



California's Culture of Coverage:

Achieving and Implementing Equitable Universal Health Care

March 30, 2022 | 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Speaker Biographies

Government Perspective: Closing the Coverage Gap in California

Wednesday, March 30, 2022 | 9:35 – 10:20 a.m. PT

Marko Mijic, MPP

Marko Mijic (he/him) serves as the Undersecretary at the California Health and Human Services Agency. In this role, Marko oversees 12 departments and five offices, which includes over 34,000 employees and a total annual budget of approximately \$200 billion.

As Undersecretary, Marko leads all policy development and implementation, and manages the day-to-day operations of the Agency. He is focused on streamlining government and improving operational efficiency; expanding access to health and human services; building an equitable recovery from the pandemic; integrating health, behavioral health and social services to promote whole-person care; and improving the delivery of services for older Californians and people with disabilities.

Prior to being appointed as the Undersecretary by Governor Gavin Newsom, Marko served as Deputy Secretary for Program and Fiscal Affairs since 2019 and as Assistant Secretary since 2015. Marko also served as Acting Director of the California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development from 2020 to 2021.

Prior to joining the California Health and Human Services Agency, Marko worked at the American Heart Association and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, DC. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, Utah and his Master of Public Policy degree from the American University School of Public Affairs in Washington, DC.

Cathy Senderling-McDonald

Cathy Senderling-McDonald (she/her) was named Executive Director of CWDA effective January 1, 2021 – following the retirement of long-time Executive Director Frank Mecca.

In this role, she leads the association staff in working with the CWDA Board of Directors and partner organizations to promote legislative, budget and policy changes that improve human services programs and the delivery of those services.

Cathy served as the Deputy Executive Director from 2010 through 2020. She joined CWDA in 2000 as the association's legislative advocate and later became senior legislative advocate until her promotion to deputy executive director.

Prior to joining CWDA, she served as the California Senate Budget Committee consultant for social services programs and a fiscal and policy analyst for the California Legislative Analyst's Office. She has a bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of Missouri at Columbia, and a master's degree from the Heinz School of Public Policy and Management in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Cathy currently serves on the National Association of Counties (NACo) Board of Directors as a representative of the National Association of County Human Services Agencies (NACHSA), of which she is the immediate past president. She is Vice Chair of the Aging Subcommittee of the NACo Human Services and Education Steering Committee, of which she is a longtime member.

Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula, MD

Dr. Joaquin Arambula was elected in April 2016 in a special election to represent California's 31st Assembly District. Assemblymember Arambula now serves the cities of Biola, Bowles, Calwa, Cantua Creek, Caruthers, Coalinga, Del Rey, Easton, Firebaugh, Fowler, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Monmouth, Orange Cove, Parlier, Raisin City, Reedley, San Joaquin, Sanger, Selma, Tranquility and approximately 41% of the City of Fresno.

Dr. Arambula (D-Fresno) is the first Latino physician ever elected to the State Assembly. Prior to running for office, Dr. Arambula served as Medical Director of California Emergency Physicians at Adventist-Selma Hospital. As a member of the State Assembly, he plans to use his experience as an emergency physician to advance the precept that health care is a fundamental human right.

Dr. Arambula attended medical school with the goal of serving rural communities similar to where he was raised.

Since his election, he has focused on the shortage of doctors in the Central Valley. To help this shortage in rural communities, Dr. Arambula has been a vocal advocate for building a new medical school in the San Joaquin Valley, with the hope of encouraging more trained medical professional to remain in their communities.

As a doctor, he has been on the frontlines of some of the most serious challenges and has seen the issues that impact the lives of Valley residents. His experience working in the emergency room galvanized his commitment to ensuring that everyone, regardless of their social or

economic status, receives the care they deserve. Seeing patients in the emergency room taught him that investment in preventative care is key to building healthier communities.

Communities in the district Dr. Arambula represents are some of the most disadvantaged in the state, with some of the highest poverty rates and highest exposure to environmental pollution. To that end, he has been working to ensure that pollution prevention programs are benefiting the areas most impacted by greenhouse gases and other pollutants.

His other primary focus will be on improving access to and availability of water in the Central Valley. He is currently working closely with the San Joaquin Valley delegation in advocating for the Temperance Flat Dam.

He was born and raised in the San Joaquin Valley and his parents instilled in him a commitment to hard work and public service, as well as a dedication to making the Central Valley a better place to live, work and raise a family. Dr. Arambula said that he and his siblings learned from their parents the importance of giving back to the community: “They instilled in us a deep commitment for helping those less fortunate.”

Dr. Arambula and his wife, Elizabeth, live in Fresno with their three daughters.

