

2023-2024 IMPACT Stakeholder Committee Member Biographies

Eric Dowdy, MPPA is the Vice President of Public Policy (CA & NV) for the Alzheimer's Association. In this role, he leads and supports Nevada and the five California chapters (California Southland, Central, Northern California/Northern Nevada, Orange County and San Diego/Imperial) in their year-round advocacy program to achieve positive legislative, budgetary, and regulatory changes on behalf of individuals and families affected by Alzheimer's and related dementias. Eric is the statewide representative of the Alzheimer's Association at the capitol in CA and serves as primary point person to the Governor's Administration, State Legislature, key departments, and the broad health, aging and disability stakeholder community.

Eric Harris, JD is the Director of Public Policy at Disability Rights of California (DRC). He joined DRC in 2019 as a legislative advocate and then worked in DRC's Strategic Partnerships and Community Engagement Unit as a Special Advisor from October 2020 to February 2021. Eric was promoted to his current position at DRC in 2021. Mr. Harris has engaged in community work with disability leaders, community members, and elected officials throughout the country. Eric is a member of the State Independent Living Council as a Governor Newsom appointee, and a board member of the Resources for Independent Living in Sacramento.

Nancy McPherson, MPA is the State Director for AARP California, leading a team of staff and volunteers in advancing livable communities on behalf of AARP's 3.3 million California members and others who are 50+ and their families. Previously, Nancy led policing initiatives for the Police Executive Research Forum at the San Diego Police Department and served at the assistant chief level in both Seattle and Portland Police Departments. Nancy was a consultant to municipal leaders in the U.S., Albania, the Netherlands, and Canada, and a Special Master overseeing police reforms in Cincinnati as part of a federal court appointed monitoring team.

Sarita Mohanty, MD, MPA, MBA serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of The SCAN Foundation, one of the largest foundations in the United States focused entirely on improving the quality of health and life for older adults. Its mission is to advance a coordinated and easily navigated system of high-quality services for older adults that preserve dignity and independence. Prior to joining SCAN, Sarita served as the Vice President of Care Coordination for Medicaid and Vulnerable Populations at Kaiser Permanente. Sarita was previously Assistant Professor of Medicine at USC; Chief Medical Officer of COPE Health Solutions, a health care management consulting company; and Senior Medical Director at L.A. Care, the largest U.S. public health plan.

Doug Moore is the Executive Director of the United Domestic Workers of America (UDW/AFSCME 3930) which represents more than 115,000 in-home care providers across California. He also serves as International Vice President of AFSCME, helping to coordinate the International Union's actions on major national issues such as privatization, fair taxes, and health care. Thanks to his leadership in the aging and long-term care communities, he was appointed by the State Assembly to the California Task Force on Family Caregiving in 2017, and in 2019 he was elected to the Governor's Task Force on Alzheimer's Prevention and Preparedness. He also serves on the Board of Trustees for the Solidarity Center (AFL-CIO) as well as the Executive Committee of the International Domestic Workers Federation, where his focus is on worker solidarity and domestic workers' rights globally.

Sharon Nevins, LCSW, MA-PPM is the Director and Public Guardian for the San Bernardino County Department of Aging and Adult Services – Public Guardian. Ms. Nevins holds a dual Master of Arts in Social Work and Public Policy and Management and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, certified to practice in the State of California. She brings a wealth of experience and expertise in aging and behavioral health programs and services. Prior to Ms. Nevins joining the San Bernardino County Leadership Team, she served 22 years with the California Department of Mental Health, during which time she held the position of Executive Director for Metropolitan State Hospital.

Linda Nguy, MPP, MBA is the Associate Director of Policy Advocacy at the Western Center on Law and Poverty, specializing in health care issues that affect Californians with low incomes. Prior to joining Western Center, Linda worked with the States of Washington and Mississippi to help establish their state-based health exchange. She also worked on California's behavioral health adjudication system and as Policy Associate for the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California.

Kevin Prindiville, JD is Justice in Aging's (JIA) Executive Director. He is a nationally recognized expert on Medicare and Medicaid policy and has served as counsel in several class action lawsuits protecting low-income seniors' access to public benefits. Kevin is on the Board of Directors of the American Society on Aging. Prior to joining JIA, Kevin worked as a staff attorney at the Pennsylvania Health Law Project in Philadelphia where he represented low-income individuals having trouble obtaining health care.

Kiran Savage-Sangwan, MPA is the Executive Director of the California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN). CPEHN is a statewide multicultural health advocacy organization focused on eliminating persistent health inequities and addressing structural racism in healthcare. Kiran has been instrumental in positioning CPEHN as a leader in the health equity field, expanding CPEHN's work in public, mental, and oral health, deepening CPEHN's local advocacy impact, and developing new partnerships and campaigns. Kiran has a background in immigrant and mental health organizing and advocacy. Immediately prior to joining CPEHN, Kiran worked as the Director of Legislation and Advocacy for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) California.

Kathleen Sullivan, PhD serves as the Executive Director of Openhouse, an organization in San Francisco providing housing, direct services and community programs for LGBTQ+ older adults. Prior to joining Openhouse, Kathleen served as Director of the Senior Services Department for the Los Angeles LGBT Center; Executive Director of Generations Aging with PRIDE in Seattle, WA; Regional Director of EngAGE NW, and adjunct Professor at Oregon Health Sciences University/Portland State University School of Public Health.

Fernando Torres-Gil, PhD is a Professor of Social Welfare and Public Policy at UCLA, Director of the UCLA Center for Policy Research on Aging, and an Adjunct Professor of Gerontology at USC. He has served as Associate Dean and Acting Dean at the UCLA School of Public Affairs, and most recently Chair of the Social Welfare Department. His research spans important topics of health and long-term care, disability, entitlement reform, and the politics of aging. Professor Torres-Gil was appointed to the Federal Council on Aging by President Jimmy Carter, as well as appointed by President Bill Clinton as the first-ever U.S. Assistant Secretary on Aging in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In 2010 he received his third presidential appointment when President Barack Obama appointed him as Vice Chair of the National Council on Disability, an independent federal agency that reports to the Congress and White House on federal matters related to disability policy.