



Findings from CHCF's Regional Market Report on Shasta and Lassen Counties

Thursday, April 2, 2026

Speaker Biographies

Wendi Davis, MHA, is the chief operating officer (COO) at Partnership Health Plan. She is responsible for the oversight of operations and executive management of Partnership's regional offices and various departments, including member services, grievance and appeals, claims, configuration, transportation, and provider relations. Davis provides leadership in organizing Partnership's operational teams and interdepartmental communications, and she participates in strategic planning in the development of new business lines and programs.

Previously, Davis served as deputy COO, Northern Region executive director, and Northern Region claims director. She also served as Northern California executive director of revenue cycle at Adventist Health System/Cerner Corporation, and Northern California director of revenue cycle at Kaiser Permanente and CHW/Dignity. Davis has a bachelor's degree in political science and economics from Chico State University. She received a master's degree in health care administration from St. Joseph's College of Maine.

Shannon Gerig, RN, has dedicated more than 30 years to serving patients and strengthening rural health care systems in Northern California. As a registered nurse at heart and a seasoned health care leader, she brings both clinical insight and operational expertise to her role guiding Mountain Valleys Health Centers (MVHC). Under Gerig's leadership as CEO, MVHC has expanded access to care across the North State, including the recent opening of a new chiropractic office in Burney.

MVHC has grown to include ten facilities providing integrated primary medical care, behavioral health services, and family dentistry to more than 11,500 patients. The growing provider team now offers a range of expanded specialty services, including cardiology, podiatry, pediatrics, orthopedics, psychiatry, obstetrics, and chiropractic care. Gerig has championed numerous community outreach events to connect underserved residents with essential services and preventive care.

Today, MVHC employs more than 150 individuals, providing not only quality health care but meaningful economic stability in the rural communities it serves. Operating under the direction of a community-based board of directors, MVHC remains deeply rooted in local accountability and patient-centered governance. The organization's mission is to serve rural communities with comprehensive, high-quality care delivered with compassion and exceptional customer service.

Sandra R. Hernández, MD, is president and CEO of the California Health Care Foundation. Prior to joining CHCF, Hernández was CEO of The San Francisco Foundation. She previously served as director of public health for the City and County of San Francisco.

In February 2023, Hernández was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom to serve on the state's Health Care Affordability Board. From 2018 to 2023, she served on the Covered California board of directors, after having been appointed by Governor Jerry Brown. In 2019, she was appointed by Governor Newsom to the Healthy California for All Commission. During her time at the San Francisco Foundation, she co-chaired 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.

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. In 2024, UCSF awarded Hernández its highest honor, the UCSF Medal. 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.

G. Todd Smith, MBA, currently serves as president of Mercy Medical Center Redding, a position he accepted in January 2017. In this role, Smith is responsible for the overall leadership, management, and strategy of the hospital. Prior to this appointment, he was president at St. Elizabeth Community Hospital for four years. Smith has worked at Dignity Health for more than 40 years, starting as a radiological technologist at St. Elizabeth, and progressively assuming increasing levels of responsibility. Smith has a bachelor's degree in business and human resource management and a master's degree in business administration.

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 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.

J. Brandon Thornock, MBA, MHA, became the CEO of Shasta Community Health Center (SMHC) in 2024. He joined SCHC in 2013 as director of clinical operations and became the chief operations officer in 2017. Prior to joining SCHC, Thornock was a clinic manager with Intermountain Healthcare in Salt Lake City, where he supervised 40 direct reports, including RNs, LVNs, MAs, front office, other support staff, and physicians. Thornock is an experienced leader with a proven track record. He is fluent in Spanish. He graduated from Brigham Young University with a BS degree in business management and entrepreneurship, holds an MBA from the University of Utah, and an MHA from Weber State University. Thornock is a graduate of Leadership Redding class of 2018.

Jill Yegian, PhD, principal at Yegian Health Insights, provides consulting services at the intersection of health care delivery, payment, and policy aimed at improving the health care system on behalf of patients, providers, and purchasers. She currently serves as project director for two California Health Care Foundation (CHCF) initiatives: the Regional Markets Project, examining the health care market in specific regions across California; and Addressing Specialty Care Shortages in the Rural North, supporting Partnership Health Plan and CHCF with developing solutions to improve access to specialty care. She has done extensive work on strengthening primary care in California, including leading the Primary Care Investment Coordinating Group of California and organizing a statewide convening focused on primary care investment implementation in California in November 2025. Yegian also supports California's Department of Health Care Access and Information with implementation of the Healthcare Payments Data Program (California's all payer claims database).

Recent publications include *Strengthening Independent Primary Care Practice in California: Understanding Small Practice Perspectives* (CHCF, 2024), *The Case for Investing in Primary Care in California* (CHCF, April 2022) and *California's Physician Practice Landscape: A Rapidly Changing Market with Limited Data* (CHCF, March 2022). Prior to launching Yegian Health Insights in 2018, she held executive positions at Brown & Toland Physicians, a large independent practice association; the Integrated Healthcare Association, a cross-industry membership association; the American Institutes for Research; and CHCF. Yegian received a bachelor's degree in human biology from Stanford University and a PhD in health services and policy analysis from the University of California at Berkeley.