

Alzheimer's Disease and Related Conditions Advisory Committee - Member Biographies (February 2026)

Senator Jesse Arreguín

State Senate (February 2028)

Senator Jesse Arreguín is a lifelong public servant, having been elected to the State Senate in 2024 after serving as Mayor of Berkeley and President of the Association of Bay Area Governments. Born in Fresno as the son and grandson of farmworkers and raised in San Francisco, he grew up invested in labor and civil rights movements. Facing housing insecurity as a child, he advocated for expanding safe and affordable housing while attending UC Berkeley, a cause he still champions today. As Mayor, Arreguín reduced homelessness, lowered emissions, and launched regional partnerships to improve healthcare and public safety.

Sally Bergman, Attorney at Law

Elder Law Representative (December 2029)

Sally Bergman is an elder law attorney with a passion to solve some of the many serious problems older adults and their families unfortunately face as they age. Sally's legal career spans more than four decades, all of which has been devoted to assisting those who have fewer opportunities to receive quality professional legal services than others. She earned an advanced law degree (LL.M.) in Estate Planning and Elder Law from Western New England University of Law and is accredited by the Veteran's Administration to represent Veterans. She is also an active member of National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA), Elder Counsel, Wealth Counsel, Elder Law Answers, Academy of VA Pension Planners (AVAPP), the Trusts & Estates Section of the California State Bar, California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform and Coalition for Compassionate Care. Sally is a past President of the Northern California Chapter of NAELA. Sally proudly serves as Board Chair on the Board of Directors of Mission Hospice & Home Care, a non-profit in San Mateo.

Wynnelena Canlas Canio, MD, Chair

Behavioral Health Representative (December 2027)

Wynnelena Canlas Canio, MD, AGSF, CMD is an experienced geriatrician and psychiatrist and Chief of Geriatric Medicine in Kaiser Permanente San Rafael. She has led several initiatives to improve care for older adults, including the implementation of a geriatric evaluation and management. She is a member of various committees and advisory groups in Kaiser Permanente San Rafael and beyond. Dr. Canio is a recognized subject matter expert in geriatric models of care and has been appointed to several state and national committees to tackle the growing dementia crisis. She completed her training at the University of Kansas Medical Center and UCLA and has received numerous awards and recognition for her work.

Claire Day

Representative of a Consumer Organization Representing Persons with Alzheimer's (March 2026)

Claire Day has been on staff at the Alzheimer's Association since 2001. She is the Chief Program Officer at the Northern California and Northern Nevada Chapter, overseeing all care and support operations and research initiatives. Ms. Day is a clinical social worker and received her degree from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. She has more than twenty years of experience as a family and professional educator in dementia care.

In 2018, Ms. Day was appointed the Chapter Lead for the US Study to Protect Brain Health Through Lifestyle Interventions to Reduce Risk (US POINTER) in California in partnership with UC Davis. US POINTER is a two-year clinical trial to evaluate whether lifestyle interventions that simultaneously target multiple risk factors protect cognitive function in older adults at increased risk for cognitive decline.

Sarah Tomaszewski Farias, PhD, ABPP-CN

Alzheimer's Disease Diagnostic and Treatment Centers Representative (September 2027)

Dr. Sarah Tomaszewski Farias is Professor and Chief of the Cognitive Behavioral Division in the Department of Neurology at the University of California, Davis (UCD). She is a neuropsychologist with an NIH-funded research program investigating various aspects of cognitive aging including early signs of Alzheimer's disease, the effects of cognitive decline on everyday function, life course sociocultural and lifestyle factors that impact cognitive aging across diverse populations, and the development of behavioral interventions to promote cognitive and emotional health. She serves as the Clinical Core Leader in the UCD NIH-funded Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC) and directs the California Alzheimer's Disease Center of Excellence located within the UCD Healthy Aging Clinic.

Jerry Jew, MD, MBA

Individual representing organization providing services to persons living with Alzheimer's disease or related conditions (February 2029)

Dr. Jerry Jew is a board-certified family medicine physician and Chief Strategy Officer at North East Medical Services (NEMS), one of the nation's largest federally qualified community health centers targeting the underserved Asian population in the San Francisco Bay Area. Dr. Jew is a past UC Regents Scholar and completed his Medical Doctorate and MBA at UC Irvine, and subsequently a Family Medicine residency at UC Irvine. Dr. Jew also completed the prestigious California Health Care Foundation's (CHCF) Health Care Leadership Program—a rigorous two-year fellowship program nurturing essential leadership skills in management and political advocacy. He is a recognized physician leader in his community, serving as a change agent within his organization and beyond, and a constant advocate for the underserved.

Barbra McLendon

Service Provider Representative (September 2028)

Barbra McLendon has a deep background in public policy. For over 15 years, she has focused on aging & long-term care policy and advocacy in her position as the Public Policy Director for Alzheimer's Los Angeles. During this time, she has developed legislation and policy recommendations to improve services and supports for people with dementia and their families. Her current projects include advocating for the development of dementia capable health care delivery systems and building dementia friendly communities in and around the Los Angeles area through "Purposeful Aging Los Angeles."

