

# Addressing Social Determinants of Health

Health Brigade's long commitment to whole person care, including the social issues impacting patient and client health, has never been stronger. **Jenee Johnson, MSW, LCSW, BDC**, leads our Social Work and Supportive Services Program at HB. Jenee trained as an MSW intern at Health Brigade helping to build out our initial social work program in the medical clinic back in 2013. She became employed with HB working with HIV+ clients and mental health clients while working toward her licensure. She left in 2015 to gain more clinical experience in the acute setting of VCU Health and became a seasoned social worker and therapist. Fortunately for HB, Jenee returned in 2021 to lead a new department of services that expands beyond the medical clinic to all services at Health Brigade.

The Social Work and Supportive Services Program incorporates the following components:

- 1. Community Health Worker Program (CHWP)** utilizes a community health worker (CHW) who serves in the community and on-site at Health Brigade. The CHW is part of the care team that links people from a specific community (Latinx) to services, not only at HB, but also to other resources.
- 2. Social Work Student Program** provides several SW interns the opportunity to learn and practice social work through 9-month internship placements at HB. Interns are utilized in all areas of service at HB, including medical, mental health and health outreach.
- 3. Clinical Social Work Licensure Program** provides master level social workers a practice environment with supervision to deepen their clinical skills to work in areas that require more knowledge and experience to work in settings such as hospitals, community based or private practice mental health, substance abuse or other specialty areas.
- 4. The Medical Social Work Program** utilizes social workers in Medical Clinic at Health Brigade to assist patients and families primarily with social care needs to enhance their participation in their care plans with their providers.

The purpose of the Social Work & Supportive Services Program is to identify and assess the overlapping medical, psychological, social, spiritual, and cultural issues that may negatively impact the health and wellbeing of patients and clients. The goal of assessment is to ensure linkages to other support services are utilized to reduce barriers. Intervention is focused on addressing social factors, including basic needs (food, housing, transportation, economic stability), access to services (language and culturally sensitive health and mental health) and support systems.



Jenee Johnson

Photo: Patricia Munford

**5. Supervision and Support Services** are offered to social workers and case managers who work in direct care across the programs at Health Brigade to enhance skills, problem-solve patient/client challenges, and improve quality of service delivery.

care and support needed through HB services, but she also educates, leads, mentors, and supports students, licensees, and staff who are engaged in direct services every day. Her 'presence' and competence lighten the load for so many, while also instilling hope and preventing burnout."

According to **Karen Legato**, Executive Director, "Jenee not only ensures that patients and clients receive quality

"I would say that our program provides hope to those we serve. The idea of hope has always been a concept that is central to our social work profession. Hope is dynamic and can be life-changing for many who are on the receiving end of its effect. Our aim is larger than simply providing a service. It is about helping someone see a light and they are not in this world alone. They have help navigating life's most difficult challenges.

