



An Introduction to California's Public Mental Health System

Monday, September 23, 2019

Speaker Biographies

Sarah Arnquist, MPH, is a vice president of Client Partnerships Beacon Health Options. She oversees Beacon's mental health and substance use programs in California and Washington State. Before joining Beacon, Sarah worked as a health policy consultant in California and at Harvard University's Global Health Delivery Project, where she studied international models of large-scale health care delivery. Prior to that, Ms. Arnquist was a newspaper reporter and won numerous journalism awards for her coverage of health and social welfare issues. She has published in many outlets, including the *New York Times* and *Harvard Business School Press*. Ms. Arnquist has a master's degree in public health from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and a bachelor's degree in journalism from Minnesota's University of St. Thomas.

Michelle Doty Cabrera is executive director of the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California (CBHDA), which represents the behavioral health directors from each of California's 58 counties, the City of Berkeley, and the Tri-City Mental Health Center (cities of Pomona, Claremont, and La Verne). Prior to joining CBHDA, she served as the health care director for the California State Council of the Services Employees International Union (SEIU California), where she advocated on behalf of health care workers and consumers, including SEIU California's county behavioral health workforce. She served as a senior consultant for the Assembly Human Services Committee, where she specialized in child welfare issues and staffed legislation that extended foster care in California to age 21. Ms. Cabrera serves as a member on the National Quality Forum's Standing Committee on Disparities and on the board of directors of the California Pan-Ethnic Health Network.

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Jennifer Kent, MPA, was appointed director of the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) by Governor Jerry Brown on January 26, 2015. Director Kent oversees a staff of almost 4,000 individuals at DHCS, which is responsible for the operation of Medi-Cal, the state's Medicaid program. The department manages the spending of more than \$100 billion annually in public funds that support the health of more than 13.5 million Californians.

Prior to her appointment at DHCS, Ms. Kent served as executive director of Local Health Plans of California from September 2013 to January 2015. From 2011 through 2013, she was a principal with Health Management Associates, where she advised clients on issues of health care reform. Her previous California government service included leadership roles in legislative, intergovernmental, financial, and health policy areas with the Office of the Governor of California, the Health and Human Services Agency, and at DHCS. Ms. Kent earned a bachelor's degree in government and history at Saint Mary's College of California and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California.

Adriana Ramos-Yamamoto, MPH, is a health policy analyst at the California Budget and Policy Center. She joined the Budget Center in February 2019. Her work focuses on increasing access to and understanding of California's mental health system, and it contributes to the Budget Center's work on the social determinants of health. Prior to joining the Budget Center, Ms. Ramos-Yamamoto worked as a health policy associate at The Children's Partnership and as a graduate student intern and health educator at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health for the Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Programs. She received her master's degree in public health from the University of Southern California and her bachelor's degree in government from Claremont McKenna College.

Catherine Teare, MPP, is associate director of CHCF's High-Value Care team, which supports policies and care models that align with patient preferences, are proven effective, and are affordable. She leads the foundation's work on behavioral health care, including behavioral health integration in primary care and behavioral health interventions for high-cost populations. She also manages projects related to the county role in health care delivery.

Before joining the foundation in 2011, Ms. Teare worked as a consultant for safety-net health care providers, foundations, and local government, providing research and policy analysis in the areas of health care financing and delivery, public and private health insurance programs for children, adolescent health, reproductive health, HIV, and youth development. She also worked as director of policy for Children Now and as a health policy analyst for the National Center for Youth Law. She received a bachelor's degree in English from Yale College and a master's degree in public policy from the University of California, Berkeley.