



Organizations React to Medi-Cal Managed Care Procurement Draft RFP

Thursday, August 5, 2021

Speaker Biographies

Sandra R. Hernández, MD, is president and CEO of the California Health Care Foundation (CHCF). Prior to joining CHCF, she was CEO of The San Francisco Foundation, which she led for 16 years. She previously served as director of public health for the City and County of San Francisco. Hernández also cochaired San Francisco's Universal Healthcare Council, which designed Healthy San Francisco. It was the first time a local government in the US attempted to provide health care for all of its constituents.

In February 2018, Hernández was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to the Covered California board of directors. In December 2019, she was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom to the Healthy California for All Commission, which is charged with developing a plan to help California achieve a health care delivery system that provides coverage and access through a unified financing system. She also serves on the UC Regents Health Services Committee and the UC San Diego Chancellor's Health Advisory Board. Hernández practiced at San Francisco General Hospital in the HIV/AIDS Clinic from 1984 to 2016 and was an assistant clinical professor at the UCSF School of Medicine. She is a graduate of Yale University, the Tufts School of Medicine, and the certificate program for senior executives in state and local government at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Linnea Koopmans, MSW, is the chief executive officer for the Local Health Plans of California (LHPC), the statewide trade association representing all 16 of California's not-for-profit and community-based health plans that collectively cover 70% of the state's Medi-Cal managed care population. As CEO, Koopmans leads the association's legislative and policy advocacy on behalf of the local plans. She previously served as the association's director of government affairs. Before coming to LHPC in 2018, Koopmans worked for the County Behavioral Health Directors Association and prior to that for the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. She started her career working in housing and homelessness. Koopmans received a master of social welfare degree from UCLA and a bachelor's degree in sociology from Westmont College.

Mike Odeh, MPP, is the director of Health with Children Now. He brings extensive health policy and advocacy expertise to the organization, where his work focuses on health coverage, access, quality, financing, and care delivery. Prior to joining Children Now, Odeh worked at Health Access, a California health care consumer advocacy organization, and at the Center for Children and Families at the Georgetown University Health Policy Institute. He has also taught a health policy course at San Francisco State University. Odeh holds a master of public policy degree from Georgetown University and an undergraduate degree from Creighton University.

Chris Perrone, MPP, is director of CHCF's Improving Access team, which works to improve access to coverage and care for Californians with low incomes. Perrone 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, 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 seniors with low incomes. He has also held positions with The Lewin Group, the American Psychological Association, and the Center for Health Policy Studies at Georgetown University. Perrone received a master's degree in public policy from Harvard University and a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

Kiran Savage-Sangwan, MPA, is the executive director of the California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN), 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, Savage-Sangwan served as CPEHN deputy director and health integration policy director. She 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. Savage-Sangwan graduated from New York University with master of public administration and bachelor of arts degrees.

Beth Waldman, JD, MPH, is a senior consultant at Bailit Health with national expertise in health care policy, program development, and implementation, specializing in Medicaid and CHIP programs and coverage for the uninsured. During her 14 years with Bailit Health, Waldman has been actively involved in efforts across the country to improve access and delivery of health care to people with low incomes while working to make coverage more affordable and to assist payers in efforts to expand value-based purchasing. Her work includes assisting states and other stakeholders in delivery system and payment reform design, Medicaid managed care procurements, care management and health home program design, behavioral health reform,

design and implementation of Medicaid and other public program expansions, quality measurement, and long-term services and supports strategy and integration.

Prior to joining Bailit, Waldman served as the Massachusetts Medicaid director and was responsible for the administration of all aspects of the Massachusetts Medicaid program, MassHealth. She played a key role in the development and implementation of the Commonwealth's historic Health Reform Law. Waldman negotiated the federal waiver, oversaw the implementation of several MassHealth population and service expansions, and served as a member of the board of the Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority. Prior to becoming Medicaid director in 2003, she spent nine years in various roles at the Division of Medical Assistance. In her various roles, Waldman gained expertise in all aspects of the state's Medicaid program — including eligibility, provider rate payments, managed care contracting, and long-term care services. She holds a law degree from Boston College Law School and a master of public health degree from the Harvard School of Public Health, and is a graduate of Union College in Schenectady, NY.