Jeanine Lynn Walter Misirli, MD

Individual representing families of persons directly affected by Alzheimer's disease or related conditions (February 2029)

Jeanine Lynn Walter Misirli, MD is a board-certified family medicine physician with nearly two decades of experience at Kaiser Permanente, where she provided comprehensive primary care to patients across the lifespan. She earned her medical degree from Loma Linda University School of Medicine and completed her family medicine residency training at Kaiser Permanente Fontana and Methodist Hospital of Sacramento.

In 2024, Dr. Misirli transitioned into a clinical role spanning memory care/geriatrics and mental health and now divides her time between the Memory Care Clinic and Mental Health Services. Her work includes the evaluation and longitudinal care of patients with cognitive concerns and neurodegenerative conditions, with attention to psychiatric and behavioral symptoms and the needs of caregivers.

Dr. Misirli brings a distinct and deeply personal perspective to Alzheimer's disease and related conditions through her lived experience with Frontotemporal Degeneration (FTD). Following her father's diagnosis and the diagnosis of multiple family members with C9orf72-associated FTD and ALS, she has become an active advocate in partnership with the Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration (AFTD), integrating lived experience with clinical practice to elevate patient and family voices.

William Mobley, MD, Ph.D.

Academic Medical Research Representative (March 2028)

Dr. William Mobley is a Distinguished Professor of Neurosciences and Associate Dean for Neurosciences Initiatives at the University of California, San Diego. He came to UCSD in June of 2009 from Stanford University where he served as the John E. Cahill Family Professor in the Department of Neurology and Neurological Sciences and was the founding director of the Neuroscience Institute. He earned his Ph.D. from Stanford University in Palo Alto, California in Neuro- & Behavioral Science in 1974 and an M.D.

from the same institution in 1976. Dr. Mobley completed an internship in Pathology in 1977, and a Pediatric residency in 1979, both at Stanford University and then completed a residency and fellowship in Neurology and Pediatric Neurology at The Johns Hopkins University in 1982. While there, he was selected to serve as Chief Resident in Pediatric Neurology from 1981 to 1982. In 1983, he was certified by the American Board of Pediatrics and in 1987 by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology with Special Competence in Child Neurology.

Dr. Mobley is a Past President of the Association of University Professors of Neurology, the Professors of Child Neurology, and the International Society for Developmental Neuroscience. He is also a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (2001) and in 2004 was elected a Member of the National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine (now the National Academy of Medicine). In 2006, Dr. Mobley was named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in 2011 received the International Sisley-Jérôme Lejeune Prize for research in Down Syndrome and in 2014 was named to the Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars. Dr. Mobley currently serves as President of the T21 Research Society. In 2019 he was appointed interim Director of the Sanford Institute for Empathy and Compassion. His research focuses on the biology of Alzheimer disease, especially as manifest in those with Down syndrome. It encompasses studies that extend from basic cellular mechanisms to the discovery of treatments and to the compassionate care of these individuals.

Stephanie Navarette, MSW

Individual representing organization providing services to persons living with Alzheimer's disease or related conditions (February 2029)

Stephanie Navarette is a MSW level social worker and program manager with more than 30+ years of experience serving older adults through home-based services and community-based programs. Throughout her career, she has worked closely with individuals living with Alzheimer's disease and related conditions, as well as their families and caregivers, supporting them in navigating complex care systems, accessing critical resources and remains engaged in their communities.

Her professional background includes experience in the Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP), In Home Supportive Services Program (IHSS), Adult Protective Services (APS), Program to Encourage Active, Rewarding Lives for Senior (PEARLS) and Older Adult Prevention and Early Intervention Services – (Project Hope), where she provided oversight, program management and care coordination for older adults in her county. Her work has consistently emphasized person-centered, community-based approaches that promote dignity, independence and quality of life. She also has served as a practicum educator in the MSW program of a local university for the past 16 years and is deeply committed to the growth, mentorship, and professional development of future social workers.

As a member of the state Alzheimer's Disease and Related Conditions Advisory Committee, Stephanie is committed to advocating for older adults living with dementia

and the caregivers who support them. She is particularly focused on strengthening home and community-based services and ensuring that state policies reflect the real-world needs of individuals and families across diverse communities.

Carlos Olivas III (Vice Chair)

Family Member Representative (June 2027)

Carlos Olivas, a devoted family man and primary caregiver, embarked on a transformative journey in 2015 when he left his career to care for his dad living with Alzheimer's dementia. As a fellow with Caring Across Generations, a volunteer advocate for the Alzheimer's Association, and a local ambassador for Into the Dark Blue men's well-being group, Carlos passionately advocates for compassionate caregiving and mental health awareness. His role as a social media content creator amplifies his commitment, reaching a global audience with heartfelt narratives and valuable insights. A proud member of "We are Hilarity for Charity's (HFC) care influencer Care Squad and a "caregiving.com" Champion, Carlos is not just a caregiver but a dedicated speaker and guest on various media platforms, blogs, and podcasts. Through his experiences, he weaves a narrative that resonates with the universal themes of love, resilience, and the intricate dance of life's vibrant hues.

