



OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH PROJECT DIRECTOR'S MEETING

GETTING SCHOOLED ON ORAL HEALTH



Speaker Bios

Thursday, February 9, 2023

9:30AM – 12:00PM

Jayanth Kumar, DDS, MPH

State Dental Director, Office of Oral Health, California Department of Public Health

Dr. Kumar was appointed as the California State Dental Director in August 2015. He is a board-certified specialist in dental public health and a former director and president of the American Board of Dental Public Health. Before joining the California Department of Public Health, he was state dental director in New York where he held multiple positions. His role as program director and manager has been defined by a strong commitment to elevating oral health as a priority in the state's health agenda.

Kristin Hoeft, PhD, MPH

Assistant Professor, Division of Oral Epidemiology and Dental Public Health, University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) School of Dentistry and the new Director of COHTAC

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 children's oral health disparities at UCSF's Center to Address Children's Oral Health (CAN DO) for over 15 years.

Kee Her

Program Manager, Codestack, San Joaquin County Office of Education

Kee provides oversight on various state and local programs throughout California. He is dedicated to collaborating and working with school districts, COEs, LEAs, and local agencies to support reporting and recruitment efforts for California schools. SCOHR was developed by the SJCOE (CodeStack Department) in collaboration with the ACSA, CDA, CDPH, and CCSESA to provide a centralized online method of all required student oral health assessment data. SCOHR tracks the status of all Oral Health Assessment/Waiver Request Forms. SCOHR also includes a Report Generator utility to run aggregate reports at the school, district, county, and/or state levels.

Claire Bleymaier

Senior Community Health Planner for San Mateo County Health's Oral Public Health Program

Claire joined San Mateo County in November of 2021. She has managed public health programs for the last ten years mostly in the nonprofit sector, with a heavy focus on community outreach and engagement, health education, and health equity.

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.



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Dr. Shakalpi Pendurkar

Dental Health Administrator, Alameda County Public Health Department, Office of Dental Health

Prior to joining Alameda County, Dr. Pendurkar provided leadership on oral health in two Bay Area counties. Dr. Pendurkar has previously worked as Director of the Oral Public Health Program for San Mateo County (SMC), where she led the implementation of the SMC Local Oral Health Plan. She provided leadership for developing and implementing a school-based school-linked oral health program, framework for an oral health surveillance system for monitoring and preventing oral diseases, promoting oral health, and providing dental health education. She also worked with the Health Plan of San Mateo for a brief period as the Dental Director for HPSM's Medical-Dental Integration project.

For over 19 years, Dr. Pendurkar has worked as Lead Supervising Dentist at Gardner Health Services, an FQHC in the heart of downtown San Jose. She is committed to improving access to care and the overall health of her patients and has successfully advocated for the fluoridation of San Jose's drinking water.

Angelina "Gina" Amaro-McNamara

Executive Leadership Coach for Community Schools Fresno County Office of the Superintendent of Schools (FCSS)

Angelina Amaro-McNamara has 24 years' experience in the educational field. She has applied her classroom and K-12 administration experience to public education, as well as the private sector. Angelina taught high school English and served as a school administrator for the Central Unified School District. She also held the position of elementary school principal in a low-income area of Central Unified. Angelina has also been a national speaker for the Common Core Institute, Chicago, IL, and a leadership coach in Fresno County, where she led a CDE-funded Professional Learning Network (PLN). She frequently partners with districts to develop an implementation framework for the principles of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). Angelina supports superintendents, administrators, and teachers through school and district improvement by using Improvement Science tools and framework as a continuous improvement model. Currently, she is leading the Community Schools work in the Fresno County Superintendent's Office.

Rhoda Howell-Gonzales, RDHAP, BSDH

Fresno County Oral Health Consultant

Rhoda Howell-Gonzales is a dental hygienist working in alternative practice settings, providing direct services and preventive care. She promotes oral health and oral health literacy in school children by providing education and dental sealants in school-based programs to the most vulnerable students. Her goal is to reach children before the decay process begins and work collaboratively with community partners to coordinate dental care in dental homes. Rhoda's experience includes Dental Hygiene Clinician, Instructor, Director of Quality, Dental Consultant, and business owner. As a Director of Quality for a health plan, she served the Medicaid population in California and gained knowledge of medical-dental integration. Working as an oral health consultant has given Rhoda a strong appreciation for the role of collaboration and a holistic approach to health outcomes. She is a Government Relations Council (GRC) co-chair for California Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA), which is helping to increase the workforce available to provide access to oral health care.

Allegra Chacon

Project Director, Fresno LOHP Fresno County Public Health Department (FCDPH)

Allegra Chacon is a health educator with Fresno County Department of Public Health (FCDPH). She promotes and encourages health prevention services and has been in the public health field for over 6 years. Allegra has a background in physical activity and nutrition, along with tobacco, hypertension, diabetes, and employee worksite wellness. Currently, she is leading Fresno County's work in oral health and three other programs since she rejoined FCDPH in March 2022.