Policy Perspective: Making Universal Coverage Successful for Californians

Wednesday, March 30, 2022 | 10:20 – 11:05 a.m. PT

Amy Adams, MSW

Amy Adams (she/her) is a senior program officer for CHCF’s Improving Access team, which works to improve access to coverage and care for Californians with low incomes. Her most recent work has focused on making it easier for Californians eligible for Medi-Cal get and keep their coverage and eliminating immigration status as a barrier to Medi-Cal eligibility. Prior to joining the foundation, Amy worked for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), where she worked on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Medicaid policy and financing issues in California and other states. She received a bachelor’s degree in American Studies from Yale College and a master’s degree in social welfare from the University of California, Berkeley.

Anthony E. Wright

ANTHONY E. WRIGHT (he/him) has served as Executive Director for Health Access, the statewide health care consumer advocacy coalition since 2002. Health Access has led state and national efforts to win consumer protections, fight budget cuts and invest in our safety-net, encourage prevention, and advance coverage expansions and comprehensive health reform. Wright led California’s coalition effort to help pass the Affordable Care Act and state laws to

implement and improve it, and campaigns to successfully pass first-in-the-nation laws to ensure timely access to care, and to stop hospital overcharging of the uninsured.

As a consumer advocate and community organizer, Wright has been widely quoted in state and national media. He has also worked for New Jersey Citizen Action, the Center for Media Education, The Nation magazine, and in Vice President Gore's office in the White House.

Born and raised in the Bronx, Wright graduated from Amherst College magna cum laude in both English and Sociology. He lives in Davis with his wife Jessica, and his son Jefferson.

Sarah Dar, MPH

Sarah Dar is CIPC's Director of Health & Public Benefits Policy in Los Angeles. Sarah received her Bachelors in Psychology and Global Health Studies from Northwestern University and Masters in Public Health from the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. She has participated in community organizing around a number of issue areas, including as a member of Bend the Arc's 2013 Community Organizing Residency. Sarah served as the Program Coordinator at American Muslim Health Professionals (AMHP) and led enrollment and outreach around the Affordable Care Act as a Navigator with Health Access MN. Before joining CIPC, she worked in the Navigator Program at MNSure, Minnesota's state health insurance exchange.

Kiran Savage-Sangwan, MPA

Kiran Savage-Sangwan (she/her) is the Executive Director of the California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN). CPEHN is a statewide multicultural health advocacy organization, focused on eliminating persistent health inequities and addressing structural racism in health care. Prior to becoming Executive Director in 2019, Kiran served as CPEHN Deputy Director and Health Integration Policy Director. Kiran has a background in immigrant and mental health organizing and advocacy. She also previously served as the Chairperson of the Sacramento Community Police Review Commission. Kiran graduated from New York University with a B.A. and a Master of Public Administration.

Cori Racela, JD

Cori Racela (she/her) is Deputy Director of the Western Center on Law & Poverty and a senior attorney on its Health Team. She manages the impact litigation team, which fights on behalf of low-income Californians in access to health, housing, public benefits, and access to justice. Her health work encompasses policy advocacy and litigation focused on Medi-Cal eligibility and due process rights. She leads Western Center's initiative to center racial justice in the organization's external and internal efforts. Before Western Center worked with both National Health Law Program and Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County. Cori received a J.D. from American University's Washington College of Law, where she was Editor-in-Chief of the Journal for Gender, Social Policy & the Law, and her B.A. from Harvard.

Tiffany Huyenh-Cho, JD

Tiffany Huyenh-Cho (she/her) is a senior staff attorney in the health team at Justice in Aging. She focuses on issues involving low-income older adults dually eligible for Medicare and Medi-Cal benefits in California. She works in collaboration with government agencies and consumer stakeholders to develop and implement policies and initiatives to improve access to health care and long-term services and supports for low-income older adults in California. Prior to Justice in Aging, she provided direct legal services at a legal aid program in the Bay Area, helping low-income individuals access health insurance and health care services. Tiffany earned her law degree from the University of Michigan Law School and her undergraduate degree from UC San Diego.

Local Perspective: Implementing Coverage Expansion in California Communities

Wednesday, March 30, 2022 | 11:05 – 11:55 a.m. PT

Madeline Sabatoni, MPA

Madeline Sabatoni (she/her) has been with Sierra Health Foundation and The Center at Sierra Health Foundation since 2012 and currently serves as the Program Officer for the Asthma Mitigation Project, an effort focused on asthma home visits, education and environmental remediation for Medi-Cal clients. Madeline recently led the Medi-Cal Health Navigator project in four counties to help facilitate Medi-Cal outreach, enrollment and retention with community-based organization partners. She co-authored a white paper on this work, entitled “Medi-Cal Health Navigator Project: Lessons Learned in Medi-Cal Outreach and Enrollment in Rural Northern California.” Prior to these projects, she worked on a number of programs, including the Black Child Legacy Campaign and the Steering Committee on Reduction of African American Child Deaths, the Positive Youth Justice Initiative and the Leadership Development for Racial Equity program.

