



Driving Improvement in Palliative Care in Medi-Cal (SB 1004) Speaker Bios

Veenu Aulakh is the Senior Innovation Fellow at the Center for Care Innovations (CCI). She served as the organization's President from 2012 to 2020 and grew the organization's strategy, budget and staff to strengthen the health of and health care for under-invested communities across the country. She continues to guide the strategic direction for CCI and advise the work on innovation and technology. Before joining CCI, Veenu worked as a senior program officer at the California Health Care Foundation. Veenu also held a number of positions within Kaiser Permanente related to improving quality of care, developing disease management programs, and increasing patient engagement.

Lena Beker is the founder and CEO of the Roze Room organizations providing hospice and palliative care to Southern California communities for the past 25 years. A graduate of the University of Southern California, Lena was one of the youngest hospice founders in California. Known for innovative concepts in healthcare service delivery, emphasis on staff competency and patient focused care, Lena has developed Roze Room into one of the premier hospice programs in Southern California.

Sofi Bergkvist is the President of the Center for Care Innovations (CCI). She leads the organization's work to spark, seed, and spread innovations that strengthen the health and well-being of historically under-invested communities. Prior to CCI, Sofi co-founded ACCESS Health International, a think tank and implementation partner working on health system transformation with governments and the private sector across countries in Asia. Sofi also co-founded and built several international partnerships including the Joint Learning Network for Universal Health Coverage, a network of policy makers across more than 30 member countries working to improve coverage, quality, and financing of health care.

Kathleen Kerr, BA is a health care consultant in private practice in Mill Valley, California. Her work is focused on promoting the development of sustainable, quality palliative care programs, with particular emphasis on services that operate in rural areas and those that serve Medicaid beneficiaries.

Anne Kinderman, MD is an Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine at UCSF and is the Director of the Supportive & Palliative Care Service at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital. After training in Internal Medicine and Hospice & Palliative Medicine, she returned to Zuckerberg San Francisco General in 2009 to help develop the Supportive & Palliative Care Service as its founding Director. Dr. Kinderman's scholarly work has included developing a curriculum in palliative care interpreting for professional medical interpreters, promoting high-quality care for vulnerable patients with serious illness, and expanding palliative care services in safety net health systems.

Eve Makoff, MD graduated from Brown University Medical School in 1995. She did an Internal Medicine Residency and Nephrology Fellowship at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, and practiced nephrology for six years in private practice. After two years away, during which time she ran a nephrology clinic at the Venice Family Clinic and had three children, she returned to Cedars-Sinai to work as a hospitalist. She served as Director of Community Relations and a lead hospitalist until she became board-certified in Hospice and Palliative Care and transitioned to full-time palliative care work in 2013. As Assistant Director of Support Care Oncology, she created a palliative presence in two different oncology practices at Cedars-Sinai. In 2018, Dr. Makoff joined Torrance Memorial as Medical Director of Palliative Care and helped to create a health system wide program. She is currently the Medical Director of Palliative Care at MedZed. Dr. Makoff has published multiple narrative medicine essays.

Blanca Martinez is the Director of Case Management for Molina Healthcare of California. In this role, she oversees the Case Management, Transitions of Care, Palliative Care and Behavioral Health Treatment programs. She has worked at Molina Healthcare for the past 7 years and previously worked at SCAN Health Plan. She graduated from Cal State Long Beach with her Master of Social Work and her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and is credentialed as a Certified Case Manager by the Commission for Case Manager Certification. She has considerable experiencing working with older adults in various settings (including a skilled nursing facility) and

through waiver programs such as the Multipurpose Senior Services Program. These experiences have led to a passion for supporting health plan members to live their best quality of life while achieving their best possible health outcomes.

Lyrva Sanchez, RN, BSN, PHN, is Managed Long-Term Services and Supports (MLTSS) Palliative Care Nurse Specialist at L.A. Care Health Plan. In her role as Palliative Care Nurse Specialist, Lyrva has been an instrumental contributor in operationalizing the redesign of L.A. Care's Palliative Care Program. Her clinical experience in public health, disease management, and case management includes caring for patients with chronic and highly complex conditions for both pediatric and adult populations.

Susan Stone, MD, MPH is Medical Director, Care Management Services at L.A. Care Health Plan. With over 20 years of experience, Dr. Stone is double boarded in Emergency Medicine and Hospice and Palliative Medicine. She has provided direct patient care and medical leadership in both these fields throughout her career.