

# **Elder and Disability Justice Coordinating Council (EDJCC) Committee Membership 2026**

## **Stakeholder Committee Membership**

**Layla Anderson, *Self Advocate***

**Tony Anderson, *Association of Regional Center Agencies***

Tony Anderson entered the field of developmental services in 1987 and began his career as a direct support professional in homes, day programs, and schools. He has served as a social worker and later became the Executive Director of a community non-profit that served over 120 people with developmental disabilities. He worked in the leadership for the Napa County Department of Health and Human Services and was appointed Deputy Director by Governor Gray Davis, responsible for Policy, Planning, and Governmental Relations at the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. He joined The Arc California in 2003 and served as Executive Director and principal lobbyist for the association. In this capacity, he served on numerous state and national boards and commissions and was the national President for the executive directors of the association. In 2017 he became the Executive Director of Valley Mountain Regional Center serving 20,000 people with developmental disabilities and their families in Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne Counties. Today Mr. Anderson is the Associate Director and lobbyist for the California regional centers (ARCA) responsible for organizational leadership and strategic partnerships, community engagement in policymaking, and policy advocacy. Tony received his BA in Research Psychology and an MA in Organizational Development from Sonoma State University.

**Heather Bates, MSW, ACC, *Transform Health***

Heather Bates has over 25 years of experience in the field of health policy program design, nonprofit capacity building, strategic planning, workforce development, and facilitation. In her role as the chief operations officer and vice president at Transform Health, Heather provides strategic leadership across all teams and oversees daily operations. Heather began her career in direct service with the homebound aged population, eventually shifting towards policy and program design to focus on systems change. Since then, Heather has designed, developed, and led a variety of programming and facilitation efforts around the country centered on Medicare, Medicaid, and other health care programs. Heather coordinated the New York City State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) during Medicare Part D implementation. She has restructured several nonprofit and for-profit organizations to deploy data-driven approaches and ensure programmatic rigor. Heather is an expert coach, mentor, trainer, and facilitator. She has helped numerous nonprofits and government institutions build their capacity, including state-based exchanges, primary care associations, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and nonprofits. Skilled in strategic planning, Heather has helped many C-Suite executives develop strategies to engage and motivate their staff to meet organizational goals. An Ohio native, Heather obtained her bachelor's degree from Ohio University and her master's degree in social work from the New York City Hunter College School of Social Work. Heather is a certified coach with the International Coaching Federation.

**Luis Bravo, *Self Advocate***

### **Elyse Michelle Brummer, PhD, *AgeUp***

Elyse Brummer is a Bay Area native and seasoned leader in senior care, aging policy, and nonprofit innovation. With over 15 years of experience managing senior living communities and advancing aging services, she brings deep expertise in long-term care systems, public administration, and community impact.

Elyse holds a master's in public administration, is pursuing a PhD in gerontology, and is licensed in both Nursing Home and RCFE administration. Her career spans sectors, from venture capital to public service, and she has served on numerous boards and commissions focused on elder justice and older adult advocacy. Passionate about collaboration, Elyse thrives on building cross-sector partnerships that promote dignity, equity, and well-being for older adults. Outside of work, she is always up for a new adventure and enjoys outdoor recreation, travel, and perusing used bookstores.

### **Ali Chiu, *Institute on Aging***

Ali Chiu 邱曉萍 (she/her/hers) has been an advocate and educator since 1999. Her focus has been on anti-violence field (domestic violence, gender-based violence, sexual exploitation, & human trafficking). Ali also has been a strong champion of rights of seniors and people with disabilities. She is currently the Lead Supervisor of Consultative Services at Institute on Aging, one of the Tri-Chairs of San Francisco Family Violence Council, a board member of Community Living Campaign, and a former Steering Committee member of the National Human Trafficking and Disabilities Working Group. Ali has over 20 years of providing anti-oppression, disability and ableism training nationally. Ali is a disabled woman of color, an immigrant, and a hungry reader of all genres, except romance novel.

