California Disability and Aging Community Living Advisory Committee (DACLAC)

Committee Membership 2027

Stakeholder Co-Chair

Hagar Dickman*, Justice in Aging*

Hagar is the Director of California LTSS Advocacy at Justice in Aging, where she leads advocacy to improve long-term services and supports and ensures all low-income older adults in California can access the services they need to age in place. Hagar's work focuses on reducing barriers to access and increasing availability of quality services so that older Californians can thrive in their preferred community settings. Hagar leads aging and disability coalitions in navigating both administrative and legislative landscapes, amplifying voices for aging and disability rights. She provides education and training to aging and disability advocates, and works to build a robust, accessible and equitable system of home and community-based services. Before her tenure at Justice in Aging, Hagar spent over a decade providing legal representation to marginalized communities, including those with mental health disabilities, justice-involved individuals, and veterans. Hagar received her undergraduate degree in Anthropology from Brandeis University, and her law degree in 2010 from Loyola University Chicago School of Law. She is admitted to the California Bar.

State Co-Chairs

Claire Ramsey, *California Department of Aging*

Claire Ramsey serves as Acting Director of the California Department of Aging. She has nearly two decades of experience in aging, disability, health and human services policy. Before joining CDA, she served as Chief Deputy Director for Disability, Adults and Housing Integration at the California Department of Social Services, where she oversaw adult services, community care licensing, disability determination, and housing and homelessness programs. She previously spent five years as a Senior Staff Attorney at Justice in Aging, leading advocacy related to Medi-Cal, In-Home Supportive Services, long-term services and supports, and California's Master Plan for Aging. Throughout much of her career, Claire has worked to strengthen access to health care, public benefits, and home- and community-based services that help older adults and people with disabilities live with dignity and independence. Claire earned her Juris Doctor from the University of California College of the Law, San Francisco, a Master of Arts from San Francisco State University, and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, Berkeley.

Kim Rutledge*, California Department of Rehabilitation*

Kim Rutledge was appointed Director of the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) in February 2025. Prior to that, she was the Deputy Director of Legislation and Communications at DOR since 2022. She held several positions at the California Department of Social Services from 2016 to 2022, including Chief of the Adult Programs Policy and Quality Assurance Branch and Adult Protective Services Program Liaison.

Kim held several positions at United Domestic Workers of America, AFSCME Local 3930 between 2012 and 2016, including Budget and Policy Analyst and Assistant Legislative Director. She was an Independent Policy Consultant at the County Welfare Directors Association of California from 2011 to 2012. Kim was a Sweeney Graduate Intern on Disability Policy at the National Academy of Social Insurance in 2011 and a Graduate Policy Intern at the Disability Community Resource Center from 2010 to 2011. Kim was a News Copy Editor at the Sacramento Bee from 2005 to 2009 and a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance. Kim earned a Master of Social Welfare degree from the University of California, Los Angeles and a Bachelor of Journalism degree from the University of Missouri, Columbia.

Stakeholder Committee Membership

Diane Alford, *Rolling Start, Inc.*

Diane Alford is a transformative servant leader with a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership (MSOL) and an Associate of Arts in Human Services. She has accumulated 25 years of experience in the health care field, leading teams focused on understanding the unique needs of aging adults. Her background positions her as an expert in navigating the complexities associated with elder care and support services. As a parent of a disabled child, Diane recognizes both the necessity and the value of tenacious advocacy for the rights of others. Her firsthand experiences have shaped her commitment to being a strong representative of those who require support, particularly seniors and individuals with disabilities. Diane brings five years of board-level experience within a non-profit organization. In this capacity, she has contributed to driving organizational health and ensuring long-term sustainability. Her leadership style is characterized by diplomacy and forthrightness, effectively aligning executive leadership with board-level oversight. This approach has enabled her to successfully navigate complex regulatory environments and support cultural transformation. Diane has extensive experience working with independent living centers. Currently, she serves as the Community Transition Coordinator, advocating for seniors and individuals with disabilities. In this role, she develops person-centered goals and connects clients to essential community resources, further demonstrating her dedication to empowering those she serves.

Jennifer Alley, *MSSP Site Association*

Jennifer Alley is Sacramento native and has worked in health policy for more than 20 years. In her current role as Executive Director for the MSSP Site Association, MSA, Jennifer advocates for seniors and their ability to remain in the community with necessary supports. Prior to this role, Jennifer advocating senior issues, behavioral health, and health insurance. Jennifer has a bachelor's degree in political science from California State University, Sacramento.

Joe Arsenith, *Placer County Public Health Division*

Joe currently serves as the Assistant Director of the Public Health Division in Placer County where he helped establish the county's Healthy Aging Program. He has worked in local government public health roles for 25 years and is on the Board of Directors at the Auburn Senior Center. He also volunteers at the Auburn Interfaith Food Closet. Joe holds a Master of Public Health degree as well as a Bachelor of Science in

community health and recently received a certificate in gerontology. Some of the areas he is currently focused on include aging in place and community supports, caregiver support and respite services, community engagement and senior center vitality.