Prior to joining Sierra Health Foundation and The Center, Madeline worked as the Development Director at the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers and as the Development Coordinator at the California Coalition for Youth.

Madeline received her Master of Public Administration from New York University, where she was a 2008 Sterling D. Spero Prize winner for excellence in writing, and received a Bachelor of Science from the University of Portland.

Noe Paramo, JD

Noe Paramo (he/him) is on staff of California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation as a project Director and Legislative Advocate. For 15 years, Noe worked for California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. at the Modesto office. Noe has served on many policy and non-profit boards

addressing health access, social justice and racial equity policies supporting farmworkers and rural poor communities. In 2021, Congressman Josh Harder presented Noe with the Certificate of Congressional Recognition Central Valley Latino Leadership Award. Noe is from an immigrant farmworker family that settled in Woodlake, a small city in Tulare County. He is the first in family to graduate from high school, obtained a BA degree in Political Science from UC Davis and a JD from Hastings College of the Law. Noe resides in Modesto with his family, where he enjoys bicycling.

Anni Chung

Anni Chung (she/her) oversees and manages a Bay Area community-based organization, Self-Help for the Elderly that provides a comprehensive range of health, educational, social and recreational services to over 40,000 seniors a year.

Since 1966, Self-Help provides a comprehensive range of eldercare services that includes Senior Nutrition, Case Management, Senior Escorts, Affordable Housing, Licensed HomeCare and Hospice, Adult Day Services, Emergency IHSS, Employment and Training for Older Workers, HICAP, Transportation, and Residential Care for Alzheimer's patients. Self-Help operates 15 Senior Centers, three Affordable senior housing projects, and the Chinatown One-Stop Career Link Access center for immigrant job seekers.

With a staff of over 300 and an annual budget of \$28 million, Self-Help started in San Francisco Chinatown and now serves seniors in five Bay Area counties: San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Anni is Self-Help's CEO since 1981.

Anni currently serves on the Steering Committee of API Council. She also serves on the Board of Wildflowers Institute and is the Elder Abuse Chair of the Family Violence Council in San Francisco. In October 2020, she was appointed by Governor Newsom to serve on the California Commission on Aging.

Anni is the Producer of a Public Affairs show called "Chinese Journal" for KTSF-TV 26.

Elaine Batchlor, MD, MPH

Elaine Batchlor (she/her) is the Chief Executive Officer of Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital, a state-of-the-art private safety net hospital providing compassionate, quality care to the South Los Angeles community. Her innovative work to increase access for underserved populations has been recognized nationally, earning her recognition as an Irvine Foundation California Leader, a Becker's Review listing among the top 26 women physician executives in the country, and membership in the National Academy of Medicine. Before assuming leadership of Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital, Dr. Batchlor served as Chief Medical Officer of L.A. Care Health Plan, the nation's largest public health plan providing care to the safety net population. She has also served as Vice President of Finance, Organization and

Operations at the California HealthCare Foundation, where she developed and oversaw research, policy analysis and programs aimed at improving health care financing and delivery. Early in her career Dr. Batchlor served as Medical Director for the Los Angeles County Office of Managed Care and as a Chief Medical Officer for Prudential Health Care. Dr. Batchlor is an active community volunteer, serving on multiple community and health care boards. She chairs the Los Angeles Hospital Leadership Group, part of the Hospital Association of Southern California. She is a member of the Board of Directors for Integrated Healthcare Association, the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health Advisory Board and the Hospital Quality Institute, among others. As a Harvard University alumna, Dr. Batchlor serves the university as an interviewer for the Los Angeles area. Dr. Batchlor holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard University, a Masters of Public Health from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a Doctorate of Medicine from Case Western Reserve University. She is board-certified in both internal medicine and rheumatology. Dr. Elaine Batchlor is the proud mother of twin boys, and married to an attorney who works as a Los Angeles County public defender.

Jan Spencley

Jan Spencley is the Executive Director of San Diegans for Healthcare Coverage (SDHCC), a local, not for profit coalition comprised of business, consumer advocates, health care providers, health plans, community-based organizations, academia and local government with a mission of achieving meaningful coverage and care for all San Diegans.

SDHCC provides direct consumer assistance and advocacy with health coverage and care across the life span and convenes community partners to address issues and barriers. As a unique and diverse partnership, SDHCC is committed to non-partisan and inclusive collaboration that bridges the divide and builds consensus toward real change. Our premise is that we are better off working together to find common ground than allowing our differences to divide and defeat us.