



Office of Oral Health - Project Directors' Meeting Accomplishments and the Road Forward

Speaker Bios



Shakalpi Pendurkar,
DDS, MPH

Dr. Shakalpi Pendurkar was appointed State Dental Director of California and oversees the Office of Oral Health at California Department of Public Health.

Prior to joining CDPH, Dr. Pendurkar directed the Oral Health Programs for San Mateo and Alameda Counties, was Dental Director of Health Plan of San Mateo, and the lead advisor for the Santa Clara Oral Health Program. For over two decades she has provided dental care at Gardner Health Services, a Federally Qualified Health Center in the Bay Area.

Before moving to California, she was an Epidemiology Consultant for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

Dr. Pendurkar is a member of the California Dental Association, American Dental Association, and the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors. She is a Fellow of the American and International College of Dentists. Dr. Pendurkar and the CDPH Office of Oral Health are committed to promoting oral health equity for all Californians.



Paul Glassman,
DDS, MA, MBA

Dr. Paul Glassman is the Associate Dean for Research and Community Engagement at the College of Dental Medicine at California Northstate University in Elk Grove, CA and Professor Emeritus at the University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni, School of Dentistry in San Francisco, CA. He has served on many national panels including the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) Committee on Oral Health Access to Services which produced the IOM report on Improving Access to Oral Health Care for Vulnerable and Underserved Populations.

Dr. Glassman has had many years of dental practice experience treating patients with complex conditions and has published and lectured extensively in the areas of Hospital Dentistry, Dentistry for Patients with Special Needs, Dentistry for Individuals with Medical Disabilities, Dentistry for Patients with Dental Fear, Geriatric Dentistry, and Oral Health Systems reform. He has a long career working with special populations in a variety of practice and community settings. Dr. Glassman is a pioneer and has led the national movement to improve oral health using telehealth-connected teams and Virtual Dental Homes. Dr. Glassman has been prominent in advocacy efforts on a state and national level for health system reform to improve oral health systems for a wide variety of underserved groups.



Susan Fisher-Owens,
MD, MPH

Susan Fisher-Owens is a Clinical Professor of Pediatrics in the UCSF School of Medicine, and Clinical Professor of Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences in the UCSF School of Dentistry. She serves on the California State Oral Health Plan and the California Perinatal and Infant Oral Health Quality Advisory Board, as well as the Integrated Coordinating Committee for CavityFreeSF. She is the Lead Consultant on Fluoride for the Office of Oral Health, California Department of Public Health. She practices at Zuckerberg San Francisco General, the county public hospital, and created an award-winning and sustainable oral health clinic embedded in their pediatric outpatient clinic. Dr. Fisher-Owens works with physicians on how to prevent oral disease in children or control it in adults (particularly pregnant women), and with dentists on how to work with children and incorporate context of care. Her research on a conceptual model of children's oral health is cited internationally, and her current research focuses on oral health disparities, and fluoride.



Dana Durham

Dana Durham is the Chief of the Medi-Cal Dental Services Division within the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). She has full management responsibility for administering the Medi-Cal Dental Services Program (Dental Fee for Service and Dental Managed Care), which provides dental services to over 14 million Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

Prior to joining the Medi-Cal Dental Services Program, Ms. Durham had over ten years of administrative and managerial experience within DHCS in physical health for Medi-Cal Managed Care. She has extensive experience and knowledge working in health care policy planning, development, and implementation. She has over sixteen years of experience serving Californians as a public servant and additional over 10 years of experience working in the healthcare industry.



Jamie Hanf,
MBA

Jamie Hanf is a Health Education Coordinator with Nevada County Public Health, where she works in the Oral Health Program and supports the Tobacco Prevention Program. Over the past four years, she has been dedicated to reducing oral health disparities among vulnerable populations. By partnering with Registered Dental Hygienists in Alternative Practice (RDHAPs), Jamie developed and implemented a successful school-based oral health program that has since expanded to serve additional populations, including WIC participants, Communities Beyond Violence, Healthy Babies, and individuals experiencing homelessness. Most recently, the program implemented a Virtual Dental Home (VDH) school-based model in Nevada County. Jamie holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and an MBA.



Celia Canalia

Celia Canalia is a Program Coordinator with Butte County Public Health’s Local Oral Health Program, bringing a strong background in dental healthcare and community outreach. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Health Science from California State University, Chico, and has experience in Federally Qualified Health Clinics and private practice, progressing from Dental Assistant to Dental Practice Manager. Celia is passionate about early prevention and oral health education, with a focus on school sites and early childhood education programs and is committed to improving community health through effective outreach and awareness. Outside of work, Celia enjoys photography and spending time with her two daughters.



MaryEllen Rehse,
MSW

MaryEllen Rehse is the Executive Director for Children and Family Resource Services (CFRS), a non-profit organization, also known as Health Linkages, which was formed under the umbrella of the Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO). Prior to her current role she served as Santa Barbara County’s Oral Health Program Manager when she first joined SBCEO in 2007. Health Linkages houses several programs in addition to their Future Smiles oral health program, including a close collaboration with the Santa Barbara County Promotores Network. CFRS connects students and community members with health and behavioral wellness needs to critical resources and provides screening and prevention services. She has her Master’s degree in Social Work and has worked with children and families in that professional capacity for over 30 years. Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, she and her husband moved to California 21 years ago. She recently became a local school board trustee in her current hometown of Solvang.



Andrea Lindner Jones

Andrea is a Health Education Coordinator and Project Director with El Dorado County Public Health, where she leads cross-sector consortium efforts supporting oral health initiatives in El Dorado and Alpine counties. She oversees program development, grant management, and collaboration among public health, education, and community partners to improve oral health access and outcomes for children and families. Andrea previously served as Health Coordinator with the El Dorado County Office of Education and brings over a decade of experience in public health and education



Eileen Espejo

Eileen Espejo is the Senior Managing Director of Children Now. She spearheads the organization's efforts to improve oral health quality and access for children in California through systems change. Examples include leading a medical-dental collaboration project in Los Angeles County to increase dental utilization among children under age 6 enrolled in Medi-Cal and assisting with the implementation of a statewide pediatric oral health action plan. Currently, she leads a project to support local oral health programs working to establish or expand school dental programs in the Northern and San Joaquin Valley regions of the state. She also leads legislative efforts to increase access to and coverage of topical fluoride varnish for children and regulatory efforts to ensure the community health worker Medi-Cal benefit is leveraged to navigate children to oral health services. She has served as a leader and member on national, state, and local advisory boards, including the National Oral Health Progress & Equity Network (OPEN), the California Oral Health Advisory Partnership, and as chair of the San Mateo County Oral Health Coalition and several local oral health advisory committees.

Prior to working for Children Now, Eileen served as Director of Youth Governance for the Youth Leadership Institute in the Bay Area, as Legislative Affairs Associate at the Corporation for National and Community Service in Washington, DC and was a Coro Fellow in Public Affairs. She graduated cum laude from the University of California, Davis with a B.S. in Applied Behavioral Sciences.