Luke Barnesmoore, *Marin Senior Life Foundation*

Luke Barnesmoore serves on the Board of Directors for the Marin Senior Life Foundation. He previously worked as Director of Strategy & Business Development for Front Porch's Home Match program where he led public policy and advocacy efforts at the intersections of aging, housing, social connections and homelessness prevention. Luke previously served in a wide range of public service positions, from co-chairing the older adult subcommittee of the Marin County Continuum of Care through sitting on American Society on Aging's Equity & Justice Advisory Council and the Board of Directors for Village Movement CA.

Tanya Bautista, *California Association for Health Services at Home*

Tanya Bautista is the Director of Policy, Advocacy and Public Affairs for the California Association for Health Services at Home (CAHSAH). Established in 1966, CAHSAH is one of the oldest and largest state home care associations in the nation with a long tradition of service dedicated to promoting quality home care and enhancing the effectiveness of the home care industry for all. Tanya is an established policy and program director with over 15 years of experience in home health, aging, housing, and community-based services. Prior to CAHSAH, she worked as the Chief of Policy for the California Department of Aging advancing policy through the Master Plan for Aging. From 2012 to 2021, she worked for the California Department of Social Services as a policy analyst and policy supervisor with Community Care Licensing where she partnered with the Department of Developmental Services and the Department of Health Care Services to advance Home and Community Based Services with a focus on equity, efficiency and accountability. She also provides her lived experience as a sandwich generation caregiver with three school age children while supporting a parent with a dual diagnosis of schizophrenia and substance use disorder as well as a grandparent diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

Lewis Brown, Jr., *Corporation for Supportive Housing*

Lewis Brown, Jr., is a Senior Policy Manager for California State Policy at the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH), a national nonprofit organization and Community Development Financial Institution dedicated to ending homelessness. In this role, he leads high-impact state policy advocacy, advancing evidence-based solutions that expand and strengthen supportive housing across California. Lewis facilitates the Aging & Disability Homelessness Advocacy Coalition (AHDAC), a statewide network uniting leaders from the aging, disability, housing, and homelessness fields to advance state policy reforms addressing California's older adult homelessness crisis.

Mareva Brown, *Office of the Senate Pro Tempore*

Mareva Brown is the Human Services policy consultant for Senate President Pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins. In that role, she advises the Pro Tem on issues including Aging and Long-Term Care Services and Supports, Social Services programs such as Community Care Licensing, Developmental Services, the Department of Rehabilitation and other issues. Prior to joining the Pro Tem's staff, she was Chief Consultant for the

Senate Committee on Human Services, and had worked at the Senate Office of Research, focusing on policy and fiscal issues related to social services, developmental disabilities, mental health, and others.

Contessa Bunn, *Sacramento County Senior and Adult Services*

Contessa Bunn has over 25 years of experience coordinating, managing, and leading outreach efforts for state and government programs that support older adults and individuals with disabilities. Her work has included promoting access to specialized communication devices for individuals with hearing, vision, mobility, and memory challenges, as well as connecting communities to other state programs such as assistive technology services, in-home supportive services (IHSS), and aging and disability resource centers (ADRCs). Contessa worked closely with organizations throughout the greater Bay Area—conducting smartphone training for older adults and presenting on a range of state initiatives designed to enhance independence, safety, and quality of life. Her commitment to community has guided her in training hundreds of community organizations and building lasting partnerships in underserved areas. She brings practical insight and a collaborative spirit to help strengthen services and support systems for older adults and people with disabilities.

Olivia Burns, *The SCAN Foundation*

Olivia Burns, MSW, serves as the Senior Policy Analyst for The SCAN Foundation. In this role, she supports the Foundation's policy, communications, and program staff by tracking and analyzing trends in federal and state policy, communications, and programmatic efforts that may impact the continuum of care for older adults, people with disabilities, and their family caregivers. Previously, Olivia served as the Aging Texas Well Coordinator in the Office of Aging Services Coordination at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, where she analyzed state and federal aging policy and degree in social work with a focus in Gerontology and Administrative and Policy Practice from the Steve Hicks School of Social Work at the University of Texas at Austin. She earned her bachelor's degree in social work from Texas Woman's University.

Raymon Cancino, *Community Bridges*

Raymon Cancino is a nonprofit executive and systems leader dedicated to advancing equitable access to essential services for children, families, and older adults across California's Central Coast. As Chief Executive Officer of Community Bridges since 2014, he oversees a multi-program organization delivering critical support in nutrition, healthcare access, early education, transportation, and family stability. He is known for championing data-driven strategies, cross-sector partnerships, and public policy advocacy that strengthen community infrastructure and expand opportunity for underserved populations. Raymon brings a collaborative leadership approach focused on sustainability, operational excellence, and measurable impact on scale.