~Jenee Johnson

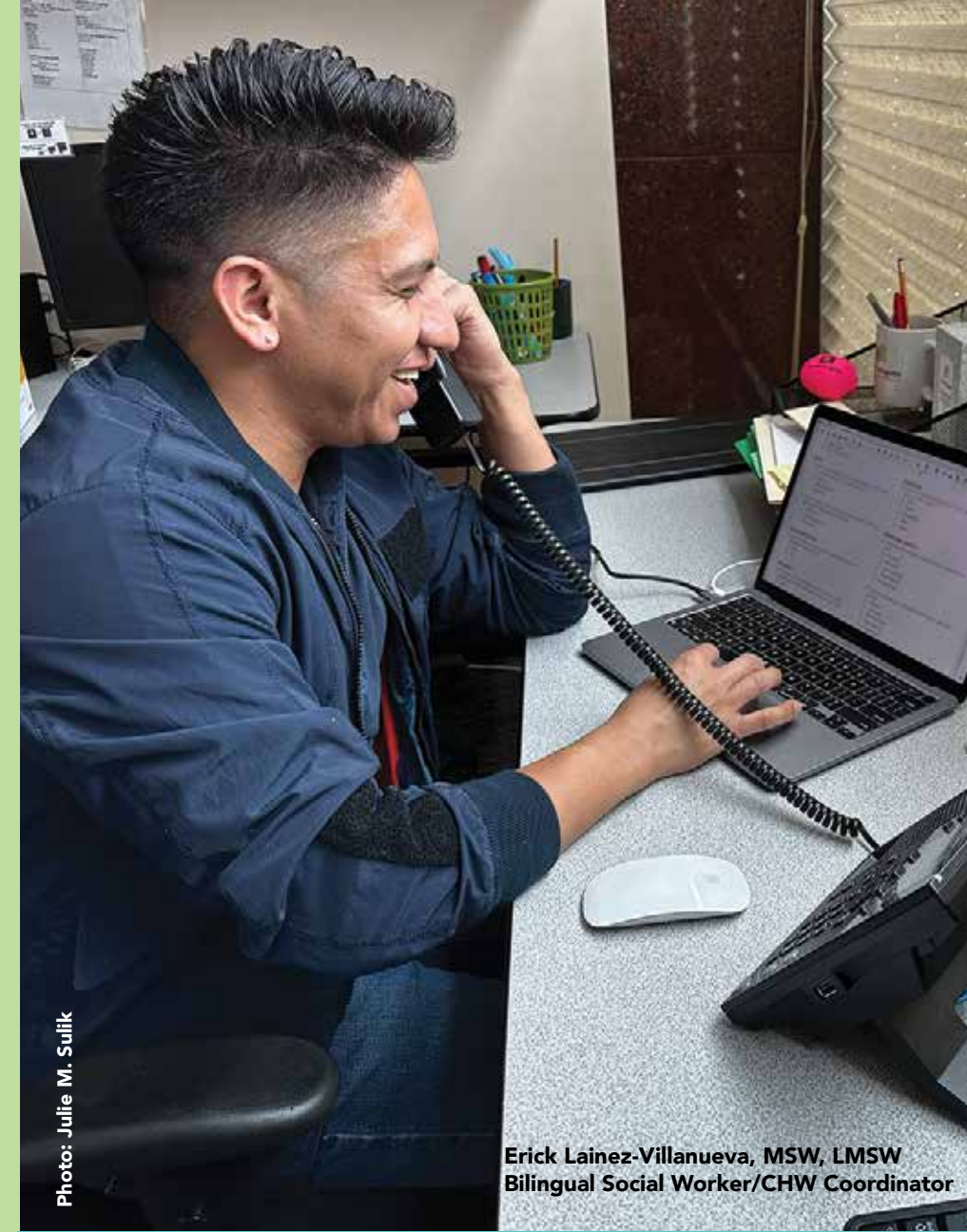
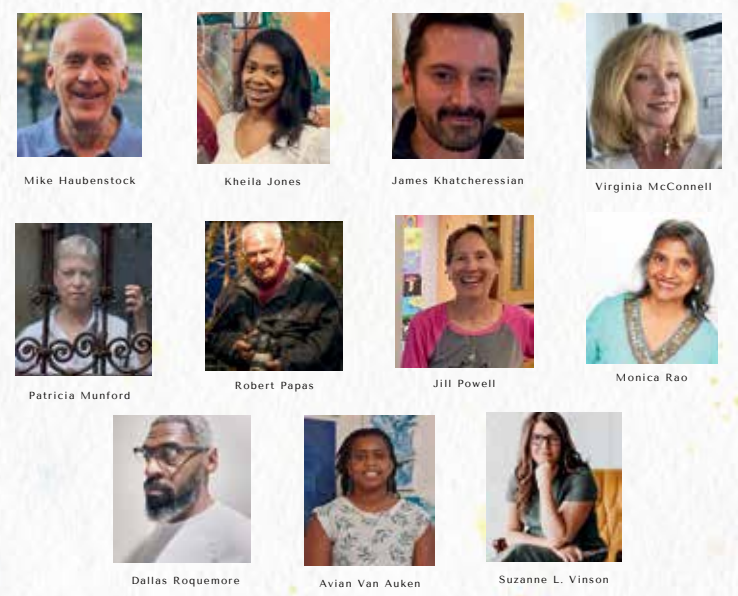


