

*Al Sims joins the San Francisco County Veterans Services Office with over twenty years of experience in management and veterans services. In the role of County Veterans Services Officer, Al will be responsible for the oversight of the office. Al will be responsible for the outreach strategies within the CVSO to connect with vulnerable veterans; supporting them in benefits claims to increase access to VA mental and primary healthcare, monetary benefits, and housing assistance.*

*Al is a visionary leader and change agent with a focus on innovatively developing and growing programs with a client-driven, strengths based, harm reduction approach to enhance the highest quality of services for veterans. He's an experienced manager with expertise in community outreach, education, and veterans' advocacy. Al brings over 20 years' experience in management and veterans services. In the past six years Al has worked in organizations supporting veterans and providing critical stabilization services to these populations with a primary focus on homeless veterans and veterans with complex health and mental health challenges. Prior to joining the Department of Disability and Aging Services, Al worked at the Department of Veterans Affairs as a Transition Patient Advocate, engaging in work across the agency to encompass all the medical centers throughout the Western region of the United States. Al is an Army combat veteran who served in the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment during operations Desert Shield / Desert Storm. After the Army, Al worked as an expat in Germany for 5 years before returning to the Bay Area. Al spent the next 17 years working for the Bay Area biotech company Genentech where he served as the Supervisor of Corporate Security Services. In 2014 Al started his career in veteran services with the VA HUD-VASH team in Oakland. Al was promoted to Program Specialist with HUD-VASH before transition to the Department of Veterans Affairs.*

*Al holds a Master's degree in Security Management from Buckinghamshire New University in the United Kingdom and holds several certifications within the security services realm.*