

Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Committee Presenter Biographies – November 2, 2023 Meeting

Recognizing Californians Living with Dementia and Their Caregivers

Mark Ghaly, MD, MPH

[Bio is available online](#)

Supporting Unpaid Caregivers of People Living with Dementia

Angalar Chi, DHSc, MPH

Dr. Chi has been with the California State health departments for 10 years between California Department of Public Health and Department of Managed Health Care. She is currently a Research Scientist at the Chronic Disease Control Branch, where she provides support to the Alzheimer's Disease Program while dedicating her time to doing research and applying data science on various chronic health conditions. Dr. Chi's academic and work experience background include genetics, psychology, public health, and population health.

Janice Bell

Janice Bell, MN, MPH, PhD, FAAN, is a Professor and Associate Dean for Research in the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing. She also directs the School's Family Caregiving Institute and, with Dr. Heather Young, co-leads the institute's evaluation unit. Dr. Bell's work focuses on serious illness care models with a focus on diverse family caregivers. She is co-PI on a project to evaluate the California state-funded expansion of services in the statewide Caregiver Resource Centers. This includes the roll-out of a new technology application called *CareNavTM*, a user-friendly tool designed to help families navigate the complexities of the caregiving journey by providing access to information, care consultation, resources and referrals. This presentation draws on data from CareNav to describe the population of caregivers served by the Caregiver Resource Centers.

Denise Likar

Denise Likar, MSW, MBA is the Deputy Director of the division of Home and Community Living for the California Department of Aging. She is helping to further the vision of building a California for all ages and abilities. Ms. Likar has more than 25 years of community-focused long-term services and support experience, aimed at providing older adults, adults with disabilities and their caregivers the proper supports to live in the setting of their choice. From her early career as a social services director in a skilled nursing facility to her work as vice president of Independence at Home at SCAN Health Plan, Ms. Likar has provided direct care, leadership, and advocacy to advance improvements to the community safety net of care. Ms. Likar received a master's in social work from the University of Southern California and a master's in business administration from Western Governors University.

Celine Regalia

Celine Regalia, MSW, MA CCC-SLP is currently the Executive Director of Providence Community Health Napa Valley (formerly Collabria Care). She was appointed 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 nonprofits 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.

Kathy Kelly

Kathleen A. Kelly, MPA, is Executive Director, Family Caregiver Alliance (FCA), National Center on Caregiving located in San Francisco. FCA is a national nonprofit that provides direct caregiver services, public policy development, research and public awareness regarding unpaid family caregivers of adults with cognitive impairments and chronic health conditions. She oversees the regional SF Bay Area Caregiver Resource Center providing direct caregiver services, leads the agency's strategy on digital engagement of family caregivers, CA policy collaborations and the National Center on Caregiving. She is a co-lead on the Best Practice Caregiving database with partners Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging and the Gerontological Society of America.

Recently Ms. Kelly led the statewide CRC expansion effort to digitize service delivery through CareNav™, an interactive, secure, cloud-based, family caregiver client record that provides automatic tailored consumer information, secure communications, care plans, service authorizations, and other agency documents. CareNav is used in FCA national client services and research projects. Ms. Kelly sits on a variety of state and national advisories and writes and lectures about family caregiving, public policy, consumer technologies, program and system development.

Dolores Gallagher-Thompson

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 Geropsychology 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.

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."

Older American's Act (OAA)/ Older Californian's Act (OCA) Modernization

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.

BOLD Public Health Programs Grant

Lynnley Stern

Lynnley Stern, DrPH, MPH, RD is the Interim Branch Chief of the Control Disease Control Branch in CHC. Lynnley has over 12 years of experience working in public health, including as a clinician and researcher in public health nutrition, wellness program manager in the private sector, outpatient registered dietitian and health educator, and serving governments at municipal, county, and state levels. She received her Bachelor of Arts in History and Politics from New York University, as well as her MPH, RD, and DrPH from Loma Linda University. She has authored publications in the *American Journal on Clinical Nutrition* and *Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience Journal*. As Interim Branch Chief, Lynnley she leads her stellar team in the multi-disciplinary management of public health programs that address chronic conditions and their risk factors.

Priorities from August Presentation

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.

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.

Legislative Update

Eric Dowdy

Eric Dowdy, MPPA, is the Vice President, Public Policy for the Alzheimer's Association. He leads and supports the five California chapters and serves as the regional liaison for Arizona, Hawaii, and Nevada chapters 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.

Prior to the Alzheimer's Association, Eric worked for LeadingAge California serving as their Chief Government Affairs Officer, responsible for the oversight of the association's public relations, policy development and advocacy efforts. Eric is the current Board Chair of the California Collaborative for Long-Term Services and Supports. He also serves on the Board of a nonprofit retirement community in Woodland, CA and a start-up nonprofit which develops employment opportunities for disabled adults. Eric holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of California, Davis and a Master's Degree in Public Policy & Administration from the California State University, Sacramento.