

Veronica Lewis is a recognized systems leader in Los Angeles County and statewide in the Homeless and Housing Services, Substance Use Disorder Support and Reentry sectors. She is the founder and Managing Director of ChangeMaker Consulting and Co-Founder of Impact Consulting Group. Veronica previously served as the Director of the Homeless Outreach Program/Integrated Care System Division of Special Service for Groups (HOPICS) for 15 years where she oversaw 130 million dollars in annual funding for multi-service programs including: mental health, harm reduction and substance use disorder treatment, reentry support, emergency homeless services and interim housing, permanent housing programs and sites, and trauma-focused services. Under Veronica's leadership HOPICS pioneered many innovative interventions that were taken to scale, expanded integration of primary and behavioral health care with homeless/housing services, built the capacity of the provider community of collaborative partners, implemented robust employee focused wellness programs- HOPICS Cares, housed more than 12,000+ households, and helped hundreds of thousands of individuals and families on their journeys through equity-focused efforts to restore hope, a sense of humanity and opportunities. The long-lasting impact of HOPICS grew significantly under her leadership including an annual budget increase of 3100% and a 15-fold expanded workforce.

Veronica has worked tirelessly as an advocate to improve and coordinate homeless services in LA County- in particular the Service Planning Area Sixth Region (SPA 6). Veronica is the founder of the thriving SPA 6 Homeless Coalition. She has played an integral role in the development of the ever-expanding LA Continuum homeless system(s) of care. In 2014 Veronica led and developed the one-of-a kind SPA 6 Family Crisis Housing Network that formed in response to the changing system of care for homeless families in LA County. The Network consists of a blend of homeless and housing providers that provide short to medium term crisis housing for families working toward permanent housing- and still keeps 300+ families with children off of the street every night in interim housing present day. Due to her leadership and advocacy HOPICS opened the first publicly funded interim housing location for transgender women and non-binary individuals in Los Angeles. Veronica has represented the interest of SPA 6 and the LA Continuum of Care (CoC) as member and Chair of the CoC Board and Coordinating Council. Veronica is also a Los Angeles County [Public Social Services Commissioner](#) appointed by LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn.

In her daily work Veronica has and continues to advocate for racial equity and honest dialogue about ways to improve the overwhelming number of health, economic, carceral and housing disparities for black, indigenous and other people of color in LA County. She deeply understands the intersection of race, homelessness, behavioral health and the criminal justice systems. She has been a key part of the Los Angeles Black People experiencing Homelessness (BPEH) efforts that produced the nationally recognized [report and recommendations](#) and still working to provide support the implementation of the recommendations through her role on the Policy Committee. Veronica is also a member of the USC [Homelessness Policy Research Institute \(HPRI\) Racial Equity](#) Steering Committee.

Veronica currently serves as and was also the inaugural Chair for two years of the Los Angeles [Care First and Community Investment](#) or CFCI (Measure J) Advisory Committee and led the process of developing a recommended transformative spending plan that resulted in LA County funding \$287 Million for the first two inaugural years (FY 22-23) of investment into alternatives to incarceration and addressing racial inequities; and she still serves as a Committee Member. CFCI funds diversion and reentry services, de-carceration of LA County jails, primary health, behavioral health, housing, economic development, and youth support. She is a member of the Steering Committee for the Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership (LARRP).

In addition to her contribution to local Los Angeles City and County systems and policies, Veronica also lends her expertise to help shape policies, best practices and projects at the state and national level through her participation as a Councilmember on the [California Interagency Council on Homelessness \(Cal ICH\)](#) appointed by Speaker Anthony Rendon and a Cal ICH Racial Equity Workgroup member; a former member of the [Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee for California Courts Judicial Council](#) (CJCAC) and Co-Chair of CJCAC's Racial Equity and Inclusion Workgroup; National Alliance to End Homelessness- Capacity Building Network; National Research Council- Transportation Research Board for the Airport Cooperative Research Program [Project 03-59 Panel](#) that helped develop best practices nationwide to address homelessness at airports; and as a former member of the California Department of Health Care Services

[Proposition 64 Advisory Group](#) where she helped shape program design and utilization of more than 60 million for the Youth Education Prevention, Early Intervention and Treatment Account (YEPEITA).