Assemblymember Gail Pellerin

California State Assembly (August 2028)

Assemblymember Gail Pellerin was elected to the California State Assembly in November of 2022 to represent the 28th Assembly District. Assemblymember Pellerin served as the chief elections official in Santa Cruz County from 1993 until her retirement in December 2020. Gail served as President of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials from 2010 to 2012 and as co-chair of the Secretary of State's Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Assemblymember Pellerin currently serves on the board of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). She has been an outspoken advocate for suicide prevention awareness and mental health resources after her husband, Tom, died by suicide in 2018. Assemblymember Pellerin has a BS in Journalism from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. Before her experience in public service, Gail worked as a campaign assistant to political campaigns, a newspaper reporter and photographer, and a community college instructor.

Faisal Qazi, DO

California Commission on Aging Representative (February 2028)

Dr. Faisal Qazi has been a practicing Neurologist in southern California since 2006 and an Associate Professor of Neurology at Western University of Health Sciences and UC Riverside. He is co-founder of The Neurology Group, a specialty private practice group covering Los Angeles, Orange, and San Bernardino Counties through its outpatient clinics and at local hospitals. His work includes neuro-ethics as well as related public

policy issues. He is currently the President of MiNDS (Medical Network Devoted to Service), a charitable organization that focuses on providing neurology-specific healthcare services to underserved families in the local service area. Dr. Qazi is from southern California and finished his residency training at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit in 2005. He subsequently finished a Neurophysiology Fellowship at UC San Diego in 2006.

Celine Regalia, MSW, MA CCC-SLP

Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Center Representative (September 2027)

Celine Regalia, MSW, MA CCC-SLP is currently the Executive Director of Providence Community Health Napa Valley (formerly Collabria Care). She was appointed to this position in 2019. Before being promoted to this organization wide leadership role, she had 20 years' experience as the Program Director/Administrator of Collabria Care's Adult Day Health Care and Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Center, following 10 years with clinical experience in acute care, home health, and long-term care.

She is currently the ADCRC representative for the California Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Committee. She is Past President of the Board of Directors of the California Association of Adult Day Services (CAADS). Ms. Regalia co-chairs Napa County's Healthy Aging Population Initiative (HAPI), a collaborative of non-profits and government agencies that serve older adults. Ms. Regalia is recognized at both local and state levels for her advocacy efforts on behalf of older adults.

Kate Schulenberg

Individual representing families of persons directly affected by Alzheimer's disease or related conditions (February 2029)

Kate Schulenberg serves on the San Joaquin County Commission on Aging and is the Co-Chair of the Friends of the Ripon Senior Center, where she works to strengthen programs, resources, and community connections for older adults. Her leadership reflects a deep commitment to ensuring that seniors in San Joaquin County have access to meaningful support, social engagement, and opportunities to thrive.

With experience as both a caregiver and community advocate, Kate brings a grounded, compassionate perspective to her work. She is especially dedicated to expanding services for aging adults, reducing isolation, and elevating the needs of families navigating the challenges of later life. Kate approaches every project with empathy, clarity, and a belief in the power of community to create dignity and belonging for older adults.

Julie Souliere

California Health and Human Services Agency Representative

Julie Souliere has been an Assistant Secretary at the California Health and Human Services Agency since 2017. She oversees programmatic and fiscal affairs for the California Department of Public Health, the Emergency Medical Services Authority, and the Office of the California Surgeon General. She served in a career executive assignment and as special consultant at the California Department of Developmental Services from 2015 to 2017. Ms. Souliere was a principal consultant for the California Assembly from 2008 to 2015. She served as a finance budget analyst at the California Department of Finance from 2007 to 2008 and as a legislative analyst at the California Department of Consumer Affairs from 2005 to 2007. Ms. Souliere earned a Master of Arts degree in government from California State University, Sacramento.

Dolores Gallagher Thompson, PhD, ABPP

Social Research Representative (December 2027)

Dr. Gallagher Thompson received her PhD in clinical psychology, with a minor in adult development and aging, in 1979 from the University of Southern CA and since then has conducted research, trained many clinicians, and provided clinical services to older adults & their families – first at the Palo Alto Veterans Administration and subsequently at the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University School of Medicine. She's been board-certified in Gero psychology since 2014 and has specialized in using cognitive behavioral therapy to treat later life depression, and in developing a variety of programs to reduce distress in family caregivers of persons living with dementia. At present she is semi-retired from Stanford but remains active in clinical research and publishing.

(Month/Year) denotes the end of committee member's current term.