

Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Committee Presenter Biographies – August 3, 2023 Meeting

California's Leadership in Implementing Federal Alzheimer's and Caregiver Plan Recommendations

Wynnelena Canlas Canio, MD

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.

Barbra McLendon

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."

Jared Giarrusso-Khlok

Jared has spent 15 years in public policy – both in higher education administration and policy advocacy, and now in aging policy advocacy. He currently serves as the Alzheimer's Association California State Government Affairs Director. During this time, he has advocated for policy solutions that support Californians receiving a timely and accurate diagnosis, improve the network of public and private care, and help individuals afford that care. Prior to joining the Alzheimer's Association in 2019, Jared advocated for nearly half a million Cal State students, working to advance policy solutions for student representation, student basic needs, and broad base college affordability solutions. Jared lives in Sacramento with his wife Anira, and two dogs, Chance and Cudi, and is originally from the San Francisco Bay Area.

Darrick Lam

Darrick Lam is an advocate for older adults & persons with disabilities with over 30 years of experience in aging and long-term services and support in both the public and private nonprofit sectors. He is passionate about DEI, dementia, health promotion & disease prevention, and mental health issues. Darrick started his new role in mid-July 2023 as the Vice President at Self-Help for the Elderly, a 501(C)3 serving older adults in San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara Alameda, and Contra Costa counties. In his new capacity, he assists the President & CEO in the oversight and management of the organization.

Before joining Self-Help for the Elderly, Darrick served as President & CEO of ACC Senior Services (1/2018 to 12/2022) and was instrumental in providing strategic leadership to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Darrick is the Vice Chair of the California Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Committee and a member of the California Long-Term Care Facility Access Policy Workgroup. He is also a Trustee of the UC Davis Foundation, a Member of its Global Campaign Leadership Council, the Founding Chair of its Family Fellows, and a Member of its DEI Taskforce. Darrick received his A.B. in Sociology-Organizational Studies from UC Davis (1987), and both his MSW (1990) and MBA (2016) from UC Berkeley.

Alzheimer's Plan Implementation Update

Susan DeMarois

Susan DeMarois was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom to serve as Director of the California Department of Aging effective November 1, 2021. As Director, Ms. DeMarois is committed to stakeholder engagement; equity and inclusion; and system transformation to prepare our state for the year 2030 when one in four Californians will be aged 60 or older.

Prior to joining CDA, Director DeMarois led public policy and advocacy for the national Alzheimer's Association in California, serving as the nonprofit organization's registered lobbyist in Sacramento where she advocated for legislative, budget, and regulatory changes at the state capitol. The organization led the effort to enact the first dementia early detection initiative in the nation focused on the Medicaid population: SB 48 (Limón) signed into law by Governor Newsom.

Ms. DeMarois served as an appointee to Governor Newsom's Alzheimer's Prevention and Preparedness Task Force, chaired by former First Lady Maria Shriver, in addition to the Master Plan for Aging Stakeholder Advisory Committee, a workgroup established by Executive Order. In addition, she represented the Alzheimer's Association on the CalHHS Agency Secretary's Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Committee.

Before working for the Alzheimer's Association, Ms. DeMarois led government and community relations for the UC Davis Health System where she gained deep health policy and clinical workforce experience. Early in her career, she worked for LeadingAge California, the professional trade association representing not-for-profit housing, residential care and skilled nursing providers.

A graduate of CSU Chico, Director DeMarois started her career working for the U.S. Congress and California State Assembly. She is a proud mom to two adult daughters, and draws inspiration for her work from her own mom's experience with dementia.

Lauren Groves

Lauren Groves, MPH, is the Chief of the Chronic Disease Control Branch at the California Department of Public Health. In this role, Lauren serves as a member of the Center for Healthy Communities leadership team and oversees and directs programmatic, scientific, professional, and technical staff in planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating chronic disease prevention programs. Lauren leads public health policy to align efforts across multiple chronic disease programs with a focus on upstream prevention activities to address social determinants of health. She plans, organizes, coordinates, and directs statewide chronic disease programs informed by surveillance and epidemiologic analysis and

implements policy, systems, and environmental change aimed to minimize negative health, social and legal impacts associated with chronic disease.

Lauren completed her Master's in Public Health, Health Policy, Administration, and Management, at the University of Texas and her Bachelor's in Community Health Education at the University of West Florida. During her time with the State of California, Lauren has led the team responsible for addressing Alzheimer's Disease in California which includes the grant program for research into the causes, treatment, and strategies for coping with and prevention of Alzheimer's disease. In addition, Lauren has been part of the senior leadership team at the California Tobacco Control Program where she led multiple successful campaigns targeted at reducing access to tobacco products in California. Prior to joining state service, Lauren worked in Public Health at American Cancer Society and Susan G. Komen building partnerships and leading teams responsible for funding programs fighting to end and prevent cancer. In addition, she worked as a consultant to multiple state departments throughout the country, leading a group of staff focused on quality improvement initiatives to maximize efficiencies and implement best practices within grant management programs. For over eighteen years, Lauren has had the opportunity to work on public health initiatives at the local, state, and national level.

[Update on the CDA Long-Term Care Facility Access Policy Workgroup](#)

Mark Beckley

Mark Beckley has served as the Chief Deputy Director of the California Department of Aging since December 2019. Mr. Beckley previously served as the Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) from 2015 to 2019 and previously served in the capacities of DCSS Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Director of Administration from 2007 to 2012. Mr. Beckley also served as Deputy Director of Administration at the California Department of State Hospitals from 2012 to 2015 and previously served in a variety of capacities for the California Department of Finance from 2001 to 2006. He graduated from the University of Southern California Sol Price School of Public Policy with a Master of Public Policy degree.

Brandie Devall

Brandie Grover Devall is an Attorney (III) with the California Department of Aging. Brandie has over 15 years of experience serving as an advocate for older adults, children, persons with disabilities, and incarcerated individuals, in both the public and private sector. Brandie's passions include racial equity, prisoner's rights, and mindfulness. She is a certified mediator, and yoga/mindfulness instructor. Brandie received her B.A. from Loyola Marymount, and her J.D. from Loyola Law School.