



## Share & Learn Speaker Bios

### Bringing Head Start and Local Oral Health Programs Together: Partnering to Meet Head Start and State Requirements

February 19, 2026

#### Kristin Hoeft, PhD, MPH

*Associate Professor, Division of Oral Epidemiology and Dental Public Health, University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) School of Dentistry, Director, California Oral Health Technical Assistance Center (COHTAC)*

Dr. Kristin Hoeft has expertise in health education and evaluation, oral health literacy, and qualitative research methods. Her research focuses on making optimal home oral hygiene and dental care experiences accessible to diverse and vulnerable populations and bringing best practices to community-based settings. She has worked in the field of children's oral health disparities at UCSF's Center to Address Children's Oral Health (CAN DO) for over 15 years. She directs the California Oral Health Technical Assistance Center (COHTAC) and chairs the Communications & Oral Health Literacy Workgroup.

#### Cristine Cochran

*Management Consultant, CA Department of Education Early Head Start*

Cris' experience and knowledge of Head Start and her practice as a Child Care Health Consultant is the foundation for providing support, technical assistance, and training for early childhood education programs. She supports California Department of Education Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships and other early education programs throughout California as a consultant in health, oral health, nutrition, safety, family engagement, and comprehensive services.

Cris has extensive federal, regional, state, and local background and experience including Federal Review Monitoring Consultant, Head Start Region IX Training and Technical Assistance Network Specialist, Zero To Three Consultant, and Head Start Health, Nutrition and Comprehensive Services Manager.

#### Ristyn Woolley, M.A. Ed.

*Director, CA Head Start Collaboration Office (CHSCO)*

Ristyn Woolley is the Director of the CA Head Start State Collaboration Office where her role is to facilitate collaboration among Head Start agencies and entities that carry out activities designed to benefit low-income children from birth to school entry, and their families including state and local partners to leverage common interests. As the Collaboration Director, Ristyn works on systems connections on behalf of Head Start recipients with state agencies on various partnerships including licensing, professional development, quality early learning and care, special education, Tribal connections, and K-12 engagement both at the federal, state, and local levels. Ristyn has over 26 years working in Early Learning and Care in many capacities including teaching, research and publications, policy, mental health, inclusion, and Head Start. She holds a B.A. degree in Business Administration from the University of Pacific and an M.A in Early Childhood

Educational Leadership from Mills College. Ristyn enjoys traveling with her husband of 25 years, reading, and spending time with her family.

## Vyshiali Sundararajan BDS, MDS

*Statewide Oral Health Specialist, Local Programs and Statewide Interventions Unit, Office of Oral Health*

Vyshiali Sundararajan (Vysh) is a Statewide Oral Health Specialist in the Local Programs and Statewide Interventions Unit. A foreign-trained dentist and UCSF Dental Public Health residency graduate, Vysh supports statewide contracts and Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment (KOHA) reporting through SCOHR. Vysh collaborates on school dental programs, partners with COHTAC and local stakeholders to enhance KOHA implementation and helps develop the OOH SharePoint environment to streamline program resources. Vysh is passionate about creating real-time public health impact and advancing oral health initiatives across California.

## Evelyn Ramirez, BA

*Health Education Specialist, Madera County Department of Public Health (MCDPH)*

Evelyn has worked at the Madera County Department of Public Health as a Health Education Specialist for five years. She began her career as part of the COVID-19 response team and later joined the Local Oral Health Program. Previously, Evelyn worked as a Dental Health Outreach Educator at Reading and Beyond in Fresno, CA and supported the Oral Health Needs Assessment for Madera County in 2018 while serving as a Research Assistant at the University of California, Merced. Evelyn is deeply committed to serving underserved communities through education, outreach, and advocacy, and she is passionate about connecting individuals and families with accessible health resources that improve overall well-being.

## Mayra Gonzalez

*Health Services Content Specialist, Community Action Partnership of Madera County (CAPMC)*

Mayra began her work with CAPMC in 2020 as a Family Advocate. In February of 2021, she transitioned into the role of Health Content Specialist for the Fresno Head Start program, expanding her focus to the overall health needs of children enrolled in the program. In 2023, she transferred to the Madera Head Start program, where she continues to serve in this role. Mayra is passionate about improving children's health outcomes through education, advocacy, and collaboration with families and community partners.

## Brandy Mattson, RDH, OMT, HPS III

*Health Planning Specialist III, Oral Health Program, Santa Clara*

She is a Health Planning Specialist III for the Santa Clara County Oral Health Program housed within the Clinics to Community Linkages team. She is a Registered Dental Hygienist and Orofacial Myofunctional Therapist with nearly 30 years of experience working in various dentistry settings and currently serves as the team's lead education and communications specialist.

She has degrees in Health Care Management and Dental Hygiene and has worked in private practices, public health clinics, periodontics, cosmetics, and university emergency dental services. She has spent her career advocating for both youth and older adults, addressing the needs of those with special circumstances and advancing gum disease. Brandy is currently a member of the Office of Oral Health State School Dental Workgroup and Resources Subcommittee, the Society for Health Communications, the American Association for Community Dental Programs, and the National Network of Healthcare Hygienists.