Min Change, *Homebridge*

Min is the CEO of Homebridge, a 500+ healthcare organization that serves over 75,000 of the most underserved populations and caregivers in San Francisco and across California. Min has over 35 years of experience in strategic leadership, financial management, business development, and operations, spanning six continents. Her

deep understanding of cross-cultural dynamics enriches her approach to serving diverse communities. In the past, she was the Chief Strategy Officer at On Lok, a healthcare company serving older adults in the Bay Area, President and CEO of Microsurgical Technology, a global medical devices company, and CEO at Kin On Health Care Center, a healthcare company specializing in long term care. Her background includes 13 years leading global marketing communications and other leadership roles spanning 10+ years, including at Omnicom Group, Honeywell, AstraZeneca, Otis Elevators, and Procter & Gamble and 11 years in management consulting with Ernst & Young, Booz Allen and Accenture. Min holds a Doctorate in International Affairs and a Master of International Public Policy from Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies. She received her Master of Science in Management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management and a Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pennsylvania. Min currently serves and is active with several organizations in SF and CA including the SFUSD Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee, SF IHSS Task Force, SF HSN Steering Committee, CA Collaborative LTSS and the SF Dignity Fund Coalition.

Le Ondra Clark Harvey, *California Behavioral Health Association*

Dr. Le Ondra Clark Harvey is a psychologist and the Chief Executive Officer of the California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies, a statewide advocacy organization representing mental health and substance use disorder non-profit agencies that collectively serve over 800 thousand Californians annually. She is also the Executive Director of the California Access Coalition, a group of advocacy organizations and pharmaceutical industry companies that advocate for patient access to behavioral health treatment. Dr. Clark Harvey has previously served as Chief Consultant to the California State Assembly Committee on Business and Professions, Principal Consultant to the Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development, and a health policy consultant to the office of former Senator Curren D. Price, Jr. Le Ondra has a history of service on several national and local boards including the American Psychological Association (APA) and has held prior positions on the Association of Black Psychologists, Sacramento County Public Health Advisory Board and the Sacramento County Children's Coalition. Dr. Clark Harvey was appointed by California Governor Gavin Newsom to his Master Plan on Aging Advisory Committee and the Behavioral Health Task Force in 2020. In 2021, she was appointed by California Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis to the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine Board. Dr. Clark Harvey completed her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She completed her pre-doctoral fellowship at the University of Southern California Children's Hospital Los Angeles and a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of California, Los Angeles Mattel Children's Hospital.

Warren Cushman, *Community Resources for Independent Living*

Warren Cushman is a totally blind advocate who has been doing advocating for over 30 years. He cut his teeth as a volunteer advocate while living in Sacramento and in 2004 ran a transportation ballot measure campaign. After moving back to the Bay Area, he was hired at Community Resources for Independent Living (CRIL) in Alameda County as a Systems Change Advocate. Warren works in the fields of transportation, housing and long-term services and supports. Warren is happily married and enjoys living in the Bay Area.

Rosalind de Lisser, *UCSF, Institute for Health and Aging*

Rosalind de Lisser, PhD, is a dually board-certified Psychiatric and Family Nurse Practitioner, educator, and health services researcher with over 25 years of experience in integrated behavioral health and primary care. She serves as faculty at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Institute for Health & Aging and leads psychiatry and addiction treatment services within the UCSF Women's HIV Program, where she provides trauma-informed, integrated care for medically and socially complex patients.

Dr. de Lisser's research focuses on geriatric mental health and the behavioral health workforce needed to support California's rapidly aging population. Her work examines workforce capacity, training pipelines, team-based care models, and system-level barriers affecting access to mental health services for older adults. At UCSF, she has held multiple academic leadership roles, including directing the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program during a period of significant statewide workforce expansion. Her scholarship also explores interprofessional team functioning, psychological safety, and clinician well-being as essential components of high-quality care for older adults and other vulnerable populations. Dr. de Lisser is committed to advancing California's Master Plan for Aging through workforce development, behavioral health integration, and sustainable community-based models that support aging with dignity.

Sabrina Epstein*, Disability Rights California*

Sabrina Epstein (she/her/hers) is a Policy Analyst at Disability Rights California. She works on issues affecting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, such as health care and housing. Her prior work includes COVID-19 research at the Johns Hopkins Disability Health Research Center and federal Medicaid policy research at the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC). Sabrina's work is informed by her experience as a disabled person.

Selina Escobar-Ortega*, Zócalo Health*

Selina Escobar-Ortega is a health strategy and community partnerships leader committed to advancing equity-driven, person-centered systems for older adults and people with disabilities. She currently works at Zócalo Health, where she focuses on building community-based care models that improve access, coordination, and outcomes for historically underserved populations. Selina brings experience across health system strategy, stakeholder engagement, and program development, with a strong emphasis on community living, caregiver support, and culturally responsive care. Her work is informed by close collaboration with community organizations, public agencies, and frontline providers to ensure services reflect real community needs. She is honored to serve on the Disability and Aging Community Living Advisory Committee and looks forward to contributing to the Master Plan for Aging's vision of inclusion, independence, and dignity for all Californians.