### **Greg deGiere, *The Arc of California***

Greg deGiere is the Civil Rights Advocate of Arc of California, a major organization advocating for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and a member of the Legislative Committee of the California Alliance for Retired Americans. He served decades in the California Legislature's staff, including in the Senate Office of Research and as a consultant to Democratic leaders. After retiring from the Capitol staff, he served as Public Policy Director of The Arc & United Cerebral Palsy California Collaboration, retiring from that position to his current volunteer role. He developed, drafted and successfully lobbied major legislation such as the Senior and Disability Justice Act and much of California's hate crime law, including extensive sections on anti-disability hate crimes. He has served as a subject-matter expert assisting the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training with many police training projects on elder and disability abuse, hate crimes, and related crimes. He has taught California District Attorneys Association and U.S. Internal Revenue Service classes for prosecutors and IRS agents. He earned an MA in government from California State University, Sacramento, where he also taught California state and local government, and a BA in political science from San Francisco State University. He has life-long attention deficit disorder.

### **Aneliza Del Pinal, *California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A)***

Aneliza is Chief Executive Officer of Sourcewise, the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) covering Santa Clara County. She is credited with extending Sourcewise's reach to an area of the county by marshaling needed services for older adults in that area which was previously unserved by the AAA. Earlier, Aneliza held the role of Sourcewise's Director of Public Relations and as its Planner.

With broad experience across several key AAA roles, she contributes to C4A a deep and highly experienced perspective on what AAAs need at all levels to strategically maximize their impact on meeting the needs of California's older adults, persons with disabilities and family caregivers.

Aneliza holds a Bachelor's Degree in International Business from San Francisco State University. She is a contributing member for the Santa Clara County Public Health Chronic Disease Prevention; Alzheimer's Association Latino Caregiver Conference; Diabetes Prevention; and USAging, the national association of AAAs

**Sarah Hooper, JD, UCSF-UC Law SF Medical-Legal Partnership for Seniors**

Sarah is a Professor of Practice at UC Law SF and Executive Director of the UCSF-UC Law Consortium on Law, Science & Health Policy. In this capacity, she directs the JD Concentration in Health Law & Policy, co-directs the Master of Science in Health Policy & Law Degree (HPL) and serves as the Policy Director of the Medical-Legal Partnership for Seniors clinic.

Professor Hooper has dedicated her career to developing innovative medical-legal collaborations that can advance equity in health care. She has a special interest in complex care, and in particular the role of law and lawyers in improving systems of care for underserved older individuals with complex medical and social needs.

Her work encompasses clinical interventions such as the Medical-Legal Partnership for Seniors Clinic, research collaborations such as the Care Ecosystem trial, and educational initiatives for providers and the public such as the Statewide Medical-Legal Learning Collaborative of the Dementia Care Aware Initiative, Optimizing Aging Collaborative and PREPARE. She is currently developing a tool to support legal and financial decision making for older patients with cognitive impairment called Clarity. Her scholarship has been published in peer-reviewed journals such as the Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law, Journal of Pain and Symptom Management, and Health Affairs Blog.

Professor Hooper is a Senior Atlantic Fellow for Health Equity in the Fitz Mullan Health Workforce Institute at George Washington University and serves on the Global Fellow Advisory Board for the Atlantic Institute.

**Mischa Jackson Kennedy, Inland Legal Services, Inc.**

**Melissa Jacobs, MSW, Sacramento County Department of Child, Family and Adult Services**

Melissa Jacobs oversees Adult Protective Services, In Home Supportive Services, Public Administrator/Guardian/Conservator programs. Prior to her current role, she oversaw the full array of Sacramento County operated and contracted mental health services for children and youth for 10 years. Melissa has 35 years of experience in the mental health and social services field, serving a diverse population of children, youth, adults and their families. In addition to her County service, Ms. Jacobs has worked in non-profit community-based organizations in Sacramento and Yolo County and was a CalWORKs Welfare to Work Coordinator within the California Community College system. Melissa received her Bachelor's in Psychology and a Master's of Social Work. She has been a Licensed Clinical Social Worker for 27 years.

