

PROJECT DIRECTOR'S MEETING

School Dental Programs: Integrating Care Coordinators and Community Health Workers

SPEAKER BIOS

February 14, 2024 | 10:00AM – 12:00PM

Eileen Espejo

Senior Managing Director, Health, Children Now

Eileen leads Children Now's work to improve oral health care quality and access for children in California. Previous projects include a medical-dental pilot to increase dental utilization among children under 6 who are enrolled in Medi-Cal in Los Angeles County, which helped to inform the development of the Medical Dental Referral and Navigation (MDRAN) system via the Every Smile Counts! Dental Transformation Initiative in Sacramento and now being established in San Joaquin County. Eileen advises several oral health efforts for the state and local health jurisdictions, including the Child, Health and Disability Prevention program transition plan, the California Oral Health Plan and local oral health program implementation.

Adrianna Alcalá-Beshara, JD, MBA

Division Chief, Medi-Cal Dental Services Division Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

Adrianna Alcalá-Beshara has full management responsibility for administering the Medi-Cal Dental Services Program, which is responsible for providing dental services to over 15 million Medi-Cal members through Fee-For-Service and Dental Managed Care delivery models. She served as the Assistant Division Chief of the Medi-Cal Dental program from 2015 to 2017. While at the Department, she successfully led the DHCS team responsible for the development and implementation of the Dental Transformation Initiative and Proposition 56 State Increases for all Dental Providers.

She has extensive experience and knowledge working in healthcare policy planning, implementation, systems enhancements and integration, data management, and operational oversight. She served as a Deputy Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs for a California Commission, as well as a legal and program advisor to governor appointees and at the Office of the Governor from 2017 to July 2022 when she returned to the Department of Health Care Services as the Chief over the Medi-Cal Dental Program.

Adrianna also has over 10 years of experience working as a private-sector attorney and advocate, which have included matters regarding public health, access, audits, and Medi-Cal policy.

Bahar Amanzadeh, DDS, MPH

Care Coordination and Sustainability Specialist, California Oral Health Technical Assistance Center (COHTAC) and Assistant Clinical Professor, UCSF School of Dentistry

Dr. Amanzadeh is a COHTAC member, an adjunct assistant clinical professor, and an independent consultant in dental public health. Her expertise includes school oral health programs, dental care coordination and medical-dental integration. She strives to engage the communities and work on policies that build the infrastructures to combat oral health disparities.

Dr. Amanzadeh works with multiple organizations and local jurisdictions to conduct oral health needs assessments, develop community oral health improvement plans, and guide the implementation and evaluation of such plans. She has been the Dental Health Administrator at the Alameda County Department of Public Health, where she planned, evaluated, and oversaw the dental public health programs. This included the Alameda County Local Dental Pilot Project, Healthy Teeth Healthy Communities, and a \$19.7M grant through the Department of Health Care Services to create a countywide coordinated dental care system using the Community Health Worker model. Previously, she directed the Community Based Dental Education program at UCSF School of Dentistry.

Dr. Amanzadeh has an extensive background in working with underserved communities, designing educational, preventive programs and integration models. She is passionate about the role of Community Health Workers in oral health promotion and care coordination, the oral health of pregnant women, seniors, people with disabilities and those experiencing homelessness, motivational interviewing, and trauma-informed care.

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MaryEllen Rehse, MSW

Executive Director, Children and Family Resource Services, Santa Barbara County Education Office

In January 2021, MaryEllen Rehse was selected to be Executive Director of Children and Family Resource Services (CFRS), a nonprofit organization formed under the umbrella of the Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO). CFRS houses several programs, including a close collaboration with the Santa Barbara County Promotores Network and Health Linkages, which connects students and community members with health and behavioral wellness needs to helpful resources.

MaryEllen has managed SBCEO programs with Health Linkages since 2007, as well as serving as Santa Barbara County's Oral Health Program Manager. Health Linkages has been providing vital oral health services in the community since its inception 20 years ago and formally took the leadership role of LOHP in 2020 after the Public Health Department relinquished their contract.

She has her master's degree in social work and has served children and families in that professional capacity for over 30 years.

Jennyffer Rivera, MPH

Oral Health Program Manager, Santa Barbara County Education Office

Born and raised in Guatemala, Jennyffer Rivera has 15 years of experience as a health educator implementing, coordinating, and evaluating programs to improve the quality of life of the community. She was a Los Angeles County resident for nine years prior to becoming a UC Santa Barbara alumnus. She received a master's degree in public health with a concentration in health education from California State University, Northridge. Her degree, cultural diversity, and bilingual skills have provided the opportunity to work with different agencies that focus on empowering, educating, and creating positive behavior change.

Ariel Thomas-Urlik, MPH

Project Director and Program Planning Evaluation Analyst, Sonoma County LOHP

Ariel Thomas-Urlik (she/her) is a Program Planning Evaluation Analyst with the Sonoma County LOHP. She has been with Sonoma County Department of Health Services for about 7 years, working intermittently with the dental program during that timeframe. She formally became the Project Director for the LOHP in July of 2023.

Ariel has a master's in public health with an emphasis in Community Health Practice from the University of Texas at Houston Health Science Center. She has experience across multiple health programs including food access and tobacco prevention.



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