Elizabeth Fuller, *Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care*

Liz Fuller has twenty years in the Capitol, with 13 learning on the job as Consultant to the Legislative Women's Caucus. Her policy knowledge has grown in all areas impacting women and children, with emphasis in inclusion and equity, lactation accommodation, early care and education, military families and women in the military, harassment and sexual violence, economic and reproductive justice, application of Title

IX, maternal mental health and women's health and wellness. In the fall of 2019, she transferred her policy knowledge and passion for caregiving to the position of Chief Consultant to the Assembly Aging and Long-Term Care Committee, a policy area with endless opportunities for collaboration and growth. She is a proud mama bear, wife, sister, caregiver, and friend. She tries to live each day with her whole heart.

Joanna Glum, *Consumer Advocate*

For over a decade, Joanna Glum has been primary caregiver for the grandparents who raised her and care coordinator for the parents who didn't. As an unpaid, young adult family caregiver, she has lived experience navigating Medi-Cal (and its lapses), IHSS (throughout a period of housing insecurity), 1915c waivers, and cancer treatment within geographically managed care programs for a dual-eligible recipient. She is driven to expanding equitable access to HCBS, improved resources for the overlooked middle, which is not so middle anymore, and continued recognition, skills-training, and substantive material support for the family caregivers who thanklessly uphold California's Californians. In a parallel life, Joanna is a writer & filmmaker dedicated to reflecting the reality that older adults, people with disabilities, and those who care for them are in every other anonymous living room. She believes that "their" stories are everyone's stories, whether or not folks know it yet. In addition to tenure with DACLAC, she is a proud member of the California Coalition on Family Caregiving and volunteer with local LGBTQIA+-serving organizations in Northern California, which know that "family" is an expansive word. While her grandmother would've preferred she become a doctor, Joanna is proud and grateful to be here for those who might not have the privilege of wi-fi, of English language (policy) fluency, of time (spare or otherwise) to advocate for those who, too, believe their grandparent, sibling, child, friend, mentor, neighbor, or stranger in this beloved State deserve to live and age in their own home, in their own community. She knows her grandmother, who cared at home for her own immigrant mother until her passing, agreed. This is for you, little one, and everyone else we've never met.

Barbara Hanna, *California Association for Health Services at Home*

In 1979, Dr. Barbara Hanna started to provide temporary nursing staff for hospitals in Northern California. A short time later, she began to receive calls from community members asking her for assistance in caring for their loved ones at home. Understanding that people preferred to be at home while recuperating rather than in the hospital, she founded Home Health Care Management, Inc. Dr. Hanna graduated from California State University, Chico with a bachelor's degree in nursing in 1975. Dr. Hanna received a Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Science and Health-Care Leadership from the University of California, Davis in 2015. She has worked in a variety of health care settings, including acute care hospitals, adult day health care centers, dialysis clinics and home health. She has also taught nursing and allied health at Butte Community College, and Administration of Long-term care at California State University, Chico. She is a nationally certified case manager and has a California lifetime teaching credential for Nursing and Allied health. She has expertise in the areas of fall prevention and medication management working with older adults living in the community. In 2002, she was selected by the Centers for Disease Control to be a CDC/ASPH Institute Scholar for HIV Prevention Leadership in Atlanta, GA. She has worked on a statewide advisory panel for UCSF and the "California Twenty-First Century Workforce Project'

and was one of the founding board members of the Olmstead Advisory Group for the State of California (now known as the Disability and Aging Community Living Advisory Committee). Dr. Hanna enjoys working collaboratively with other agencies and organizations. She is skilled at partnering with diverse groups and organizations with varying purposes and roles to enhance and expand services in the community.

***Kate Hoepke**, Village Movement California*

Kate Hoepke is founder and board chair of Village Movement California, a coalition of 50+ villages advancing the Village Movement across the state. She has been a community-builder for nearly 40 years, in the field of aging since 2001 and the former Executive Director of San Francisco Village. Kate is the founder of 40 Mothers Clubs, social support networks for young families in the San Francisco Bay Area, which have served more than a million families since the early 1990's. Kate has a BA in sociology and an MBA from San Francisco State University, and she is a 2019/2020 Encore Public Voices Fellow.

