



California Telehealth Policy Coalition Annual Meeting

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Speaker Biographies

Cecilia Aguiar-Curry is an Assemblymember in the California State Assembly. In November 2016, she was elected to the California Assembly to represent the 4th District that includes all or parts of Napa, Lake, Yolo, Sonoma, Colusa, and Solano counties. The Assemblymember grew up in western Yolo County and has long served her community. After going to school and working in the Bay Area for several years, she moved back to her hometown of Winters, where she almost immediately became active in the local community and a regional leader on several issues. She first served as planning commissioner and then was elected to the city council, eventually serving as the first female mayor of Winters. While growing up, she was surrounded by agriculture. As a youth, she cut apricots in the packing shed and helped her father in the walnut orchards in the area. She is still involved in local agriculture to this day as she and her brothers own an 80-acre walnut orchard. After earning a degree in business administration from San Jose State University, she launched a consulting firm that specialized in public outreach with government agencies. As mayor of Winters, she oversaw improvements in the downtown area and worked to improve local schools, including securing computers for every sixth grader in the city. She also brought broadband internet to rural communities, built senior housing, and helped the area to become an agricultural and food innovation hub for the region. With the understanding that employment is central to any successful community, she helped bring a PG&E training facility to Winters that provided hundreds of jobs for local residents. She was also involved in efforts to create the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in the inner California Coast Ranges that was proclaimed by President Obama in 2015.

Yohualli B. Anaya, MD, MPH, is an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. She is a graduate of Occidental College, where she obtained a bachelor of arts degree in biology. She received a dual degree doctor of medicine and master of public health from the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California (USC). She completed her residency training at the UCLA Family Medicine Residency Program and subsequently joined the core faculty. Dr. Anaya teaches residents and medical students at both the MidValley Comprehensive Medical Center (LA County DHS) and the UCLA Family Health Center, and she has a continuity practice at each as well. Her research interests include health disparities of vulnerable communities, racial/ethnic and gender physician workforce diversity, and the application of research to promote policies and programs that address health equity. Dr. Anaya is passionate about improving the health and healthcare of underserved and marginalized communities by transforming healthcare delivery, utilizing advocacy and public policy, and by means of physician workforce diversity. Her efforts in supporting the health, safety, and wellbeing of immigrant and undocumented communities includes a focus on student success at UCLA, including those in pursuit of medical education. Her interests in diversity and inclusion, and social justice in medicine, led her to develop a multidimensional pipeline program at Title I high schools in the neighborhood where the UCLA Family Medicine county clinic is located. Dr. Anaya is a faculty expert for the Latino Policy and Politics Initiative and collaborates on research with the Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture.

Lisa M. Arfons, MD, is currently serving as the Acting Clinical Deputy, Office of Veteran Access to Care, at the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), where she has also been a Senior Medical Advisor focusing on specialty care access initiatives for the past 2.5 years. She also works as a Hematology/Oncology staff provider at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VAMC where she has been the sole E-consult provider for her section for over nine years. Dr. Arfons has also served as program planning committee member for the Association of VA Hematology/Oncology and is a member of the VHA Oncology Field Advisory Committee. She received her Bachelor of Classics degree from John Carroll University before matriculating at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. She was named the Community-Based Outpatient Clinic Subspecialist Provider of the Year in both 2012 and 2016 by her Cleveland VAMC colleagues.

Bill Barcellona, JD, MHA, serves as the Executive Vice President for Government Affairs for America's Physician groups, a national professional association of over 300 medical groups and independent practice associations across the US. Physician group members share a common goal to provide accountable, value-based health care services. Mr. Barcellona develops and advocates state and federal policy for the organization, manages litigation and appellate cases, and manages legislative and regulatory issues. He has been with the Association since 2005. Mr. Barcellona is a former Deputy Director for Plan-Provider Relations at the California Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC). He has practiced law since 1985 in California, and prior to his service at DMHC, he spent 16 years at two major law firms in Newport Beach and Sacramento, primarily as a civil litigator. His current legal experience includes general health law matters with an emphasis in Knox Keene Act and managed care issues. He enjoys teaching and lecturing across the country on health care management, operations, and policy matters, and he has served as an adjunct faculty member at the USC Price School from 2006 to 2019, teaching health administration policy and management courses in the MHA, MPA, and MMM programs.

