

Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Committee Presenter Biographies – February 1, 2024 Meeting

Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery for Persons with Dementia and their Caregivers

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.

L. Vance Taylor

Luis "Vance" Taylor is the Chief of the Office of Access and Functional Needs at the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. Vance leads the team responsible for ensuring the needs of individuals with disabilities and persons with access or functional considerations are identified and integrated into the State's emergency management systems before, during, and after disasters.

Vance was appointed by President Biden to serve as a member of the President's National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC) in 2022. As a member of the NIAC, Vance advises the White House on how to reduce physical and cyber risks and how to improve the security and resilience of the nation's critical infrastructure sectors.

Born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Vance was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy as a child and uses a power wheelchair. He has worked in Washington, D.C. as an advisor for two different members of Congress, directed security policy at a national water association, and been a principal at a ranked homeland security and emergency management consulting firm. Vance is a nationally recognized public speaker and advocate for individuals with disabilities. Vance has a Master's degree in homeland security from the University of Connecticut and an undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University in communications.

Sydney Schellinger

Sydney Schellinger is the Senior Emergency Services Coordinator for the California Department of Aging, with over 7 years of experience in emergency management. Formerly with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, she served as the project manager for the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) and led After Action Reports (AARs). Sydney played key roles in disaster responses, including Shelter support for the Camp Fire and serving as MHCC Lead for the COVID-19 response. She demonstrated leadership in large-scale campaigns as the Deputy Operations Chief for the state vaccination effort.

In her current position at the California Department of Aging, Sydney Schellinger has shifted her focus to building community and partnerships with state and local entities. Her mission is centered around supporting older adults and individuals with disabilities in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters. Sydney continues to be a driving force in ensuring the resilience of communities, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and proactive measures to safeguard vulnerable populations during emergencies.

Michael Butier

Since 2021, Michael Butier has been the Functional Assessment Service Team (FAST) Coordinator with the California Department of Social Services in the Disaster Services Branch. Michael is responsible for managing the CA State FAST program and partnering with county Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Coordinators to share best practices and build county-level FAST programs. This includes training and certifying both state and county FAST volunteers. During the past two years, Michael has trained and certified 500 state and county employees increasing FAST volunteer capabilities statewide.

California Department of Aging 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.

Alzheimer's Public Awareness Campaign Update

Lisa Gonzales

Lisa Gonzales, MPH serves as the Alzheimer's Disease Program (ADP) Communications & Prevention Lead. Lisa has been with ADP for two years and currently oversees its public awareness media campaign, Healthy Brain Initiative, & Dementia Friendly Community projects.

Older Adult Behavioral Health Initiative

Sarah Steenhausen

Sarah Steenhausen serves as Deputy Director of the Division of Policy, Research and Equity at the California Department of Aging. In this role, she collaborates with state departments and stakeholders in developing policy and research impacting older adults, people with disabilities and family caregivers to advance system change and realize the goals of California's Master Plan for Aging. Previously, Sarah served as Director of Policy and Advocacy at The SCAN Foundation. Sarah began her policy career in 2001 as a Consultant to the Senate Subcommittee on Aging and Long-Term Care, after which time she served as Assistant Secretary for Long Term Care at the California Health and Human Services Agency. Sarah holds a Master of Science in Gerontology from the USC Davis School of Gerontology and a Bachelor of Arts in History from Connecticut College in New London, Connecticut.

Stephanie Blake

Stephanie Blake serves as the Behavioral Health Specialist in the Division of Policy, Research and Equity at the California Department of Aging. In this role, she collaborates with state departments and stakeholders to advance and elevate behavioral health issues and policy for older adults and people with disabilities. Stephanie began her behavioral health career as an Assessment and Referral Clinician at Heritage Oaks Hospital, providing psychological assessment and support to individuals in a mental health crisis. Following that position, she served as a Research Consultant to the California Department of State Hospitals for projects related to individuals deemed Incompetent to Stand Trial and the Department's Diversion

program. She then transitioned into a policy role at the California Department of Social Services with a specific focus on Adult Residential Facilities. Stephanie holds a Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology from California Baptist University and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from California State University, Chico.

Legislative Update

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."

Jason Gabhart

Jason Gabhart joined the Alzheimer's Association in January 2024 as the Director of Government Affairs. Prior to joining the Alzheimer's Association, Jason served as the Director of State Affairs at the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM). In his time at SHRM, Jason worked closely with the California State Council of SHRM advocating for SHRM's interests in the California State Legislature, the Governor's office, and various state agencies and departments. Jason's previous career experience includes advocacy positions with the Association of California Life & Health Insurance Companies (ACLHIC) and Griffin & Associates, where he was a legislative and regulatory advocate with both entities. Jason began his career as an attorney with the law firm of Rich, Fudge, Morris & Iverson. Jason received a Juris Doctorate degree from UC Davis Law School, and a Bachelor in Arts degree in political science from UC Berkeley. He resides in Loomis, California with his wife and three children.