***Corinne Jones,** Senior Network Services*

Corinne works as Director of Programs for Senior Network Services, serving Santa Cruz and San Benito counties. Corinne is a Gerontologist with extensive experience in older adult services. She is responsible for older adult programs including HICAP, CalAIM, Senior Housing Services, Information & Assistance and Family Caregiver Support. She was previously Program Director and Supervising Care Manager for the Multipurpose Senior Services Program. She was a volunteer with AARP as a District Liaison, an "age-in-place" intern at Westside Pacific Villages, and a state certified HICAP Counselor for the Center for Healthcare Rights. She previously worked for AT&T as a sales and customer service specialist, retiring after more than thirty years. Ever active in California aging, Corinne is a former member of the Aging and Disability Resource Connection Advisory Committee. She is committed to providing programs and services to ensure the best quality of life for older adults throughout California, using advocacy, community engagement, and other resources, to ensure their opportunity for independence and dignity. Corinne holds a master's degree in Gerontology from the Leonard Davis School of Gerontology at the University of Southern California, and a bachelor's degree in political science from Loyola Marymount University.

***Kathy Kelly,** Family Caregiver Alliance*

Kathleen Kelly is Executive Director of Family Caregiver Alliance, a national nonprofit organization that provides direct caregiver support services, public policy development, research, and public awareness regarding family caregivers. As director, she oversees programs of the Bay Area Caregiver Resource Center, California policy collaborations, and the National Center on Caregiving. During her tenure, the organization has grown from a grassroots program to a national organization that provides leadership on supporting family caregivers with best practice interventions, public policy, state system development, and leading-edge research.

***Kay Lee,** Commonwealth Adult Day Health Care Center*

Kay is the Executive Director of Burlingame Adult Day Health Care Center, Executive Vice President of Commonwealth Adult Day Health Care Center, and Executive Director of South County Adult Day Services. Kay has more than a decade of experience in

adult day services, providing multidisciplinary services for older adults to help maintain their health and well-being and live within the community of their choice. As an advocate for the adult day services community, Kay has been an active member of the California Association for Adult Day Services (CAADS) and serves as the current Board President and Chair of the Legislative & Advocacy Committee for CAADS. Kay also strives for improved collaboration between providers, agencies, managed care organizations, and other stakeholders. Having served as an inaugural member of the Crisis/Vision Team, which consisted of providers and state agency representatives, Kay worked with the team both during and after the COVID-19 pandemic to find solutions to continue providing essential services for California's most vulnerable adults throughout the uncertainties of the pandemic. Kay is also a member of the California Department of Aging (CDA) Community-Based Adult Services (CBAS) Quality Advisory Committee and the Cal Long Term Care Technical Advisory Committee. Kay is a trained attorney and received her Juris Doctor (JD) from Georgetown University Law Center, a master's degree in public health (MPH) from the University of California, Berkeley, a master's degree in gerontology (MAG) from the University of Southern California, and a bachelor's degree in English and Philosophy from Duke University.

Michelle Matter, *SDSU Center for Excellence in Aging & Longevity*

Michelle Matter is the Chief Operating Officer of the San Diego State University (SDSU) Center for Excellence in Aging & Longevity (CEAL), bringing more than 25 years of experience across government, higher education, and the nonprofit sector. Her work centers on advancing community-based solutions that address the complex and evolving needs of older adults, people with disabilities, and family caregivers. Michelle holds a Doctorate in Organizational Change and Leadership and a Master of Arts in Gerontology from the University of Southern California. Her doctoral dissertation was a promising practice study examining senior nutrition programs as a cost-saving intervention for Medicare. She also holds an MBA with a healthcare specialization and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, providing a multidisciplinary foundation for addressing policy, systems, and practice challenges in aging. Michelle also serves as a Board Member of the California Collaborative for Long Term Services and the City of San Diego Senior Affairs Advisory Board.

Michael McFadden, *Los Angeles LGBT Center*

Michael McFadden is a licensed clinical social worker with more than 20 years of experience serving diverse communities through nonprofit organizations and community-based health centers. He earned his Master of Social Work from Loyola University Chicago. Michael currently serves as Assistant Director for Senior Services at the Los Angeles LGBT Center, where he supports programs and initiatives that promote health, independence, and quality of life for seniors and older adults.

Kim Mills, *A Better Life Together, Inc; San Diego Regional Center Provider*

Kimberly Mills is the Founder and CEO of A Better Life Together, Inc. (ABLT). Since its founding in 2005, ABLT has been dedicated to supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families, ensuring that their needs are met with dignity, respect, and community inclusion. A passionate advocate for equity and access, Kimberly works to ensure underserved communities have the education, resources, and opportunities they need to thrive. Under her leadership, ABLT provides

training and outreach programs funded by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Kimberly actively contributes her expertise through her service on the DDS African American Focus Group, the Disability and Community Living Advisory Committee, and as the Southern Vice President of the California Community Living Network. Originally from Ohio, Kimberly holds a master's degree in Community Counseling from Kent State University. She is the proud mother of three sons—Antoine, Naeem, and Jaleni. The unexpected passing of her son Naeem in 2016, due to a seizure at the age of 22, reignited Kimberly's lifelong commitment to advocating for equity and inclusion for people of color within the IDD community.