### **Jamie Jensen, MSW, PhD., *California Commission on Aging***

Jamie Jensen, MSW, PhD, is a dedicated social work educator and advocate with over 20 years of experience serving rural and Tribal communities. She is the Chair of the Social Work Department at Cal Poly Humboldt, where she focuses on culturally responsive practices in social work education and mentoring the next generation of helping professionals. Dr. Jensen has a diverse professional background that includes roles as a dementia care educator, medical social worker, and program evaluator, with a particular emphasis on supporting aging populations, caregivers, and Indigenous communities. As the founder of The Full Life Institute, Dr. Jensen has championed efforts to promote healthy aging and compassionate end-of-life care in rural areas. Her work with the institute centers on fostering community-driven solutions that enhance the well-being of vulnerable populations. She has also contributed to multiple statewide initiatives, including her current service on the California Commission on Aging, where she advocates for equitable policies and practices to support older adults and individuals with disabilities. A published author and sought-after presenter, Dr. Jensen combines academic expertise with practical experience to address complex social issues. Her leadership in community organizations highlights the importance of community-driven solutions and collaboration to improve outcomes for vulnerable populations.

### **Jamie Levine, *Elder Law and Advocacy***

Jaime Levine is the Executive Director and Managing Attorney of Elder Law & Advocacy (EL&A). With over two decades of experience in elder law, Jaime has helped over 10,000 seniors and supervised attorneys who have worked on tens of thousands of additional cases. At EL&A, Jaime is committed to maximizing the organization's impact on seniors and ensuring that they have access to the legal services they need. He is responsible for overseeing all aspects of strategy, legal advocacy, finance, fund development, and technology at EL&A. He also leads a team of attorneys and staff members across several offices and clinics. Implementing technology has been a key focus of Jaime's work at EL&A. He has adopted cloud-based communications platforms to improve services for clients and has helped the organization transition to virtual services seamlessly.

### **Hannah Liddell, *Disability Rights California***

Hannah Liddell is the Director of Investigations, managing the Investigations Unit and the Office of Payee Review and Beneficiary Assistance. She joined Disability Rights California in 2013. Hannah is a native Texan and a 2012 graduate of the University of Texas School of Law. She has been working in the field of disability rights since her first summer in law school, when she clerked at Disability Rights Texas (DRT). Hannah loves her work advocating for people with disabilities, being in the community providing outreach and education, and hopes to continue learning and growing as an employee of DRC for the rest of her career. Hannah is a lifelong bookworm, avid hiker, and loves mysteries of the British variety. She lives in the Sierra foothills community of Grass Valley with her husband and two beautiful children.

### **Jennifer Litwak, *PEP Housing***

Jennifer is the President and Chief Executive Officer of PEP Housing. She successfully managed the closing of over \$1.3 billion in multifamily acquisitions and had overseen the development, preservation and renovation of over 8,882 units of affordable housing nationwide. Jennifer is an active member of the American Bar Association's Section of Real Property, Trust and Estate Law and served as the Chair of the Residential, Multi-Family, and

Special Use Group. Jennifer also served as the American Bar Association's Section Advisor to the [Uniform Law Commission's Unlawful Restrictions in Land Records Act Committee](#). Jennifer serves as the Vice Chair of [Urban Land Institute's Affordable & Workforce Housing Council](#). She has taken on numerous roles with Commercial Real Estate Women Network (CREW) and served as an appointed member of various National Committees including, Network Industry Research, Member Education, and Scholarship Selection since 2016. In 2020, Jennifer was inducted into the [CREW Visionaries](#) program. Jennifer earned a Bachelor of Arts from Wake Forest University, where she graduated magna cum laude, and holds a Juris Doctor from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. She is a graduate of the prestigious Development Finance Certified Professional (DFCP) program of the Council of Development Finance Agencies and completed an Executive Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership from John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Jennifer is also an active member of 50/50 Women on Boards, Impact 100 Redwood Circle, Leadership Santa Rosa, and the Junior League of Napa-Sonoma.

### **Sandra L. Longnecker, Riverside District Attorney's Office**

Sandra L. Longnecker is a Senior Investigator with the Riverside District Attorney's Office. Sandra serves as the sole investigator for Elder Abuse and assists in prosecution of many types of cases, conducts briefings, and training in Elder and Dependent Abuse. Sandra is also a part of the C.A.R.E. Teams which is a multidisciplinary team.

