

# **Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Committee Presenter Biographies – November 7, 2024, Meeting**

## **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.

## **Kim McCoy Wade, JD**

Kim McCoy Wade serves as the Senior Advisor on Aging, Disability and Alzheimer's for the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom. Prior to this, McCoy Wade was the Director of the California Department of Aging, CalFresh and Nutrition Branch Chief at the California Department of Social Services, a Public Policy and Philanthropy Consultant, and Campaign Manager for Together for California's Future. She also served as the Executive Director of the California Association of Food Banks, Director of Education and Advocacy for Food Banks of Northern California, Campaign Manager for the Alliance for Justice, and Senior Domestic Policy Analyst for Bread for the World. She earned a Juris Doctor degree from the New York University School of Law.

## **Claire Day**

Claire Day has been on staff at the Alzheimer's Association since 2001. She is the Interim Executive Director and Chief Program Officer at the Northern California and Northern Nevada Chapter, overseeing all care and support operations and research initiatives. Ms. Day is a clinical social worker and received her degree from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. She has more than twenty years of experience as a family and professional educator in dementia care. In 2018, Ms. Day was appointed the Chapter Lead for the US Study to Protect Brain Health Through Lifestyle Interventions to Reduce Risk (US POINTER) in California in partnership with UC Davis. US POINTER

is a two-year clinical trial to evaluate whether lifestyle interventions that simultaneously target multiple risk factors protect cognitive function in older adults at increased risk for cognitive decline

### **Jezabel Galvan**

Jezabel Galvan has a passion for increasing access to services for members of minoritized communities. She was working as a bilingual patient advocate, focused on maternal health, when her father was diagnosed with younger-onset Alzheimer's disease. Her personal experience helping her mother care for her father and witnessing the disparities in access to resources motivated Jezabel to pursue an internship with the California Department of Aging during graduate school. She recently received her Master of Public Health degree from the University of San Francisco, with a focus on leadership and policy. Jezabel is also a volunteer advocate for the Alzheimer's Association and has testified in support of proposed legislation. She continues to care for her father and also works as a medical interpreter, primarily for families with children on the autism spectrum.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Tina Fung**

Tina Fung is the manager for the Alzheimer's Disease Program at the California Department of Public Health. Tina has worked in the health sector for over 15 years, primarily in clinical research and community health education and screening. She received her Master of Public Health degree from San Jose State in 2012 and has worked at CDPH for nine years.

### **Eric Dowdy**

Eric Dowdy is the Vice President, 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 capital 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 serves on the CalHHS' IMPACT Committee, the CalOES Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee, and on Yolo Federal Credit Union's Supervisory Committee. In addition, he serves on the board of a start-up nonprofit which develops employment opportunities for disabled adults.

### **Barbara 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."