Tracy Murray, *County of Contra Costa Aging & Adult Services*

Tracy Murray is the Director of Aging & Adult Services for Contra Costa County. She works with a team of dedicated managers to provide several programs for the county, including Adult Protective Services, In Home Supportive Services, General Assistance, Public Administrator, and the Area Agency on Aging. Her current management responsibility includes overseeing a department with 208 staff members and a budget of $125 million. Her previous professional experience includes leadership positions in the public, private and non-profit sectors. Ms. Murray lives in Walnut Creek with her husband Mark and dogs Dusty and Beau. Her horse Charlie is aging in place gracefully at a lovely barn in Briones.

Carolyn Nava, *Disability Action Center*

Carolyn Nava serves as Community Relations Director for the Disability Action Center (DAC), a nonprofit Center for Independent Living (CIL) founded in 1980 to meet specific needs of people with disabilities living in Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Siskiyou, Shasta, Tehama Counties, and an eastern portion of the Trinity County community. Ms. Nava assists DAC with local, and statewide public relations, publicity, and helps ensure DAC team quality service delivery, information and resources to people with disabilities, their care providers, and the public. In her capacity as a 20+ year multi-state licensed financial professional, she helps the CIL with resource development, grant relations and grant report preparations. Ms. Nava also chairs the Center's nine-county flagship Systems Change Activity, the Diversability Advocacy Network (DAN) that is currently promoting the region's designated Aging and Disability Resource Connection and supporting the far north state Local Master Plan for Aging Advisory Committee.

Gretchen Nye, *Chapman Consulting*

Gretchen Nye, MPH, is Policy Director at Chapman Consulting and has nearly 15 years of experience in health policy, healthcare operations, and managed care expertise, particularly as it pertains to individuals dually eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid. Gretchen previously served as technical advisor in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office (MMCO), where she oversaw both the ongoing operations and transition of the Capitated Financial Alignment Initiative for dually eligible individuals. For over 8 years Gretchen served as the CMS lead for the state's Cal MediConnect demonstration, working closely with the California Department of Health Care Services on health plan oversight and was the federal lead for the operational transition to integrated D-SNPs in California in 2023. Gretchen also directed CMS regulatory work intended to improve the care delivery experience of

dually eligible individuals in managed care through dual eligible special needs plans integrated with Medicaid managed care organizations and managed MMCO capacity building efforts for providers serving dually eligible individuals, particularly those living with disability.

John Casimiro Perales, *Pilipino Workers Center*

John Casimiro P. Perales is a Workforce Development Program Manager at the Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California, where he leads workforce initiatives focused on strengthening the care economy and expanding high-quality career pathways for homecare workers. He currently manages the Caring Workforce Training Program, a High Road Training Partnership supported by the Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity, which trains caregivers in essential care skills, workers' rights, and cooperative business models while connecting them to employment opportunities. In his role, John designs and implements workforce training programs, builds partnerships with community organizations, employers, and public agencies, and oversees program delivery across multiple regions in Southern California. He also collaborates with the United Domestic Workers of America AFSCME Local 3930 to support training initiatives that strengthen professional development opportunities for caregivers working in the In-Home Supportive Services system. John also works closely with Vivid Life Homecare Cooperative, where he helps lead and design vocational training programs that prepare caregivers to become worker-owners. His work supports caregivers not only in developing caregiving competencies but also in building leadership, governance, and cooperative business management skills. John brings experience in education and workforce development and is committed to advancing equitable workforce systems that expand economic mobility and strengthen the long-term stability of the caregiving workforce.

Andrea Robert, *Consumer Advocate*

Andrea Robert is a dedicated consumer advocate with professional experience in human services and mental health case management. Living with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) resulting from a traumatic brain injury and other contributing conditions, she brings both lived and professional insight to her advocacy for individuals with dementia, disabilities, and aging adults. Andrea co-founded a national Alzheimer's Association support group for people with younger-onset and other cognitive impairments and previously served on the CalHHS Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Committee. She is passionate about expanding access to quality resources and direct services for underserved communities across California.

Gabriel Rogin, *Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA)*

Gabriel Rogin is the Director of Leadership Development at the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA). Gabriel works closely with ARCA's Board of Directors and regional centers across the state to further the Association's learning development and mentorship priorities. Gabriel has worked with people with developmental disabilities and their families for over 30 years and has consistently achieved meaningful outcomes on both the individual and system levels. Gabriel is committed to the principles of self-determination and has dedicated his career to making the service system more responsive, efficient, and effective. For the last eight years, Gabriel was the Executive Director of North Bay Regional Center, providing support for individuals and families in

Napa, Solano, and Sonoma Counties. Prior to that, he served as the Acting Chief Deputy Director for the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, helping to lead the Council's advocacy, capacity building, and systemic reform efforts. He has worked as a direct support professional, case manager, and in multiple other management positions. Gabriel holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from California State University, East Bay.

