



## Understanding and Improving Health Care in the Central Valley

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

### Speaker Biographies

**Sara Bosse, MBA**, has led local, regional, and statewide public health initiatives since 1998 to create healthy, equitable communities in California through policy, systems, and environmental change interventions. As the director of the Madera County Department of Public Health, Bosse leads the department's operations and programs including disease investigation and mitigation, public health emergency planning and mitigation, community and emergency medical services, community health and wellness programs, and children and family services. In her tenure as public health director, Bosse ushered in a new season of expansion with the establishment of the Live Well Madera County Coalition in 2018, the first Madera County Health Improvement Plan in 2019, the construction and move to a new campus in 2019, and accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board in 2023. Highlighted during her time as the incident commander and spokesperson throughout the Madera County COVID-19 emergency response, Bosse's leadership is marked with collaborative problem-solving, innovation, advocacy, humor, and hope.

Bosse serves as a member of the Cal Viva Health Commission, the First 5 Commission, the Central California Public Health Consortium Leadership Committee, and the Executive Committee of the County Health Executives Association of California; is the co-chair of the California Prevention Leadership Team; and is the board chair of Every Neighborhood Partnership. Certified in Essential Facilitation and Crucial Conversations, she is known for her ability to engage partners, facilitate collaboration, and develop innovative strategies to address complex issues. Bosse has a bachelor's degree in dietetics and food administration from California State University, Fresno, and an executive MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology.

**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 its 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 in social anthropology from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and a master's in business administration from the London Business School. Carter currently serves on the UC Davis Health National Advisory Board.

**Diana Camacho, MPH**, is a senior program officer for California Health Care Foundation's Improving Access team, which works to improve access to coverage and care for Californians with low incomes. Camacho leads CHCF's body of work on telehealth. She is serving as a managing partner for the 2023-2024 cycle of the California Improvement Network, a CHCF project that is managed by Healthforce Center at UCSF.

Camacho was previously at Kaiser Permanente, where she led Medicaid care delivery collaborations and national community benefit strategy and grantmaking within the health care safety net. While at Kaiser Permanente, Camacho led the development of a national initiative aimed at enhancing telehealth practice at Federally Qualified Health Centers and health care providers for people experiencing homelessness. Prior to Kaiser Permanente, Camacho was director of community health at John Muir Health where, in addition to her community grantmaking, she led cultural competency, language access, and community needs assessments. Camacho started her public health career supporting the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS as a social worker, health educator, and program coordinator.

Camacho earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a master's degree in public health from UC Berkeley.

**Kimberly Clark** serves as the director of programs at the California Farmworker Foundation (CFF), a nonprofit organization established in 2016 that serves the South-Central Valley, Central Coast, and Inland Empire regions. In collaboration with various partners, CFF works to advance education, workforce development, health, and wellness within farm-working communities. Clark's expertise extends across agriculture, spanning from the fields of California to the mountains of Southern Mexico, with a primary emphasis on the human aspect often overlooked in our daily consumption. Apart from agriculture, Clark has engaged with state legislatures in the Western US and Northern Mexico, creating avenues for legislators to participate in policy discussions and professional development across state, party, and

international boundaries. Her bachelor's degree in environmental science, applied ecology has significantly influenced her approach, maintaining a data-driven, strategic focus on making an impact. Clark has a dog named Tesla, a namesake attributed to the renowned physicist rather than the automobile brand, and her parents insist they did not name her after the paper company.

**Ryan Gates, PharmD**, is a Certified Rural Health Clinic Professional and serves as chief population health officer at Kaweah Health, where he oversees the clinic network comprised of rural health clinics, commercial primary care and specialty practices, and urgent care clinics, as well as the population health department. Gates is responsible for the development, implementation, and continuous quality improvement of service lines and strategies that improve quality and satisfaction, increase access to care, and decrease cost. Gates works directly with physicians, health plans, medical groups, and community partners to develop and implement comprehensive services that include integration of patient-centric interprofessional teams.

Prior to joining Kaweah Health, Gates served as senior clinical pharmacist and residency program director at Kern Medical Center in Bakersfield. In that role, he managed the health care facility's clinical pharmacy department, which included clinical pharmacists, residents, and interns practicing throughout the health care system from internal medicine, oncology, critical care, emergency department, and primary and specialty care clinics.

Gates received his doctorate in pharmacy at the University of the Pacific and completed his post-graduate residency in primary care at the Veteran's 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. Gates is a Central Valley native who grew up in the small rural community of McFarland and considers it a great privilege to serve the health care needs of Central Valley communities.

