



California's Community Health Worker / *Promotor* / Representative Workforce

Friday, April 28, 2023

Speaker Biographies

Angelica Alvarez is an educator and advocates serving the educational needs of low-income, particularly non-English-speaking underserved communities of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. She has specifically worked to advocate for programs that create a safe space to empower women. Currently, she is a program director at El Sol Neighborhood Educational Center, where she trains approximately 85 community health workers each year, 95% of them women. She also has contributed to best practices and to establishing basic standards and expectations for *promotores* throughout the counties of Riverside and San Bernardino.

Alvarez has worked to develop partnerships with evidence-based home visitation programs, such as Healthy Families America, Parent-Child Home Program, and the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters. She also has implemented programs focused on community-based mental health and counseling, leadership, comprehensive wraparound and care coordination, mother-infant and early childhood school readiness, and prenatal and mother-child health home visitation.

Joseph Calderon is a senior community health worker and national trainer at the Transitions Clinic Network (TCN). His passion for supporting the health and well-being of impacted populations is inspired by his lived experiences with the criminal legal system. At the age of 23, he began serving a life sentence; while incarcerated, he became acutely aware of the health impacts of mass incarceration, both on the individual and societal levels. After two decades inside, he began to explore ways to give back to society, and after winning his release, Calderon turned passion into action by pursuing a career in public health.

In 2011, he joined TCN as a community health worker (CHW) in its flagship program in San Francisco. He went on to lead the organization's training and mentoring of a national network of CHWs with incarceration histories. As senior CHW, Calderon also supplies technical assistance to clinic leadership to support the hiring and integration of CHWs into primary care systems. He has represented TCN and directly impacted CHWs on numerous stakeholder groups, including DHCS's Medi-Cal CHW Advisory group, the CHW & Promotores Future of Medi-Cal project, and the CHW/P/R Policy Coalition Steering Committee. Also, he is a 2018

JustLeadershipUSA Leading with Conviction Fellow and has served on the San Francisco Reentry Council and the Equity Advisory Committee with the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. Calderon holds an associate's degree and Post-Prison CHW certificate from San Francisco City College, and he plans to continue his education in the public health field.

Kara Carter, MBA, MSc, is senior vice president of strategy and programs at the California Health Care Foundation (CHCF), where she develops strategies, provides overall guidance, and leads the program teams in the development, execution, and assessment of CHCF's work. In this role, Carter provides thought leadership and support to CHCF's grantmaking programs and priorities, as well as CHCF's program-related investments and learning and impact functions.

Before joining CHCF, Carter was a partner at McKinsey & Company's San Francisco and London offices. She was a leader in McKinsey's Medicaid practice in the US, and supported public and private sector health systems in the US, UK, and Europe to improve quality, access, and affordability. Before joining McKinsey, Carter worked for UK-based philanthropic institutions on a broad range of topics related to poverty and community action. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia, a master's degree in social anthropology from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and a master's degree in business administration from the London Business School. She serves on the UC Davis Health National Advisory Board.

Elia Gallardo, Esq, is the chief equity officer and deputy director of legislative and governmental affairs at the California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI). Gallardo began her post-graduate career working with and for community health workers/*promotores* as staff with Líderes Campesinas in California. She has since worked as a director overseeing efforts focused on health policy and health equity in various public and nonprofit organizations including the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California, Insure the Uninsured Project, the Alameda Alliance for Health, and the California Primary Care Association. Gallardo is a member of the California Bar Association. She earned a Juris Doctor degree from UCLA School of Law and an undergraduate degree from UC Berkeley.

Carlina Hansen, MHA, is a senior program officer for CHCF's Improving Access team, which works to improve access to coverage and care for Californians with low incomes. Before joining the team at CHCF, Hansen worked at the Women's Community Clinic in San Francisco, where she served as the executive director for 17 years. Before that, she was a senior program coordinator at the Tides Center, a fiscal sponsor and nonprofit incubator.

She serves on the boards of the San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium and the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Organization. Hansen is a graduate of the Women's

Policy Institute of the Women's Foundation of California and of the Clinic Leadership Institute, a project of the Blue Shield of California Foundation and UCSF's Center for the Health Professions. She holds a master's degree in health care administration from the University of California, San Francisco, where she serves on the faculty.

Andrea Mackey, MPH, (she/hers) is a policy manager with California Pan-Ethnic Health Network. She leads the Community Health Workers, Promotoras, and Representatives (CHW/P/R) Coalition, a California statewide grassroots coalition that brings together diverse CHW/P/Rs, advocates, and allies to ensure policies that impact CHW/P/Rs are rooted in their voice, strengthen health care quality, lead to more equitable health outcomes, are financially sustainable, prioritize workforce diversity, and value community cultural wealth.

Mackey's commitment to promote Community Responsive Wellness is rooted in her experiences as a mixed Filipina Scottish American and community health worker / *promotora* who provides diabetes prevention, self-management, and education for communities across Los Angeles. Through her experiences as a community organizer and ethnic studies teacher, she brings over seven years of community organizing experience in youth empowerment and youth leadership development. She equips elementary to college youth, particularly youth experiencing homelessness and Filipinx/a/o American and Tongan youth, with the knowledge and skills to be lifelong learners and to act as agents of social change.

Jacqueline Miller is a senior research data analyst within the Institute for Health Policy Studies and Healthforce Center at UCSF. During her six years at UCSF, much of her research has focused on the health workforce, where her workforce area of expertise is the community health worker / *promotor* (CHW/P) profession. Other professions she has studied include nursing, dental therapy, and homecare. At UCSF, Miller has also been a key contributor to the California Health Benefits Review Program (CHBRP), which responds to requests from the California legislature to provide independent analysis of the medical, financial, and public health impacts of proposed health insurance benefit mandates and repeals. As a contributor to the medical effectiveness section of these reports, bill topics she has analyzed through CHBRP include comprehensive medication management, HIV PrEP & PEP, telehealth, biologics/biosimilars, mental health parity, adverse childhood experiences, and comprehensive perinatal services.

Before her work at UCSF, she managed the quality improvement department of a family practice in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Miller holds a bachelor of arts degree in communications; Spanish; and science, technology, medicine & society from the University of Michigan.

Pooja Mittal, DO, is the chief health equity officer (CHEO) for Health Net. She leads the company in developing, implementing, facilitating, and embedding health equity strategic

initiatives into Health Net's programs, services, actions, and outcomes. Mittal joined the company in June 2016. In addition to her role as CEO, Mittal practices primary care at a Federally Qualified Health Center in San Mateo County. As a family physician, teacher, and recognized national expert on perinatal HIV care, she brings a unique perspective to designing strategic initiatives that improve health outcomes for California's most vulnerable populations. Mittal has expertise in digital health and is part of Health Net's Digital Health Transformation Committee, which ensures that the technology used by the company for Medicaid members is equitable.

She is also part of the UCSF S.O.L.V.E. Health Tech advisory board, which focuses on bridging health equity and innovation to create and adapt products that reach marginalized populations. She is an adjunct associate professor at UCSF and Stanford University School of Medicine, where she dedicates her time to improving health outcomes through teaching the next generation of health care workers. In addition to her clinical work, she has written about well-childcare, group visits, preconception care, health equity, and perinatal HIV. Mittal earned her bachelor of science degree in biology from Boston University and her doctor of osteopathic medicine degree from A.T. Still University of Health Sciences. She completed her Faculty Development Fellowship at UCSF and is a graduate of the CHCF Leadership Fellowship program.