### **Vivianne Mbaku, Justice in Aging**

Vivianne is the Director of Equity in Elder Justice with Justice in Aging. Vivianne joined Justice in Aging in April of 2019 in the Los Angeles office working on Elder Abuse issues. She leads a cross-issue team that ensures our work on elder justice issues is grounded in advancing equity for older adults of color, LGBTQ older adults, immigrant older adults, those with limited English proficiency, and others. Before joining Justice in Aging, Vivianne was a Staff Attorney for the Utah State Courts Self Help Center and practiced consumer and public benefits law with Utah Legal Services. Vivianne was also a member of the Utah State Bar Modest Means Committee, which aimed to make affordable legal representation more widely available. Vivianne also completed an appellate clerkship with the Honorable Senior Justice Petra Jimenez-Maes of the New Mexico Supreme Court. After her clerkship, Vivianne moved to Los Angeles to practice public benefits law at Inner City Law Center in Los Angeles. Vivianne is a 2012 graduate of the University of Utah's S.J. Quinney College of Law and earned a B.A. in Politics and Latin American Studies from Scripps College. Vivianne is admitted to practice law in California.

### **Jennifer Moore Ballentine, Coalition for Compassionate Care of California**

Jennifer Moore Ballentine, MA, has more than 20 years' experience in palliative care education and policy, program design and evaluation, and nonprofit leadership. As CEO of the Coalition for Compassionate Care of California, she leads a team dedicated to improving care for people with serious illness and those who care for them. CCCC is California's go-to organization for information, advocacy, and education on advanced care planning, palliative care, and the POLST program. Jennifer's previous positions include executive director of the Cal State University Shiley Haynes Institute for Palliative Care; Vice President, Hospice Analytics; Executive Director, Life Quality Institute; and Director of Professional Programs, Colorado Center for Hospice and Palliative Care. She participates in national initiatives to improve the quality and delivery of palliative care and has served as a member of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine Roundtable on Quality Care for Persons with Serious

Illness since 2017; National Hospice & Palliative Care Organization Palliative Care Council, since 2018; Patient Quality of Life Coalition, since 2017; and C-TAC Regulatory Council, since 2020. She is a widely published author (peer-reviewed and trade publications) and in-demand speaker. She earned an MA in End-of-Life Studies, with graduate honors, from Regis University, Denver; a Professional Advancement Certificate in Gerontology from University of Colorado–Colorado Springs; and a BA, Phi Beta Kappa, from Oberlin College.

***Alicia Morales, Adult & Long-Term Care Division Santa Cruz County***

Alicia Morales has worked in adult services for more than 26 years. Currently, she serves as the Public Guardian and the Director of the Adult and Long-Term Care Division in the Human Services Department of Santa Cruz County. Alicia began her career in Los Angeles County as an Adult Protective Services (APS) worker where she later went on to develop and deliver one of the first APS induction training programs. Alicia worked in Alameda County in various capacities, including probate conservator and Superior Court Investigator. Prior to leaving Alameda County, she served as the Director of the Division of Aging and Adult Protection. In that role she oversaw the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) as well as the elder justice programs within the Social Services Agency. She has served as the President of the California State Association of Public Administrators, Public Guardians and Public Conservators (CAPAPGPC) and co-chair of the Protective Services Operations Committee (PSOC), in addition to other leadership roles and her participation in several subcommittees. Alicia earned a BA in Psychology from University of California, San Diego, and an MA in Psychology from Pepperdine University.

***Carla Perissinotto, M.D., University of California, San Francisco***

Dr. Carla Perissinotto is an Associate Professor in the Division of Geriatrics, Department of Medicine at University of California San Francisco School of Medicine. She is Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine. Carla is dedicated to working in both community and academic settings. Her main work is in UCSF Care at Home--which provides medical care to home-bound older adults, and in embedded Geriatrics consult practices. From 2008-2017, Carla served as a primary care and consulting Geriatrician at the Over60 Health Center in Berkeley. In 2017, Dr. Perissinotto was appointed as the first Associate Chief for Geriatrics Clinical Programs at UCSF. Given the growth of clinical programs, the associate chief oversees and manages our both our inpatient and outpatient clinical programs which include Care at Home, Geriatrics consultation in the outpatient setting, and the new Acute Care for the Elderly (ACE) unit at Moffitt-Long Hospital, Orthopedic CO-Management programs and programs which are in development. Dr. Perissinotto graduated from the Tufts University School of Medicine in 2006. She works in San Francisco, CA and 3 other locations and specializes in Geriatrician, Internal Medicine and Hospice and Palliative Medicine. Dr. Perissinotto is affiliated with UCSF Medical Center Mount Zion, Alta Bates Summit Medical Center, and UCSF Medical Center Parnassus.

