dept. of Public Health, San Francisco, CA (Summer 2010)

Conducted literature review on best practices in mixed income housing and produced "Social Cohesion and Community Safety in New and Redeveloped Mixed Income Housing" report to help inform HOPE SF community building efforts. Presented white paper findings to 15-20 HOPE SF developers and stakeholders. Supported expansion of Healthy Economy section of Healthy Development Measurement Tool (HDMT) through identification and development of community health indicators. Provided administrative support for Health Impact Assessment Mini-Course.

Tenant/Lead Prevention Outreach Organizer, Coalition for Economic Survival (CES), Los Angeles, CA (August 2008 – May 2009)

Under Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD) contract, outreached to substandard housing (200+ units a month) to provide information on building inspections conducted under Systematic Code Enforcement Program. Identified and outreached to potential Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program candidates. Educated low-income tenants on renters' rights, referred to legal counsel, and connected them to LAHD services. Made monthly presentations to Parent Teacher Associations and community centers to inform community members about housing services. As part of the Healthy Homes Collaborative, helped compile grant report with policy recommendations for California Endowment Grant. Represented CES at National Convention for Healthy Homes, Integrative Pest Management State-Wide Strategy Conference, and various workshops.

Leadership and Service

Member, Membership Committee, AcademyHealth, Washington, D.C. (2023-Present)

Commissioner, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, Los Angeles, CA (2022-Present)

Member, National Alliance to End Homelessness' Research Council, National Alliance to End Homelessness, Washington, D.C. (2021- Present)

Steering Committee Member, Veterans Administration Research Enhancement Award Program on Enhancing Community Integration for Homeless Veterans (2019 – Present)

Research Committee Member, Homeless Policy Research Institute, University of Southern California (2018 – Present)

Policy Expert, Latino Public Policy Initiative, University of California Los Angeles (2018 – Present)

Member, Race and Ethnicity Homeless Data Workgroup, Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington, D.C. (2021- 2023)

Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics (Voluntary), Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA (2020 – 2022)

Co-Chair, Race and Equity Workgroup, Homeless Policy Research Institute, University of Southern California (2020 – 2022)

Steering Committee Member, Homeless Policy Research Institute, University of Southern California (2020 – 2021)

Race Equity Workgroup Member, National Alliance to End Homelessness (2019 – 2021)

Reviewer, Los Angeles County's Chief Executive Office Homeless Initiative, Los Angeles, CA (February 2019)

Reviewer, California Community Foundation's 2020 Census Research-Practice Convening, Los Angeles, CA (September 2018)

Student Representative, MIT PhD Admissions Committee, Cambridge, MA (February 2015)

Professional Memberships

Member, AcademyHealth (2019 – Present)

Member, American Public Health Association (2018 – 2021)

Member, The Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (2014 – 2018)

Member, American Planning Association Los Angeles Young Planner Group (2012 – 2013)

Media Appearances/Articles

Pilar Marrero. *Ethnic Media Services*. "Latino and Homeless: How an LA County Program Helps the Most Vulnerable." May 3, 2023. <https://ethnicmediaservices.org/housing/ill-latino-and-homeless-how-an-la-county-program-helps-the-most-vulnerable/>

“Aumenta el número de latinos desamparados en Los Ángeles,” *Radio Bilingue*. Interviewed by Heidi de Marco. April 14, 2023. <http://radiobilingue.org/features/aumenta-el-numero-de-latinos-desamparados-en-los-angeles/>

Manuela Tobias. *Cal Matters*. “California homeless population grew by 22,000 over pandemic.” October 6, 2022. <https://calmatters.org/housing/2022/10/california-homeless-crisis-latinos/>

Verónica Villafañe. *Voz de América*. “Latinos constituyen mayoría de personas sin hogar en Los Ángeles.” September 20, 2022 <https://www.vozdeamerica.com/a/latinos-constituyen-mayoria-de-personas-sin-hogar-en-los-angeles-/6754258.html>