## Chriselda Gonzalez

*Health Services Supervisor, Head Start/Early Head Start*

She is the Supervisor of Health Services for Head Start/Early Head Start with over 18 years of experience working with children and families. Working in collaboration with the community to provide services to young children in their developmental journey and education has been her journey. Following community work in health education, she began her Head Start journey as a Family Advocate and focused on advocating for children and families by developing community awareness, educating families and providing comprehensive services for children and families. In 2022, she transitioned into her role as Supervisor - Health Services and has had the opportunity to continue with community partnership to strengthen opportunities of support in health and nutrition. She truly believes in building awareness and connections to strengthen children's educational opportunities through health and nutrition as a vital component to healthy learning.

## Somayeh Bolourchi, MPH

*Program Manager II, Oral Health Program, Santa Clara County*

Somayeh is the Program Manager II for the Santa Clara County Oral Health Program housed within the Clinics to Community Linkages team. She joined the Oral Health Program in 2019, following roles in Tobacco-Free Communities, Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention (NEOP), and Lead Poisoning Prevention, focused on upstream prevention strategies to improve children's health. In her current role, Somayeh leads collaborations with community partners to build better oral health equity and awareness. Somayeh obtained her MPH in Research Epidemiology from Loma Linda University and completed her research project at UC Berkeley. In her free time, she enjoys playing outdoors with her 8-year-old son and 6-year-old daughter.

## Carol Ash, RDH

*Registered Dental Hygienist, Solano Oral Health Education Program, Solano County*

With over three decades of dedicated service, Carol Ash has redefined what it means to be a dental hygienist, moving far beyond the traditional dental office setting to become a cornerstone of community health. Carol has spearheaded a comprehensive dental sealant program where she successfully protected hundreds of permanent molars from decay. As a consistent provider at Head Start sites, she offers essential fluoride varnish applications and screenings. Carol's gentle, patient-centered approach ensures that a child's first experience with dental care is positive, educational and fear-free. In addition, Carol is a frequent guest in elementary classrooms, turning what can be a mundane activity to some into engaging, age-appropriate lessons. From proper brushing techniques to the impact of nutrition on tooth enamel, Carol empowers students to take ownership of their health from an early age.

## Rosario Manjarrez

*Health Education Specialist, Project Coordinator-Solano Oral Health Education Program, Solano County*

Rosario has over 16 years of dedicated service to the Solano County community. Rosario has built a career rooted in advocacy, public health and local impact. Her journey began in the non-profit sector, where she developed a foundational commitment to addressing the unique needs of the community. Following her time in non-profit work, she transitioned to the Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Bureau, where she spent nine years championing the health and well-being of families. For the past four years, she has applied her extensive experience to the Solano Oral Health Education Program, serving as the Project Coordinator. In this role, she oversees collaborative efforts between the program and community stakeholders to bridge the gap between education and access, ensuring that oral health remains priority for the community she calls home.

## Hannah Bergen Ziyadinova, M.A.

*Project Director, Public Health Oral Health Program, Tehama County*

Hannah Bergen Ziyadinova is the Project Director for Tehama County Public Health's Oral Health Program. In this role, she works with the Oral Health team to improve oral health outcomes and promote health equity throughout the community. Although she is new to Tehama County Public Health, she has over four years of experience working in public health programs across other counties, focusing on preventive care, expanding access to services, and engaging communities.

She earned my Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and a Master's degree in Global Policy from Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea. She is excited to join Tehama County because of its strong sense of community and commitment to improving health outcomes for all residents. She looks forward to building partnerships, listening to local voices, and creating programs that reflect the unique needs and strengths of the county.

## Jena Roof

*Program Coordinator, Public Health Oral Health Program, Tehama County*

Jena Roof is a dedicated Program Coordinator for Tehama County Public Health's Oral Health Program. She also works with the Tobacco Program as the Community Engagement and Coalition Coordinator. She has a strong commitment to supporting healthy lifestyles, disease prevention, and community well-being through each of the programs. She helps ensure that health initiatives are both accessible and impactful to everyone.

She earned my Bachelor of Science degree from California State University, Chico. There she built a strong foundation in health education, communication and public health principles. She is new to Tehama County but has worked in Public Health for over 5 years. She is excited to visit each community within our county to foster positive behavioral improvements that help everyone have happy and healthy smiles.

## Janelle Urata, RDH, MS

*Project Policy Analyst, Registered Dental Hygienist, University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) School of Dentistry, California Oral Health Technical Assistance Center (COHTAC)*

Janelle is a registered dental hygienist with over 15 years of clinical experience and more than 10 years in dental research. She contributes to the COHTAC School Dental Programs Workgroup, supporting efforts to improve the quality of school-based oral health programs and expand access to care. Janelle also manages several multi-institutional studies conducted across the nation.