Julie Bates, PhD, is an Associate State Director for AARP California and has worked for AARP for 18 years. She holds a PhD in Gerontology from Concordia University Chicago. Dr. Bates represents AARP on the California Telehealth Policy Coalition. She is the outgoing chair of the Coalition subcommittee on education and regulation and maintains a seat on this and the Legislative Subcommittee. She also leads AARP's work in the LGBT community and works with local jurisdictions in Yolo county to create age-friendly communities for all ages and abilities. AARP believes that the robust expansion of broadband and telehealth to all Californians regardless of their socioeconomic status and where they call home will positively impact access to care and quality of life for all Californians as they age.

Fabiola Carrión, JD, is a Senior Attorney at the National Health Law Program, where she works on issues related to telehealth access, particularly among underserved populations, as well as reproductive health and rights. Before joining NHeLP, Ms. Carrión was an Advocacy Program Officer at Planned Parenthood Global, where she designed, developed, and oversaw projects on sexual and reproductive rights in Latin America. She also served as the Director of Government Relations at Planned Parenthood of New York City and as a policy advisor for a network of progressive state legislators and state-based advocates on issues related to broadband and media justice. Ms. Carrión began her legal career as a law clerk for Judge Joseph Maltese in New York's Supreme Court and worked for various national and international human rights organizations before and during law school. She graduated with high honors from UC Berkeley in Latin American studies and political science and has law degrees from American University in Washington, DC, and La Universidad Alfonso X in Madrid, Spain.

Alice Hm Chen, MD, MPH, is the Deputy Secretary for Policy and Planning and Chief of Clinical Affairs at the California Health and Human Services (CHHS) Agency. She has led the Agency's signature health policy initiatives on affordability and access, including the Office of Health Care Affordability, generic drug manufacturing, and the Healthy California for All Commission. Since March 2020, she has been a member of the Agency's core leadership team for COVID-19 response focused on therapeutics, data analytics, hospital surge planning, and strategic reopening. Prior to joining CHHS, she served as Chief Medical Officer and Deputy Director for the San Francisco Health Network (SFHN), where she was responsible for providing clinical and operational leadership, vision, and direction for the City's \$2 billion a

year publicly funded delivery system encompassing primary, specialty, mental health, substance use, acute care, trauma, long term, jail health, and homeless health care services. She served as the executive operational sponsor for the Network's implementation of an enterprise electronic health record and led its work responding to value-based payments, addressing patient-level social determinants of health, and creating an integrated system of care. Known for her work with vulnerable populations and delivery system innovations to improve access and quality of care for safety net systems, Dr. Chen was on the faculty of the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) School of Medicine for 15 years and has published over 50 book chapters, as well as research and peer-reviewed articles, including in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *JAMA*, and *Health Affairs*. She has served on the board of several nonprofits and foundations, and she currently serves as Board President of The Health Initiative. In 2019, she was elected to the Harvard University Board of Overseers. A graduate of Yale University, Stanford University Medical School, and the Harvard School of Public Health, Dr. Chen's training includes a primary care internal medicine residency and chief residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital. She is an alumna of the Commonwealth Fund Harvard University Fellowship in Minority Health Policy, the Soros Physician Advocacy Fellowship, the California Health Care Foundation Leadership Program, and the Aspen Institute's Health Innovators Fellowship. Proficient in Mandarin and Spanish, she maintains an active primary care practice at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and holds an appointment as clinical professor of medicine at UCSF.

Amy Durbin, MPPA, has worked for the California Medical Association for the last seven years, focusing on a number of health care issues, including health information technology and telehealth access. Prior to her tenure at CMA, she worked in the California State Legislature. Ms. Durbin graduated from Chico State University with her bachelor's degree in political science and from Sacramento State University with her master's degree in public policy and administration.

Robby Franceschini, JD, MPH, is Director of Policy at BluePath Health (BPH). In this role, he supports clients' strategic needs for health policy, government relations, and business development. His expertise encompasses Medi-Cal, telehealth, and health information exchange (HIE), and his client experience includes work with foundations, government agencies, health care start-ups, and payers. Prior to joining the BPH team, Mr. Franceschini worked with Cleveland Clinic's legal department and also supported Medi-Cal policy development at the National Health Law Program's Los Angeles office. He also gained experience in science and technology policy and ethics as an AAAS Emerging Leaders in Science and Society Fellow and research assistant for NIH- and Wellcome Trust-funded projects. He holds a BA, JD, and MPH from the University of Washington.