**Genoveva Islas, MPH**, is the founder and executive director of Cultiva La Salud, a public health advocacy nonprofit based in Fresno. Cultiva is dedicated to advancing health equity by fostering policy, system, and environmental improvements that promote healthy communities. Cultiva's efforts also focus on building community leadership so that residents can be more effective in advocating for healthy changes in their communities. Islas is a recognized Culture of Health Leader by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and an Aspen Institute, Healthy Communities Fellow.

Islas was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to serve on the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley board of directors and was also appointed to the Health Benefit Exchange Board for California (Covered California). Islas currently serves as a trustee of Fresno Unified School District, representing Area 4 – the McLane Region.

Islas was born in Fresno and grew up in small rural communities of the San Joaquin Valley; her parents were farm laborers. Islas is the first in her family to attend college and graduate with an advanced degree. She earned a bachelor's degree in health science with an emphasis in community health from California State University, Fresno, and received a master's degree in public health in health education and promotion from Loma Linda University.

**Jeffrey Nkansah, MPA**, is the chief executive officer of CalViva Health, a local health plan whose mission is to provide access to quality, cost-effective health care and to promote the health and well-being of the communities they serve in partnership with health care providers and community partners throughout Fresno, Kings, and Madera Counties.

Nkansah has lived in the Central Valley for over a decade. He and his wife raised their family, including two sons, in Fresno. Nkansah believes the biggest need of the Central Valley during 2024 and beyond is timely access to medical, behavioral health, and dental services, and his mantra is: "The students of today will be the staff of tomorrow." Nkansah believes we need to find ways to leverage our community to ensure we are recruiting staff (i.e., health care professionals) to come live and grow roots in the Central Valley, all while investing in our local children and families.

Nkansah holds a bachelor's degree in health education with a specialization in health promotion, and a master's of public administration degree, with a specialization in health services. In addition, he is a Master Certified Health Education Specialist. Nkansah has over 10 years of experience in nonprofit and private sector industries, covering an array of health care areas including Medicare, Medicaid, and health care operations.

**Joel Ramirez, MD, MBA**, is the chief medical officer at Camarena Health. Ramirez is a distinguished medical professional and business leader with a unique blend of expertise in health care and business administration. He earned his doctor of medicine degree from the UCLA School of Medicine, where his passion for equitable health care flourished. Driven by a desire to effect broader change in health care systems, Ramirez pursued an MBA at the University of Southern California Marshall School of Business, equipping himself with the strategic and managerial skills necessary to navigate the complex landscape of health care administration. His blend of medical expertise and business insights positioned him as a leader capable of bridging the gap between clinical practice and executive health care management.

Throughout his career, Ramirez has held various leadership roles, demonstrating his commitment to improving health care delivery and patient outcomes via appointments on local medical societies, the California Academy of Family Physicians, and the California Medical Association. He has spearheaded initiatives to integrate cutting-edge technologies into medical practices, streamline operational processes, and enhance patient experiences. Ramirez's acumen and forward-thinking approach have earned him recognition as a leader in the health care industry, specifically within the Federally Qualified Health Clinic space.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Ramirez is dedicated to staying abreast of the latest developments in health care policy, economics, and technology, ensuring that he remains at the forefront of innovation and excellence in patient care. As a first-generation Mexican immigrant, Ramirez continues to inspire others through his dedication to promoting higher education, mentorship of aspiring medical professionals, advancing health care, and making a positive impact on the lives of patients in rural communities.

**Cresencio Rodriguez-Delgado** is the news director at KVPR, the National Public Radio affiliate station in Central California. Prior to joining KVPR, Rodriguez-Delgado was a correspondent for the PBS NewsHour and a reporter for *The Fresno Bee*. He has reported on issues ranging from the environment and health to income inequality and housing. In 2023, Rodriguez-Delgado helped lead KVPR's coverage of the closure of Madera Community Hospital and the state of health care in the Valley. That coverage earned the newsroom an award from the Radio Television News Association. Rodriguez-Delgado is the current president of the Bay Area chapter of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and serves on the advisory board of the California Local News Fellowship program from UC Berkeley.

**Kristof Stremikis, MPP, MPH**, is director of CHCF'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 the complex health care ecosystem and to support informed decisions about California's health care landscape.

Previously, Stremikis served as associate director for policy at the Pacific Business Group on Health, where he also oversaw the Purchaser Value Network. Prior to that, he spent six years at the Commonwealth Fund as senior researcher to the president. Stremikis 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 the UC Berkeley; and a master's degree in health policy and management from Columbia University.