Photo: Julie M. Sulik

Erick Lainez-Villanueva, MSW, LMSW Bilingual Social Worker/CHW Coordinator

# The Art Brigade

Presents Its 20th Exhibition  
Featuring Work from Art Brigade Alumni Artists



Opening Event:  
Thursday, January 26, 2023  
5:30pm-7pm  
Refreshments/Entrance & Parking in Rear of the Building  
Art available for sale/Questions, call 804-358-6343, Ext. 1121



1010 N. Thompson Street, Richmond, VA 23230  
healthbrigade.org/artbrigade2023

# Bringing the Art Community to HB

The idea for the Art Brigade started in 2016 as the brainchild of executive director **Karen A. Legato**. Through the passion and dedication of two artists **Jill Powell** and **Virginia McConnell** and an interior designer, **Kelly Powell**, the program sprang to life.

The goal of the effort is to provide a welcoming and healing environment for patients, clients, volunteers, staff and visitors by bringing community-born art in to adorn the walls of Health Brigade. For each new show an opening event is held to welcome friends, family and associates of the artists to see the exhibit and to learn about the services of the agency.

In January 2023, HB celebrated its 20th Art Brigade exhibit, featuring 11 artists who held previous shows.

Over the span of seven years, The Art Brigade has shown a wide array of art mediums including oil paintings, encaustic paintings, charcoal drawings, photographs, fabric art, handcrafted

art dolls, pottery, crocheted and silk screened scarves, multi-media jewelry, three dimensional masks, quilts and pour paintings.

### FROM OUR INTERIOR DESIGNER

"Art Brigade is important to me because viewing art can be so impactful and personal to each individual.

Art can take you to places of peace, open your mind and heart to other ideas, and even bring understanding to things in the world that don't make sense.

Most art has an inspirational story behind it, and sometimes simply reading the title of a piece can make an impact on someone. Anything that makes a positive impact on a patient is healing in some small way. Patients who come into Health Brigade can gain calm and respite from their own medical issues simply by perusing the walls around them," says Kelly Powell.

Kelly Powell stands in the middle with her daughters Erika (L) and Liz (R). Both young women have helped install and have attended many Art Brigade shows.



Photo: Bob Papas



Photo: Patricia Munford

# Expanding Access to Services

**ATHENAHEALTH**  
In the summer of 2022, Health Brigade made the decision to convert to a new electronic medical record system. After reviewing several products, we selected athenahealth.

athenahealth is a supporter of non-profit healthcare providers and has been a great resource for us as we moved into Medicaid and billing for those patients. The athenaOne system allows HB to schedule easily, track quality measures by patient, automatically import lab results and shared records from other organizations.

We went live on February 1, 2023. It was a highly successful conversion and we have continued to build out the features that streamline our work. The conversion team was made up of HB staff: **Muriel Azria-Evans, Marianny De Aza, Polly Foster, Robert Key, Cristina Kincaid, Erick Lainez-Villanueva, Nina Lankin, Julie Lawson, Pete Legato and Josue Turrubiates.**

**ACCEPTING MEDICAID**  
With the expansion of Medicaid in Virginia, many Health Brigade patients and clients became eligible. In order

to continue to see this population and to be able to offer Medicaid to future patients, the decision to become a hybrid (uninsured/Medicaid) clinic was made by the Health Brigade Board of Directors in 2021.

In late 2021 and into early 2022, paperwork was filed with the six managed care organizations who contract with the Department of Medical Assistance Services (Virginia Medicaid) to provide services to Medicaid members.

By May of 2022, we were beginning to see Medicaid patients and bill through a third party. With the adoption of athenaOne, we are now able to bill internally with support from athenahealth's advance revenue cycle support. Their team has certified coders who can assist with any billing resolutions. Medicaid members now constitute 17% of our patient and client volume.

As we continue to grow and to learn, we become more familiar with managed care Medicaid and find that it offers us the opportunity to expand our services to a broader population. Health Brigade assists existing clients and patients with enrollment if we find that they qualify.

Pictured left seated is Julie Lawson, HB Finance & Operations Administrator and leaning on desk is Marianny De Aza, HB Clinical Practice Administrator