Oscar Flores. *ABC 7 Los Angeles*. “Latinos now 44.5% of LA County's unhoused population as experts continue to track trend.” September 2022. <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/latinos-now-445percent-of-la-countys-unhoused-population-as-experts-continue-to-track-trend/ar-AA11T2pi>

“2022 Los Angeles County Homeless Count: Total Population Numbers Plateau As Unhoused Latinos See Significant Increases,” *AirTalk with Larry Mantle*, National Public Radio. September 9, 2022. <https://www.npr.org/podcasts/381444294/air-talk>

David Wagner. *LAist*. Quoted in “Amid Pandemic, LA Latino Communities Face Stark Increases In Homelessness.” September 9, 2022. <https://laist.com/news/housing-homelessness/lausa-los-angeles-2022-homeless-count-latino-homelessness-increase-26-percent>

Melissa Chinchilla. *LA Times*. “Letter to the Editor.” June 6, 2022. https://www.latimes.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/story/2022-06-06/we-dont-have-the-full-picture-on-latinx-homelessness?_amp=true

“Cicatrices del COVID-19: cómo la crisis de la vivienda influyó en los contagios,” *Telemundo*. Interviewed by Enrique Chiabra. May 21, 2021. https://www.telemundo52.com/noticias/local/reportajes-especiales/cicatrices-del-covid-19-como-la-crisis-de-la-vivienda-influyo-en-los-contagios/2185140/?_osource=db_npd_tlmd_kvea_twt_shr



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

August 14, 2023

Dear Ms. Chinchilla:

I am pleased to inform you that I am reappointing you to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Commission for the term ending June 30, 2026, subject to confirmation by the City Council.

To begin the reappointment process, please review, sign, and return the enclosed Remuneration Form and undated Letters of Separation **within one week** of receiving this letter. These documents are necessary to ensure the most efficient, open, and accountable city government possible.

As part of the reappointment process, Kevin de Leon, your Councilmember, and Councilmember Nithya Raman, the Chair of the Housing and Homelessness Committee, may wish to meet with you to answer any questions they have. Our office will assist with arranging these meetings.

Additionally, you will be required to attend public meetings at City Hall where your reappointment will be considered. You will be hearing from our office and a City Council Clerk who will let you know when your reappointment will be considered by the Housing and Homelessness Committee. Sometime thereafter, you will be notified of the date when your reappointment will be presented to the full City Council. Immediately following the meeting, you will again be required to take the Oath of Office in the City Clerk's Office located in Room 395 of City Hall. If you require parking for these meetings, please contact my Commissions team by email at myr-commissions@lacity.org.

Ms. Melissa Chinchilla
August 14, 2023
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Per the City Charter, most commissioners must be registered voters of the City of Los Angeles, and must therefore reside within Los Angeles. If you move at any point during your term, or your contact information changes, please contact my Commissions team immediately at the email listed below. While we hope that you complete a successful term, if for some reason you intend to resign, please do so in writing to my Commissions team at myr-commissions@lacity.org.

Congratulations, and thank you for agreeing to serve the people of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Bass". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:tga

Attachment I
Ms. Melissa Chinchilla
August 14, 2023

Nominee Check List

I. Within 7 days:

- Email the below completed documents, found on the last three pages of this letter, to: myr-commissions@lacity.org OR mail them to:

Office of the Mayor
Attn: Commissions Team
200 N. Spring Street, Room 303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

- Remuneration Form
- Undated Separation Letters (2)

- Schedule an appointment to get fingerprinted to complete a background check. The Commissions team will assist in connecting you with the Personnel Background Unit.

II. The Mayor's Office will notify the below Councilmembers of your nomination, so that they may reach out to schedule a meeting with you should they wish.

- Your City Councilmember Kevin de Leon
- Councilmember Nithya Raman, Chair of the Council Committee considering your nomination

III. Public Meetings at City Hall:

- Housing and Homelessness Committee Hearing
- Full Council Hearing