***Scott Pirrello, San Diego District Attorney's Office***

Scott Pirrello is the head of Elder Abuse Prosecutions for the San Diego District Attorney's Office and has been a prosecutor for 18 years. Since 2009, Scott has been assigned to the Family Protection Division prosecuting a variety of Family Violence cases including Elder Abuse, Domestic Violence, and Child Abuse cases. Scott now focuses exclusively on prosecuting all varieties of Elder Abuse including physical, financial, sexual, and neglect cases and the vulnerable victims that come with them. Scott has 49 jury trials to his credit and is an expert in Elder Fraud, Elder Abuse enforcement, prosecution, and on the multi-disciplinary team approach to Elder Abuse prevention evidenced by his involvement co-chairing the San Diego Elder Protection Council; Elder and Dependent Adult Death Review Team; and the

CDAAs Elder Abuse Committee. Scott also was instrumental in 2021 in creating the first of its kind San Diego FBI Elder Justice Task Force in collaboration with the FBI, APS, US Dept. of Justice, and San Diego local law enforcement to combat, investigate, and prosecute Elder Abuse Scams.

### **Bill Proulx, Senior Network Services**

Bill joined SNS in 2020 as our HICAP Program Manager after a long career with the YMCA. Bill coordinates SNS' HICAP program, supervising staff and volunteers, as well as assisting clients with their Medicare quandaries. Bill graduated from Capella University. When not at work, Bill enjoys hiking, mountain bike riding, and baseball being both a Red Sox and Giants fan.

### **Renita Polk, County Welfare Director's Association**

Renita Polk joined CWDA as Deputy Director of Aging, Disability, and Older Adult Services in May 2024. In this role, Renita supports county human services departments in the development and implementation of policies impacting older adults, as is responsible for budget and legislative advocacy relating to aging and disability policy. Prior to joining CWDA, Renita served as Assistant Director for the Office of Direct Care Workforce at the California Department of Aging. Before this she was a principal budget consultant for the California State Senate and a California Council on Science and Technology fellow in the California State Assembly. Renita earned a Bachelor's degree from Cedar Crest College, and a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

### **Bertha Sanchez Hayden, Bet Tzedek Legal Services**

Bertha Sanchez Hayden serves as a Directing Attorney at Bet Tzedek Legal Services. Bet Tzedek is a nationally recognized premier legal services firm in Los Angeles, California. Ms. Hayden currently oversees Elder Justice/Caregiver Direct Services & Access to Justice Programs. Ms. Hayden has dedicated her career in legal services to serving older and dependent adults and their caregivers navigating elder law issues. Ms. Hayden often speaks at local, statewide, and national conferences on complex issues of decision-making and service delivery models. She currently oversees (3) high traffic pro per programs in the areas of: Conservatorship (Guardianship), Elder Abuse/Dependent Adult Restraining Orders, and Decedents' Estate. Ms. Hayden recently served as a delegate at the World Congress on Adult Capacity. In 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom appointed her to the Professional Fiduciaries Advisory Committee where she currently serves as chair. In 2023, Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero appointed Ms. Hayden to Judicial Council Probate and Mental Health Advisory Committee. Ms. Hayden is also currently chair of the Elder and Disability Justice Coordinating Council (EDJCC) Conservatorship Subcommittee.

### **Daniel Salinger, Caregiver**

### **Tabatha Sebastian, MA, Psy, Wise & Healthy Aging**

Tabatha is the Director of Ombudsman Services at WISE & Healthy Aging for San Bernadino County. She is a dedicated advocate for older adults and people with disabilities, working tirelessly to ensure folks living in long-term care facilities maintain their civil rights and live with dignity and respect.

Previously, Tabatha was a Deputy RM at DPSS County of Riverside Adult Services and also held positions at DPSS County of Riverside Children's Services, County of Riverside DPSS Adult Services, and County of Riverside Behavioral Health Department.

Tabatha received a Bachelor of Science degree from Ashford University as well as a Master of Arts from Ashford University.

