



## ARCHI Quarterly Breakfast Summary

March 11, 2020

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, ARCHI held our 31<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Breakfast where 164 individuals from diverse organizations and sectors convened to discuss the health intersections between health inequities, race and homelessness. We heard from SPARC Atlanta (Supporting Partnerships for Anti-Racist Communities) who conducted a research study investigating and introducing their results on the pathways that result in and the barriers to exiting homelessness. If you were unable to attend, please review some of the highlights from the meeting below:

- Kathryn Lawler, Executive Director of ARCHI, welcomed meeting attendees and requested first time attendees to introduce themselves and their organizations. She proceeded to point the audience toward our Year in Review infographic on the tables highlighting our processes and milestones of our work in 2019.
- Evonne Yancey, ARCHI steering committee member, was recognized as a recipient of the 2020 George Halverson Community Health Leadership Award – acknowledging her commitment to ensure communities have accessible and quality care. She selected ARCHI to receive a \$10,000 donation from Kaiser Permanente in her name to invest in vulnerable communities in underserved areas. A photo opportunity took place with Kaiser representatives handing a big check to Kathryn and ARCHI steering committee members.
- Cathryn Marchman, Executive Director of Partners for HOME, kicked us off by addressing the high concentration of homelessness in predominantly black populations and people of color and how this resulted in a partner group to investigate reasons why. This working group included: United Way, Mercy Care, Partners for HOME, Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, Gateway Center, and Project Community Connections, Inc. This process of partners gathering together had a collective interest and urgency to study the preconditions that lead to homelessness and the barriers of exiting homelessness.
- Regina Cannon, Chief Equity and Impact Officer of C4 Innovations and the National Director of SPARC, shared the initial findings of the SPARC report. We learned about the disproportionality in homelessness nationwide and at the Atlanta level – specifically impacting black populations. We received an overview of contributing systems to racial inequities in homelessness and how



one of the pathways leading to homelessness is network impoverishment. Network impoverishment states that their networks also experience poverty which can extinguish resources quickly. One of the barriers to exiting homelessness is difficulty navigating the system and not meeting the eligibility criteria to receive resources. You can read more about the SPARC report under our resources for March 11<sup>th</sup> Quarterly breakfast.

- Our panelists include those who are working in the frontlines of serving the homeless population, such as in housing, tenant advocacy rights, and behavioral health. We heard about how each organization is contributing to serving the sensitive needs of this population.

Panelists include:

Dr. Reed Pitre, Mercy Care Psychiatry and Street Medicine

La'Nette Holloman, Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation

Raphael Holloway, Gateway Center

Regina Cannon, C4 Innovations

Moderated by Carol Collard of CaringWorks, Inc.

- Robyn Bussey, ARCHI's community health strategist, facilitated table discussions subsequent to the panel. Tables were challenged to consider the contributing factors in Atlanta that lead to homelessness for black people and people of color, as well as identifying approaches to remove the barriers of exiting homelessness.
- Michael Lucas, ARCHI Steering Committee member, closed out the morning with key takeaways in the morning's teachings and extended an invitation for attendees to become an ARCHI partner. He announced upcoming Partner events to stay involved and encouraged us to distribute our Year in Review infographic to our work sites.

Thank you to everyone who made this morning a success! We will see you May 20<sup>th</sup> for our next quarterly breakfast!