Jana Katz-Bell, MPH, is the Senior Assistant Dean for Strategic Initiatives at the UC Davis School of Medicine and the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis. She oversees programs that bridge the two schools and leads initiatives in both schools that advance academic programs. She currently serves as the administrative lead for two critical initiatives at UC Davis Health that focus on healthy aging. The UC Davis Health Aging Initiative seeks to provide age-friendly care and services that increase access to health care, improve quality of life, and decrease the complexities of navigating the health care system. Through this project, UC Davis Health leverages its expertise in clinical care for patients, cutting-edge research, and interdisciplinary education. Additionally, Ms. Katz-Bell provides administrative leadership to the Healthy Aging in a Digital World Initiative, which seeks to use technology to provide a bridge between independent living and access to health care across the lifespan. A diverse team from throughout UC Davis Health contribute to this initiative. For 25 years, Ms. Katz-Bell has provided leadership for the design, implementation, and expansion of the telehealth program at UC Davis and in California. She was program director for statewide initiatives to advance telehealth, including a \$14 million program that allocated equipment and resources to 15 communities throughout California. A nationally recognized speaker in the area of telehealth program design, she is actively engaged in policy education at the state and federal levels. During the course of her UC Davis Health career, Ms. Katz-Bell managed the Sacramento County Contract, a \$25 million annual contract to provide services to medically indigent adults, managed the Heart Center, and worked on a number of other strategic initiatives. She co-authored the 2007 grant proposal that secured the \$100 million funding — the nation's largest grant in support of nursing education — from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to establish the School of Nursing.

Ms. Katz-Bell earned a bachelor's degree in genetics from UC Davis and a master's degree in public health from UC Berkeley.

Erin M. Kelly, MPH, brings 20 years of public health and health care experience to the Children's Specialty Care Coalition (CSCC) and has served as its Executive Director for the last six years. CSCC is a nonprofit association that represents nearly 2,500 pediatric subspecialty physicians that work at children's hospitals throughout the state. Its mission is to ensure children and youth with complex health care needs have access to timely, high quality, and equitable care. CSCC has been a big proponent of telehealth for several years as a way to improve access and quality of care, as well as to reduce barriers to care for children and families.

Susan R. Kirsh, MD, MPH, has served as the National Access Executive for VA since August of 2018 and in numerous roles during her 23 year career with the Veterans Health Administration. Dr. Kirsh practiced as an internist for many years at the Cleveland VAMC and has led initiatives in VA Central Office in the Primary Care Program Office with Patient Centered Medical Home and Shared Medical Appointments and in Specialty Care nationally implementing e-Consults, SCAN-ECHO, Specialty Care Neighborhoods, and Mini-Residencies. Since March 2015, she has led access to care efforts such as implementation of the practice management program for outpatient care across VA, same day services, direct scheduling for specialty care, and is currently a senior executive in VA nationally leading access to care. Dr. Kirsh is currently leading efforts to improve access through telehealth and Clinical Contact Centers across VA. She received her doctor of medicine degree from the Medical College of Ohio in Toledo, Ohio. She completed her residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Cincinnati in Cincinnati, Ohio and Northwestern Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Kirsh is certified with the American Board of Internal Medicine and received a master of public health degree from Case Western University in Cleveland, Ohio. She is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives, Society of General Internal Medicine, Medical Group Management Association, and the American College of Physicians. Dr. Kirsh was a Faculty Scholar in the VA Quality Scholar Program in 2008 and holds a Professor of Medicine appointment at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, and an Assistant Professor position at the Georgetown University School of Nursing.

Kenneth W. Kizer, MD, MPH, currently serves as the Chief Health Care Transformation Officer and Senior Executive Vice President of Atlas Research. Dr. Kizer is a highly experienced physician executive whose diverse professional experience includes senior leadership positions in the public and private sectors, academia, and philanthropy; and he has the rare distinction of having been elected to both the National Academy of Medicine and the National Academy of Public Administration. He has previously served as founding President and CEO, National Quality Forum; Under Secretary for Health, US Department of Veterans Affairs, and chief executive officer of the nation's largest healthcare system, during which time he engineered the internationally acclaimed transformation of the Veterans Healthcare System in the late 1990s; founding Chairman, President and CEO, Medsphere Systems Corporation, a leading commercial provider of subscription-based health information technology; founding Director, Institute for Population Health Improvement and Distinguished Professor, University of California, Davis; inaugural Chief Medical Officer, California Department of Managed Health Care; Director, California Department of Health Services; and Director, California Emergency Medical Services Authority, where he was the architect of the state's EMS and trauma care systems in the early 1980s. During his record tenure as California's top health official, he won high praise for orchestrating the state's response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, implementing California's famed Tobacco Control Program and the '5-a-Day' for Better Nutrition Program that was later adopted for national implementation, pioneering Medicaid managed care, and restructuring many of the state's public health programs. He also has served on the US Preventive Services Task Force and as Chairman of The California Wellness Foundation, as well as on the governing boards of a number of managed care, health IT, and telehealth companies; foundations; and nonprofit organizations. He is an honors graduate of Stanford University and the UCLA Schools of Medicine and Public Health, the recipient of two honorary doctorates, and a fellow or distinguished fellow of 12 professional societies. He is board certified in six medical specialties and/or subspecialties and has authored over 500 original articles, book chapters, and other reports in the professional literature. His accomplishments have been recognized with dozens of awards, and he has been selected as one of the