Meghan Rose, *LeadingAge California*

Meghan Rose joined LeadingAge California in 2014. Ms. Rose serves as in-house legal counsel and oversees the government affairs work of the organization. For almost a decade, Ms. Rose has worked to expand access to affordable housing and healthcare for low-income older adults. This work has led to the development of LeadingAge California's Social Impact Initiatives including Diversity Equity and Inclusion, California Integrated Care at Home, Broadband Access, and Data Sharing.
Prior to joining LeadingAge California, Ms. Rose worked as a civil litigator. She started her career as an Executive Fellow in the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. She has also held fellowships in the Assembly Committee on Public Safety, the Leon Panetta Institute for Public Policy, and the Santa Clara County Counsel's Office. Ms. Rose holds a Bachelor's degree in Politics and Economics from the University of San Francisco, and a Juris Doctorate from the Santa Clara University School of Law. Ms. Rose serves on the UCLA Ziman Center for Real Estate Affordable Housing Advisory Committee and the Area 4 Agency on Aging Governing Board. She enjoys volunteering at her kids' school and mentoring future attorneys and policy work.

Michelle Rousey*, Consumer Advocate*

Michelle Rousey is a community consumer advocate and activist, an organizer for seniors and people with disabilities for nearly 35 years. Michelle has worked on several initiatives, including Money Follows the person, Local IHSS, and CA statewide IHSS advisory committees. Michelle has been member of the Disability and Aging Community Living Advisory Committee (formerly Olmstead Advisory Committee) for many years and currently works with local transportation committees.

Serom Sanftner, *East Bay Innovations*

Serom Sanftner, LCSW, is the Associate Executive Director at East Bay Innovations (EBI). With over 15 years of experience, Serom brings a "ground-up" perspective to leadership, having progressed from a Direct Support Professional (DSP) to executive management. She is well-versed in navigating California's complex Home and Community Based Services (HCBS), managing funding through the DHCS, DOR, and DDS (via Regional Centers), as well as Managed Care Plans (MCP). Recognizing that community living is impossible without community options for living, Serom and her colleagues at EBI partner extensively with nonprofit housing organizations to bridge the gap between healthcare and housing. Serom excels at helping individuals map out complex benefits to ensure a seamless experience that prioritizes continuity of care and independence for adults with disabilities and older adults. Currently a doctoral student in the Leadership and Innovation (EdD) program at the University of the Pacific, Serom focuses on finding creative, sustainable solutions to systemic issues through root-cause identification. Most recently, she has applied for this lens to overseeing the DDS Assistive Technology Pilot. A Licensed Clinical Social Worker, she holds an MSW from

CSU East Bay and a BA in Psychology from UC San Diego. A recipient of the 2020 Unsung Heroes Award, Serom is a firm believer that systemic success is a team effort and remains a dedicated advocate for the right of individuals of all abilities to age and live with dignity in their own homes.

Jeff Thom, *California Council of the Blind*

Jeff Thom graduated from Stanford Law school in 1978, after obtaining a bachelor's degree in political science from Willamette University. Jeff worked as an attorney for the California Legislature for 30 years. He is a past president of the California Council of the Blind and its current voluntary Assistant Governmental Affairs Director. Jeff is a current board member and former first vice president of the American Council of the Blind. He has served in a variety of blindness-related capacities on the national, state, and local level, including as a board member of the American Foundation for the Blind. He is a past president of both the board of directors of Disability Rights California and of the Alliance on Aging and Vision Loss. Jeff also served on the Blind Advisory Committee to the California Department of Rehabilitation. He is married, is a father of five, and grandfather and has had more than a dozen foreign exchange students. Among the awards he has received is the 2008 California Public Lawyer of the Year.

Debbie Toth, *Choice in Aging*

A native Californian and fierce advocate for the underserved, Debbie Toth fell in love with her oldies in her high school years. She has been with Choice in Aging for two decades, beginning her career as the adult day health program director and now as President & CEO. Debbie has served on a multitude of advocacy and advisory bodies including the Paratransit Coordinating Council, the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Committee, co-chair of the East Bay Leadership Council Healthcare Task Force, and most notably the California Master Plan for Aging Stakeholder Advisory Committee. She is a wife, a mother, a nagyi (Hungarian granny), and a friend. In 2015, Debbie was awarded Assembly District 14 Woman of the Year by Assemblymember Susan Bonilla.

