

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

### Call to Order: Welcome and Introductions, May Minutes

#### **Catherine Blakemore**

Catherine Blakemore has worked as an attorney and director, in legal aid and disability advocacy programs for 40 years. She retired as the executive director of Disability Rights California; the non-profit agency established under federal law to protect and advocate for individuals with disabilities. In 2016, she received the Loren Miller Legal Services Award, given annually to a lawyer who has demonstrated a long-term commitment to legal services.

Ms. Blakemore is dedicated to increasing equal rights and opportunities, access to services, and dignity for Californians with disabilities and individuals from other marginalized communities. She is the Vice-Chair of the California Commission on Access to Justice which works to identify innovative solutions and support efforts to increase access to courts and legal resources for low and modest means individuals and a member of the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission. Catherine currently serves as Chair of the California Health and Human Services Agency Alzheimer's Advisory Committee and is a member of the Department of Aging's Equity Advisory Committee on Aging and Disability. She previously served on Governor Newsom's Business and Jobs Recovery Task Force and the Master Plan for Aging Long-Term Services and Supports Subcommittee.

### Building a Community to Support Individuals with Dementia At Risk for Wandering

#### **Barbra McLendon**

Barbra McLendon has a deep background in public policy. For over 15 years, she has focused on aging and 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."

#### **Kirk Moody**

Kirk Moody grew up primarily in Colorado and attended the University of Colorado, Boulder, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Math. Moody moved to Southern California in the summer of 1981 where he took a job at TRW Inc. as a software and systems engineer. He met Nancy Paulikas on his first day of work. He received a master's degree in Math from UCLA in 1985. Kirk continued to work at TRW until 2001 when he retired.

Kirk married Nancy in 2002 after dating her for only 13 years. Although he did return as a part time consultant, the majority of Kirk's time in retirement was spent with Nancy, traveling to Europe, other states in the US, and participating in outdoor activities such as skiing and backpacking.

Nancy developed young-onset Alzheimer's disease and was diagnosed in early 2015. In Oct. 2016, Nancy's Alzheimer's had become quite advanced and she went missing from a family outing. Moody spearheaded a large community effort to locate her and continued to do so until her remains were identified over two years later. During this time, Kirk participated in the Bringing Our Loved Ones Home Task Force instigated by Supervisor Janice Hahn, providing some real-world experiences in the search for at-risk adults. He continues to participate in the resulting LA Found effort and is a board member of both Alzheimer's Los Angeles, and WISE and Healthy Aging.

### **Wynnelena Canlas Canio, MD, Vice Chair**

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.

### **Chloe Ferem**

Chloe Ferem has over 10 years of experience in the law enforcement field. She began her career working at the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System as a Transit Enforcement Officer then went on to become a Detentions/Corrections Deputy for the San Diego County Sheriff's Office. After 7 years, she became a Crime Prevention Specialist for the San Diego Sheriff's Office and has been assigned to Vista, Rancho San Diego, and Major Crimes. Chloe is the point of contact for the San Diego Take Me Home Program.

## **Finalizing Master Plan for Aging Initiative Recommendations**

### **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.

## **Carlos Olivas III**

Carlos Olivas, a devoted family man and primary caregiver, embarked on a transformative journey in 2015 when he left his career to care for his Dad living with Alzheimer's dementia. As a fellow with Caring Across Generations, a volunteer advocate for the Alzheimer's Association, and a local ambassador for Into the Dark Blue men's well-being group, Carlos passionately advocates for compassionate caregiving and mental health awareness. His role as a social media content creator amplifies his commitment, reaching a global audience with heartfelt narratives and valuable insights. A proud member of We are HFC's care influencer Care Squad and a caregiving.com Champion, Carlos is not just a caregiver but a dedicated speaker and guest on various media platforms, blogs, and podcasts. Through his experiences, he weaves a narrative that resonates with the universal themes of love, resilience, and the intricate dance of life's vibrant hues.

## **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. 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.

## California Department of Public Health Update

### **Lisa Gonzales, MPH**

Lisa Gonzales leads and serves as the Communications and Prevention Lead at the California Alzheimer's Disease Program. Lisa currently oversees the Healthy Brain Initiative and Alzheimer's disease public awareness media campaign. She has received the CDPH Public Health Acknowledging My Efforts (PHAME) Award for her commitment to advancing health equity in California. Lisa's expertise includes 11 years of health program management and local media campaign implementation, and over 12 years of health communication and education delivery. Lisa holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Health Policy and a Master of Public Health.

### **Cynthia Foltz**

Cynthia Foltz serves as the Alzheimer's Disease Program (ADP) Clinical Lead. Cynthia has been with the ADP for a year and currently oversees California Alzheimer's Disease Centers, Healthy Brain Initiative, & Standards of Dementia Care Project. Cynthia has over 14 years of experience working in public health. Her academic and work experience background includes nutrition, mental health, clinical health, and public health policy advocacy. As a mom of two she is motivated by her family daily and draws inspiration for her work from her own grandmother's experience with dementia and her mother-in-law's current journey with Alzheimer's.

### **Jarmin Yeh, PhD, MPH, MSSW**

Jarmin Yeh, PhD, MPH, MSSW, is an Associate Professor in the Institute for Health & Aging, Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences, in the School of Nursing at UCSF. Their work broadly investigates social justice issues that impact the quality of life of community-dwelling older adults, people living with dementia, and caregivers.

## Legislative Update

### **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 of Arts degree in political science from UC Berkeley. He resides in Loomis, California with his wife and three children.