



# California Health Care Foundation San Joaquin Valley Regional Market Study

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

## Speaker Biographies

Len Finocchio, DrPH, is a principal consultant at Blue Sky Consulting Group, where he leads the health care practice. He has over 25 years of health policy research and implementation experience in government, academia, advocacy, and philanthropy. Finocchio was part of the Brown administration's team as associate director at the California Department of Health Care Services, leading the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

While a senior program officer at the California Health Care Foundation, Finocchio led program strategy, grantmaking, and research in the areas of health services for the uninsured, Medi-Cal, and safety-net capacity. He has also held senior health policy positions at Mathematica Policy Research, Institute for Health Policy Solutions, Children Now, and UCSF Center for the Health Professions. He has published articles in *Health Affairs*, *Academic Medicine*, the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, and the *American Journal of Public Health*.

Ryan Gates, PharmD, serves as vice president/chief population health officer at Kaweah Delta Health Care District (KDHCD), where he oversees the rural health clinic system, the community outreach department, and the population health department. He also serves as CEO for Sequoia Health and Wellness Centers, Kaweah Delta's co-applicant Federally Qualified Health Centers. In this role, Gates works directly with physicians, health plans, medical groups, and community partners to develop and implement comprehensive services that include integration of interprofessional teams in both transitions of care and chronic disease state management. He also serves as vice president of clinical integration for Sequoia Integrated Health, where he is responsible for the clinical leadership and guidance of the organization and is a leader in driving clinical transformation that integrates demonstrable, value-added, interprofessional, patient-centered care to the patients in the region.

Prior to joining KDHCD, Gates served as senior clinical pharmacist and residency program director at Kern Medical Center, a county-owned health care facility in Bakersfield, California. He received his doctorate in pharmacy at the University of the Pacific and completed his postgraduate residency in primary care at the Veterans Affairs Health Care System in San Diego. Gates was recognized for his contributions to the profession of pharmacy and his service to underserved communities by being named Pharmacist of the Year by the California Pharmacists Association in 2015.



Thomas Hamilton is regional health plan officer for Health Net of California. He is responsible for managing the total cost of care for all participating provider group contracting (medical groups and/or independent practice associations) and hospital contracting for Central and Northern California. His areas of responsibility include ensuring Health Net of California has an adequate network of contracted providers to meet regulatory requirements and consumer demand for all product lines offered by Health Net, including HMO, PPO, point-of-service, Covered California, Medicare Advantage, and Medi-Cal Managed Care.

Hamilton has held various roles within Health Net of California and Health Net, Inc., including vice president of provider network management; national director, provider development, senior products division; and director, provider development, state health programs. Prior to joining Health Net, he worked for 11 years at Saint Agnes Medical Center in Fresno, California, and had responsibility for all their managed care contracting. While there, he also worked for ValuCare regional health plan and Priority Health Services, a regional HMO and delivery system formerly owned by Saint Agnes Medical Center and the Matrix IPA. As a licensed broker holding a Life, Health, and Disability license, as well as Series VI and VII licenses, Hamilton sold some of the early-generation preferred provider plans in Fresno before joining Saint Agnes Medical Center. He holds a BS degree in business administration from California State University, Fresno.

Paulo Soares, MHA, was named CEO of Camarena Health in 2010. He first joined the organization in 2007 as chief operations officer. Soares provides leadership for the administration and management of Camarena Health, which in 2020 served over 50,000 patients for a total of nearly 250,000 encounters throughout its 19 health centers.

He has 20 years of experience in health care administration. Much of his career has been serving Federally Qualified Health Centers, and he worked in hospital administration early in his career. Soares serves on the board of directors for the California Primary Care Association, Central California Partnership for Health, Central Valley Health Network, CalViva Health Plan, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Fresno/Madera Counties, and the American Heart Association. Soares obtained his BS degree in health administration from California State University, Fresno, and his master's degree in health administration from Chapman University.

Kristof Stremikis, MPP, MPH, is director of the California Health Care Foundation's Market Analysis and Insight team, which promotes greater transparency and accountability in California's health care system. He oversees the foundation's work to provide research and analysis to policymakers and other health leaders across the state to give a market-wide view of



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the complex health care ecosystem and to support informed decisions about California's health care landscape.

Stremikis previously served as associate director for policy at the Pacific Business Group on Health, where he also oversaw the Purchaser Value Network. Earlier, he spent six years at the Commonwealth Fund as senior researcher to the president. He received a bachelor's degree in economics, political science, and history from the University of Wisconsin, Madison; a master's degree in public policy from UC Berkeley; and a master's degree in health policy and management from Columbia University.

Dawan Utecht has been the Fresno County director of behavioral health, and the public guardian, for over seven years. Previously, she worked in health care administration for over 20 years and with Community Medical Centers for 14 years, serving as the CEO of the Community Behavioral Health Center, a 61-bed adult acute inpatient psychiatric facility in Fresno, California, for seven years.

Utecht serves on the governing board of the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California (CBHDA), is co-chair of the MHSA (Mental Health Services Act) Committee of CBHDA, is president of the CalMHSA Joint Powers Authority Board, is a commissioner on First 5 of Fresno County, and serves on Fresno's Community Corrections Partnership. She is actively involved in the local ACEs (adverse childhood experiences) collaborative, the Fresno County Suicide Prevention Collaborative, and the Street2Home initiative. She also is involved with the Fresno County Health Improvement Partnership, the Fresno County Preterm Birth Initiative, the Children's Movement of Fresno, and Cradle to Career Fresno County.