



Share & Learn Speaker Bios

Highlighting LOHP Care Coordination Models

November 21, 2024

Lisa Berens, DDS, MPH

Professor, Department of Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences, UCSF School of Dentistry

Dr. Berens is the John C. Greene Professor in Primary Care Dentistry and Chair of the Division of Oral Epidemiology and Dental Public Health. She is also the Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences and Chair of the Dental Research Fellowship Program. She is also a member of the California Oral Health Technical Assistance Center (COHTAC) team, and co-leads CavityFree SF, which works to eliminate disparities in oral health care so all San Francisco children can be cavity-free and healthy.

Khadijat Alli

Research Analyst, Institute for Health Policy Studies, Healthforce Center, UCSF

Khadijat Alli is a research analyst at the Institute for Health Policy Studies (IHPS) and Healthforce Center at UCSF. She collaborates with the California Oral Health Technical Assistance Center (COHTAC) to support 60 local oral health programs across California. Her work focuses on driving program improvements and policy reforms in areas such as health workforce stability, dental care coordination, and the development of sustainable health care models. With a background in health education, community outreach, social services, and tobacco prevention efforts, she has worked in diverse settings, including hospitals, clinics, and health departments. Alli holds a bachelor's degree in public health from UC Merced and is dedicated to driving positive change in society through public health, policy, and medicine.

Maria Ortiz-Padilla, MPA

Program Manager, Community Oral Health Program, Contra Costa Health

Maria has over 20 years working in the health education field and has been overseeing the Community Oral Health Program for 5 years. She is passionate about the oral health work that is currently taking place in Contra Costa and is looking forward to forming new partnerships to enhance the Local Oral Health Program.

Harleen Sethi, DMD

Dentist, Community Oral Health Program, Contra Costa Health

Dr. Sethi earned her dental degree from Tufts University and has always had a passionate interest in community-based oral health initiatives. Since joining Contra Costa Health, she has helped to launch mobile dental clinics, provide evidence-based preventive services at schools, and engage with community partners on the importance of oral health. Currently, she is also helping lead the implementation of the Community Oral Health Improvement Plan for Contra Costa.

Erika Oseguera

Lead Registered Dental Assistant, Community Oral Health Program, Contra Costa Health

Erika Oseguera has been an RDA for 26 years and has been working with Contra Costa Health for 20 years. She is currently the Lead RDA for the Community Oral Health Program and oversees program coordination activities with school districts, principals, teachers, and community partners.

Carmen Cuevas

Program Coordinator, Ventura County Oral Health Program

Since 2018, Carmen has worked with Ventura County's Oral Health Program to promote good oral health habits and improve access to oral health services for underserved and vulnerable populations. In this role, she collaborates with schools, community organizations, and public agencies to build capacity, identify resource gaps, and develop initiatives that support the oral health of residents. Carmen's responsibilities include coordinating school-based oral health screenings, facilitating community outreach efforts, developing, and distributing bilingual educational materials. With a strong commitment to cultural competence, she ensures that all materials are tailored to meet the needs of diverse populations, and regularly engage with stakeholders to shape and guide the program's direction.

Arash Aslami

Interim Dental Director, Office of Dental Health, Alameda County

Arash Aslami is the Interim Dental Director at the Office of Dental Health (ODH) in Alameda County. Prior to this role, he served as the Dental Transformation Initiative (DTI) Project Healthy Teeth Healthy Communities (HTHC) Director. He has also held the position of Dental Program Manager at the Tri-City Health Center in Alameda County.

Nandita Yasmin

Associate Program Specialist, Office of Dental Health, Alameda County

Nandita Yasmin, Associate Program Specialist, has been with Office of Dental Health (ODH) for 7 years. She started working as a Community Dental Care Coordinator (CDCC) for DTI project known as Healthy Teeth Healthy Communities (HTHC). After the project ended, she continued working as a Family Support Care Coordinator (FSCC) for ODH. Currently, she is the Alameda County LOHP manager, ensuring that all work plan activities are being implemented and tracked. Nandita is an avid advocate for the oral health and well-being of Alameda County residents.

Shakalpi Pendurkar, DDS, MPH

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

Dr. Shakalpi Pendurkar is the State Dental Director of California and oversees the Office of Oral Health at the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Prior to joining CDPH, Dr. Pendurkar was the Dental Health Administrator in the Office of Dental Health at Alameda County Public Health Department. For over two decades she has been Lead Supervising Dentist at Gardner Health Services, a Federally Qualified Health Center in the Bay Area providing services to priority vulnerable populations. Dr. Pendurkar was Dental Director of Health Plan of San Mateo and Director of Oral Public Health Programs at the San Mateo County Public Health Department. 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, American Public Health Association, and the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors. She is a Fellow of the American and International College of Dentists. Dr. Pendurkar earned a Master of Public Health degree from Emory University and a Master of Dental Surgery degree in Oral

Maxillofacial Surgery and Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree in Dentistry from Nair Hospital, Bombay University. Dr. Pendurkar and CDPH Office of Oral Health are committed to promoting oral health equity for all Californians.

Adrianna Alcalá-Beshara, JD, MBA

Chief, IT Strategy Services Division, Chief IT Strategy Services Officer, Department of Health Care Services

Adrianna Alcalá-Beshara serves as the Chief of the IT Strategy Services Division and the Chief IT Strategy Services Officer at the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). In this critical role, Adrianna leads the development and implementation of DHCS's comprehensive IT strategy and planning. She oversees IT-related enterprise system architecture, governance, project portfolio management, and administrative operations, ensuring that DHCS's technological infrastructure aligns with its mission to enhance the health and well-being of Californians. Previously, Adrianna was the Chief of the Dental Services Division at DHCS from 2022 to October 2024, where she managed and oversaw Medi-Cal Dental (Dental Fee-for-Service and Dental Managed Care). Under her leadership, the program significantly advanced in the innovation methodology and delivery of essential dental services to over 15 million Medi-Cal beneficiaries. Adrianna possesses over 18 years of distinguished expertise in health care policy planning, development, and implementation with over 18 years of distinguished administrative, technical, legal, and managerial experience across various private and government organizations, including five years as a legal advisor to governor-appointed officials and the Office of the Governor.

Dana Durham

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

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.