Nina Weiler-Harwell*, AARP California*

Nina Weiler-Harwell, AARP California Nina Weiler-Harwell Ph.D. is Associate Director, Advocacy and Community Engagement for AARP California. During her more than 28 years at AARP, Nina has managed federal and state advocacy campaigns on multiple aging-related topics, including caregiving, long-term supports and services (LTSS), Social Security, Medicare, and the federal Affordable Health Care Act. Nina currently serves as AARP's California lead on caregiving, home and community-based services, LTSS, and state budget advocacy. Nina leads AARP California's public education campaign on the realities and costs of family caregiving, Tomorrow's Caregiving Today. She directed AARP's efforts on the legislation that created the California Task Force on Family Caregiving (ACR 38- Brown) and represents AARP on the California Aging & Disability Alliance (CADA), which is leading statewide efforts to create a model long-term care insurance benefit. Nina served on the Stakeholder Advisory Committee and the LTSS Subcommittee for the California Master Plan for Aging, where she worked to ensure that AARP's caregiving, LTSS financing, and age-friendly priorities were included in the Plan's final recommendations. Nina holds an MA and Ph.D. degrees in Political Science from the University of Southern California.

Janie Whiteford, *California In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Consumer Alliance*

Thirty-five years ago, Janie Whiteford was in an accident resulting in an injury causing paralysis and quadriplegia, an incident that changed her life's focus. After college she became a social worker and then a teacher. After her injury she obtained a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling and focused on educating and advocating for disability issues, particularly about the Americans with Disabilities Act after. Her professional work is dedicated to counseling persons with disabilities and seniors at both the Independent Living Center in Santa Clara and at the local County hospital. Whiteford has always been passionate about volunteer work. When IHSS initiated the Public Authorities and the Advisory Committees, she became involved in its development in Santa Clara County, drawing on her many years of experience educating persons with disabilities about how to hire, manage, and if necessary, fire providers. As the current President of the California In-Home Supportive Services Consumer Alliance, she advocates on issues affecting both seniors and persons with disabilities both at the local, State, and Federal levels. Being involved with other state organizations has helped to broaden her perspective and identify opportunities for engagement.

Silvia Yee, *Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)*

Silvia Yee is the Public Policy Director at Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF) where her work includes projects to increase physical and programmatic accessibility and disability awareness in the delivery of health care services, as well as some limited impact litigation to increase access for people with disabilities in myriad aspects of public and private life. Ms. Yee maintains interests in health care reform, international disability rights, and the implementation of cross-disability and cross-civil rights communities. She received her B.M., M.A., and L.L.B. degrees from the University of Alberta. Yee views health care as a civil right for people with disabilities since community integration cannot be practically achieved without appropriate home and community-based care, including long-term services and supports as well as health and wellness care. Over the past decade, Ms. Yee has presented and written on how health and healthcare disparities, civil rights, public health, social drivers of health, prenatal genetic testing and engineering, and data collection/storage/use practices affect people with disabilities who also experience intersecting characteristics of race/ethnicity, LQBTQ+ status, age, and low income.

Sylvia Yeh, *Friends of Children with Special Needs; San Andreas Regional Center & Regional Center of the East Bay Provider*

Sylvia Yeh, a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW), serves as the Executive Director of Friends of Children with Special Needs (FCSN). Since her employment with FCSN in 2006, she has focused on building a solid foundation and robust infrastructures, developing holistic programs, securing financial stability, and building networks with community organizations and governmental resources to ensure the delivery of exceptional services for individuals with disabilities. She has successfully established 17 programs and services through the vendorization process of the CA Departments of Developmental Disability Services (DDS) and Rehabilitation (DOR). Under her

leadership, FCSN has received many awards, such as Non-Profit of the Year (2020), Leadership in Community Services (2018), Innovation Award (2017), Distinguished Honoree Award (2014), and Service Provider of the Year (2014). With over 20 years of dedication in the developmental services and social work sector, Sylvia is committed to helping the underprivileged populations, advocating for racial and social justice, seeking solutions to decrease cultural inequity and service disparity, promoting civil engagements, and building a brighter future for them. She is dedicated to empowering individuals with special needs and families to make decisions for their lives, direct the care and services based on their preferences, live out their best through support, and be included and treated with respect in the community.

Leticia Zuno, *Access to Independence of San Diego, Inc.*

Center for Independent Living serving the counties of San Diego, Imperial, and Honolulu. Ms. Zuno has been with Access to Independence since 2005, initially in the capacity of Manager with direct oversight of independent living services in Imperial County before transitioning into the Executive Director role in 2017. Ms. Zuno has also served as the agency's data and reporting quality control team, compiling all programmatic and grant-related data and analysis to the present day. She has previously held elected public office, in the capacity of School Board member, from 2012-2016 and subsequently appointed Planning Commissioner from 2016 - 2020, serving as the only woman on a Commission of ten commissioners. Ms. Zuno is a Certified ADA Training Facilitator, holds credentials in DSM-IV Diagnosis and Work Incentives and Benefits Planning. She served as Vice-Chair of the Area Agency on Aging council, the Transition Partnership Program for over 10 years and was a voting member of the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council, advocating for the needs of people with disabilities. Ms. Zuno holds higher education degrees in English & French Literature, a master's degree in leadership & governance and a Law Degree in Civil Rights and Legal Advocacy.