'100 Most Powerful People in Healthcare' by *Modern Healthcare* magazine on several occasions. His work has been featured in *Time*, *BusinessWeek*, *Fortune*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, and numerous other magazines, newspapers, and national television shows.

Linnea Koopmans, MSW, serves as the Director of Government Affairs for Local Health Plans of California (LHPC). LHPC is the statewide trade association representing all 16 of California's not-for-profit and community-based health plans, which collectively cover 70% of the state's 10.6 million Medi-Cal managed care beneficiaries. In her role, she supports the Association's legislative and policy advocacy on behalf of the local health plans. Prior to joining LHPC, Ms. Koopmans worked for the County Behavioral Health Directors Association, where she served as the organization's expert on California's Section 1915(b) waiver and the intersection of criminal justice and mental health. She also previously worked on health care reform implementation for the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, and she started her career working in housing and homelessness in Santa Barbara.

Michael Kurliand, MS, BSN, RN, is the Director of Telehealth and Process Improvement at West Health, a nonprofit dedicated to lowering healthcare costs to enable seniors to have access to high-quality, affordable health care. In this role, Mr. Kurliand serves as a subject matter expert in developing and scaling models of care that use technology such as telehealth to enhance care for the elderly and aging population. He is also responsible for advocating telehealth policy; serving on state committees; and educating community, hospital, and system leaders to best practices and benefits of telehealth. He has been working in healthcare for over 25 years and has served as a clinician, administrator, strategist, consultant, and program and departmental leader. Specializing in health information technology and change management, Mr. Kurliand has worked at organizations such as the University of Pennsylvania, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and Nemours duPont Hospital for Children. He received his ADN and BSN at Drexel University School of Nursing and then received his master's degree in organizational dynamics and strategic human resources from Johns Hopkins University. As a registered nurse, Mr. Kurliand worked in the ambulatory and acute care settings, specializing in oncology and psychiatry.

Mei Wa Kwong, JD, has over two decades of experience in state and federal policy work. She is the Executive Director for the Center for Connected Health Policy (CCHP), the federally designated National Telehealth Policy Resource Center. Ms. Kwong has written numerous policy briefs, crafted state legislation, and led several coalition efforts on a variety of issues. She has published articles on telehealth policy, is recognized as an expert in her field, and has been consulted by state and federal lawmakers on telehealth legislation and policy. Ms. Kwong is a graduate of the George Washington University Law School.

Timi Leslie is the Founder of BluePath Health and has worked for more than 20 years with healthcare policy organizations, IT providers, and consulting firms. With her "inside the beltway" experience at federal healthcare agencies, Ms. Leslie offers a unique combination of expertise in both national and California health care policy and regulation. She is a recognized expert in health IT and health care policy, analysis, and futures, and she is frequently asked to join policy committees and to contribute to and speak at industry events. Ms. Leslie began her career as part of the health care and technology strategy practices at Andersen Consulting and Coopers and Lybrand. She left the consulting industry to lead product management and business development for CareScience's health information exchange and interoperability division. After four years at CareScience, Ms. Leslie started a boutique health care consulting firm that later merged with Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP, a legal and health policy firm. Prior to founding BluePath Health, she was a vice president at Booz Allen Hamilton where she led the San Francisco commercial and government health care practice. Ms. Leslie brings broad-based experience working with public and private boards and executive leadership to her BluePath clients. She has worked with think tanks and policy groups to convene and facilitate summit meetings on health care policy and strategy. Ms. Leslie is also an expert on the future of health IT. In 2013, she served as a judge for Allscript's Open App Challenge for which 98 developers entered applications that integrate directly with the company's EHR software. She is an advisor and judge for the Southern California Health Technology Acceleration Program (HTAP), created in 2011 by the von Liebig Entrepreneurism Center at UC San Diego. She holds a BS in civil and environmental engineering from University of California at Davis.