**Carol Sewell, California Elder Justice Coalition**

Carol Sewell is director of policy and a project lead on grant funded projects of the California Elder Justice Coalition and a faculty member of CSU, Sacramento's Gerontology Department. Prior to joining CEJC in 2022, Carol worked for over 15 years as legislative director for the California Commission on Aging, where she advocated for aging programs and policy advances across the state system. Over her 30-year career working on state policy, her primary focus has been on social justice, including elder justice, protection of Native American cultural resources, and assuring economic opportunities for rural communities. She previously served more than ten years as legislative staff in the State Assembly and for Governor Gray Davis. Carol earned her master's degree in Gerontology from the Davis School of Gerontology at the University of Southern California.

**Tom Scott, CA State Association of Public Administrators, Public Guardians and Public Conservators (CA PA|PG|PC)**

Tom Scott is the Deputy Director for Policy and Administration for the California Community Action Partnership Association (CalCAPA). CalCAPA exists to support Community Action Agencies and CSBG Entities to strengthen communities and enforce a unified Community Action presence in California. Prior to CalCAPA, he served as Regional Administrator, Region 9, Pacific Rim for the U.S. General Services Administration. Key responsibilities included oversight of programs and functions that reside in the region; provided leadership and advice on regional policy development; support and promotion of the Administrator and Administration's goals and objectives in the region and oversight of emergency response operations and activities in the region. He has served as the State Executive Director for the National Federation of Independent Business in California and prior to that was the State Executive Director of California Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse for approximately 20 years. Tom has an extensive background in both the private and public sectors. He has worked at all levels of government including positions in Los Angeles County, the California State Senate, and multiple positions in the federal government. Tom earned a B.A. in Political Science from California State University, Long Beach and an M.P.A. in Intergovernmental Management from the University of Southern California.

**Maureen Sullivan, JD, WEAVE**

Maureen is an attorney and older adult advocate with WEAVE, Sacramento County's oldest and largest nonprofit organization supporting survivors of various types of abuse. She currently serves as a Commissioner for the Sacramento Aging and Adult Committee, and the Sacramento County Financial Abuse Working Group.

Maureen was staff to First Lady Hillary Clinton's Health Care Task Force tasked with researching Medicare Fraud and Abuse. Maureen remained in DC for a few years representing nonprofit homes and services for older adults. Since arriving in Sacramento, Maureen has served in many roles and organizations addressing health care and aging issues.

**Jason Sullivan-Halpern, California Long-Term Care Ombudsman Assoc.**

Jason Sullivan-Halpern, the Director of the California Long Term Care Ombudsman Association (CLTCOA), joined the organization in November 2022 with over a decade of relevant experience working in the nonprofit and human services sectors. Prior to CLTCOA, Jason managed complex volunteer-based programs supporting vulnerable adults and low-income families for several nonprofit organizations in Sacramento and the San Francisco Bay

Area, including the Solar Community Housing Association (Davis), California CareForce (Roseville), Sacramento Tree Foundation (Sacramento), and Catholic Charities of the East Bay (Oakland). He also served as Programs Chair of the Board of Directors of the Directors of Volunteers in Agencies (DOVIA) chapter in Sacramento and volunteered with the East Bay Naturalization Collaborative in Oakland. Jason obtained his B.A. in Philosophy & Political Science from UC Davis in 2014. He studied law at The Pennsylvania State University and received his J.D. with concentrations in Advocacy and Public Interest Law cum laude in 2021. During his time at Penn State, Jason was Editor-in-Chief of the Penn State Journal of Law & International Affairs and President of the PSL Public Interest Law Fund. He also represented survivors of domestic violence in emergency hearings at the Clearfield County Court of Common Pleas while working with MidPenn Legal Services, a nonprofit legal aid provider.

**Janie Whiteford, *California IHSS Consumer Alliance (CICA)***

Janie Whiteford is a long-term advocate for issues affecting seniors and persons with disabilities where she had the opportunity to work with these populations at both Silicon Valley Independent Living Center, Valley Medical Center, and a small private practice. After retirement, she became very involved with CICA, a statewide organization she was instrumental in developing and where she is currently the President of the Executive Committee. She also represents CICA in many other non-profit organizations and State Committees addressing the needs of seniors and persons with disabilities. Having acquired a significant disability 35 years ago has given her an intimate perspective on the issues affecting many people with disabilities. Janie has three children, seven grandchildren and currently lives with her husband in the Bay Area.