

CASA OF NEW JERSEY SYMPOSIUM 2021

Disproportionality and the Impact of Structural Racism in the Child Welfare System

June 10, 2021 and June 16, 2021



Taiisa Kelly

Housing
Inequities
Roundtable

Taiisa Kelly is a dedicated advocate for social justice, who has worked with Monarch Housing Associates for 15 years and now serves as CEO for the agency. Monarch's mission is to expand the supply, accessibility and variety of affordable, permanent supportive housing through development, planning, advocacy and partnerships. Monarch has a three-pronged approach: housing development, ending homelessness, and public policy and advocacy. This includes a focus on racial equity. In 2019 Monarch hosted a 2-day summit exploring racial equity and homelessness.

Working closely with local governments, non-profit agencies and other community stakeholders, Mrs. Kelly has facilitated the development and implementation of strategies to end homelessness, expand housing opportunities and create innovative programs targeting those most in need. Taiisa has worked with 12 of the 16 Continuums of Care in the state of New Jersey on all aspects of homeless planning since 2008 and has coordinated the statewide point in time count since 2014.

With an eye towards moving communities in New Jersey closer to ending homelessness, Taiisa has assisted Monarch in expanding homeless planning services offered to include 10 year plan development, Continuum of Care grant writing and system oversight, project monitoring, CoC grant administration technical assistance and innovative program development.

These efforts also include assisting communities in effectively using data for planning, coordinating & analyzing the statewide Point-in-Time Count, and conducting local analysis of HMIS data for CoC planning and program evaluation purposes. Her experience in housing development includes working with federal, state and local funding sources to secure financing for special needs housing projects. Taiisa has worked tirelessly for over 15years in the field of homeless planning to ensure everyone has access to the basic human right of housing.

Mrs. Kelly received her B.A. in psychology and anthropology from Rutgers University. She previously served as a CASA in Essex County.