Anthony Magit, MD, MPH, is a Clinical Professor of Pediatric Otolaryngology at the University California San Diego (UCSD) and the Chief Physician Integration Officer at Rady Children's Hospital of San Diego (RCHSD). He is the Chairperson of the RCHSD Telemedicine Steering Committee and a member of RCHSD Research Administration. Dr. Magit is currently President of the Children's Specialty Care Coalition, an organization that represents approximately two-thirds of pediatric specialists in California and advocates for children with complex medical conditions. He is the Vice-Chair for the Education and Regulation Committee for the California Telehealth Policy Coalition. His research interests include disparity in access to care and barriers to children participating in clinical research. Dr. Magit attended medical school at UCSD, and he completed a residency in Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery at Duke University and a fellowship in Pediatric Otolaryngology at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

Beth Malinowski, MPH, is the Director of Government Affairs at the California Primary Care Association (CPCA), which she joined in 2013. She advances CPCA's policy priorities and legislative interests through CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates, CPCA's advocacy affiliate. In this role, Ms. Malinowski led CPCA's recent state budget advocacy to maintain critical safety-net funding and strengthen telehealth and past efforts to defend the 340B Program and secure \$100 million for the primary care workforce. Since 2015, she has overseen more than a dozen sponsored bill initiatives to advance health center interests, including AB 1494 (Aguiar-Curry, 2019), which has proven critical to the use of virtual care as part of the COVID-19 response. Ms. Malinowski received her MPH from the UC Berkeley School of Public Health where she focused on health and social behavior. While at Berkeley, she held positions at the Center for Health Leadership, Labor Occupational Health Program, and California Department of Health Care Services. Prior to graduate study, she worked with SEIU healthcare locals, primarily in Illinois and California, where she organized healthcare workers and consumers to promote quality care and quality jobs in home care and hospital systems.

Lisa Matsubara, JD, is the General Counsel and Vice President of Policy at Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California (PPAC), where she works on statewide public policy as well as legislative and regulatory advocacy focusing on sexual and reproductive health care. Prior to PPAC, she worked on a wide range of health care issues as legal counsel for the California Medical Association (CMA), including the defense of the ACA's contraceptive coverage mandate, the Reproductive FACT Act, Title X, and legislation to expand access to abortion services and lactation accommodations in the workplace. Ms. Matsubara is on the board of the California Society for Healthcare Attorneys and has been a member of the American Society of Medical Association Counsel and American Health Lawyers Association. She is a graduate of the William Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i and Dartmouth College.

Frank Micciche, MPP, is the vice president of Public Policy and External Relations at the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). In this position, he directs NCQA's relations with Congress, federal agencies, and the states, as well as NCQA's work with employers, associations, corporate sponsors, and the media. He most recently served as the lead staffer on the Taskforce on Telehealth Policy, co-convened by NCQA, the Alliance for Connected Care, and the American Telemedicine Association. Mr. Micciche was formerly the Vice President for Partnerships and Coalitions at the Campaign to Fix the Debt, a nonpartisan collaboration of prominent public and private sector leaders and more than 350,000 grassroots supporters working to address the nation's fiscal imbalance. Prior to this position, he was a Senior Advisor on health reform at McKenna, Long & Aldridge, LLP, and worked for the New America Foundation think tank. Mr. Micciche's service in the public sector includes time as a legislative director for the House Minority Leader in Massachusetts and as a federal liaison for Governor John Engler of Michigan. He served for four years as the Director of State-Federal Relations for Governor Mitt Romney (R-MA), where he led the Commonwealth's Washington, DC, office and advised the governor on federal policy issues, with a focus on health care reform. Mr. Micciche holds a master's degree in public policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and a bachelor's degree in political science from Tufts University.

René Mollow, MSN, RN, is the Deputy Director of Health Care Benefits and Eligibility (HCBE) at the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), and she has been with the department since 1995. She provides leadership for benefit and eligibility policy planning, development, implementation,

and evaluation of health care services and delivery systems under Medi-Cal and for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). HCBE is comprised of five divisions and one office: Benefits, Eligibility, Pharmacy Benefits, Primary and Rural Indian Health, Dental, and the Office of Family Planning. Ms. Mollow works to ensure that policies, procedures, and related activities in HCBE conform to applicable state and federal policies, statutes, and regulations. She assists the Directorate, Administration, and State Legislature in determining program direction consistent with legislative intent and consults with the Director and State Medicaid Director on issues of significant policy impact involving both Medi-Cal and CHIP. Ms. Mollow has played a major role in policy planning, development, and implementation on matters pertaining to health care reform implementation and coverage expansions for children and young adults under Medi-Cal.

Nikki Paschal is a Principal with Paschal Roth Public Affairs. Ms. Paschal is an accomplished, trusted communications expert with experience in federal, state, and local government, as well as major statewide advocacy and initiative campaigns. In her role at Paschal Roth, she provides strategic communications and public affairs consulting to coalitions, labor organizations, nonprofit associations, elected leaders, and initiative campaigns. A sought-after messaging pro, Ms. Paschal provides strategic counsel to public policy advocates seeking to elevate issues to the fore of public discourse and activate support for legislation and initiatives.

Christopher Perrone, MPP, is Director of the California Health Care Foundation's Improving Access team, which works to improve access to coverage and care for low-income Californians. He was previously Director of the foundation's Health Reform and Public Programs initiative, where he led efforts to improve the policies and practices that shape Medi-Cal and other publicly funded health care programs, and to promote greater transparency and accountability within these programs. Prior to joining CHCF, Mr. Perrone served as Director of Planning for the Massachusetts Division of Medical Assistance. He was the first external recipient of the Globe Award, given by the Office of Strategic Planning at HCFA (now CMS), for his work to improve the delivery and financing of acute and long-term care services for low-income seniors. He has also held positions with The Lewin Group, the American Psychological Association, and the Center for Health Policy Studies at Georgetown University. Mr. Perrone received a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and a master's degree in public policy from Harvard University.

Kiran Savage-Sangwan, MPA, is the Executive Director of the California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN), which 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, she served as CPEHN's Deputy Director and Health Integration Policy Director. In those roles, she was the chief architect of many CPEHN bills, in particular the groundbreaking bill to prohibit hospital patient dumping that became California law in 2018. Ms. Savage-Sangwan has been instrumental in positioning CPEHN as a leader in the health equity field, expanding CPEHN's work in public, mental, and oral health; deepening CPEHN's local advocacy impact; and developing new partnerships and campaigns. She has a background in immigrant and mental health organizing and advocacy. Immediately prior to joining CPEHN, Ms. Savage-Sangwan worked as the Director of Legislation and Advocacy for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) California. There, she led policy initiatives to improve access to behavioral health care and to reduce the stigma and discrimination surrounding mental illness. Before that, she worked at the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California as an organizer, primarily focused on immigrants' rights, and at the New York State Youth Leadership Council, which she co-founded. She graduated from New York University with a BA and a master of public administration degree. She is currently a member of the Sacramento Community Police Review Commission and previously served as the Commission's chair, advocating to substantially reduce the use of force by police against people of color and people living with mental illness. She frequently testifies before state boards, commissions, and legislative committees and is often cited by state and local media.

Stephanie Thornton, MPP, is a Policy Associate at The Children's Partnership, where she champions child health coverage and care. In this role, she supports projects related to oral health, immigrant child

health, mental health, and telehealth. She originally joined The Children's Partnership as the Peter Harbage Health Policy Fellow in 2019. Ms. Thornton received her master's degree in public policy from the UC Berkeley Goldman School.

Peggy Broussard Wheeler, MPH, serves as Vice President of the Rural Healthcare Center (RHC) at the California Hospital Association (CHA). RHC represents small and rural hospitals and other members of the sponsoring organizations who provide service to rural populations in the State of California and is acknowledged as the primary body for rural healthcare policy on behalf of its members. Ms. Wheeler is responsible for developing, advocating, and executing public policies, legislation, and regulations on behalf of rural hospitals at the state and national levels. Ms. Wheeler serves on the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services, which serves as an independent advisory body to the Department of Health and Human Services on issues related to how the department and its programs serve rural communities. As a committee member, Ms. Wheeler helps to analyze key rural issues under the purview of the Secretary of Health and Human Services and submit recommendations for possible solutions. In addition, Ms. Wheeler serves as the issue manager for homelessness, language access and governance issues, and hospital-prison issues. She holds a master of public health degree in program/clinic administration from the University of California, Berkeley.