



# Share & Learn Speaker Bios

## New School Dental Program Resources

January 16, 2024

### Paula Lee, RDHAP, MPH

*Dental Hygiene Consultant, Office of Oral Health, California Department of Public Health*

Paula is a Dental Hygiene Consultant for the State of California. Her main role is the state coordinator of school-based/-linked oral health programs. Prior to working at the State, she worked 11 years at a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and private practice and volunteered in programs in Central America and Africa. For 10 years, Paula has volunteered to provide oral health care and oral health literacy in school-based/-linked programs to children, families, and community members in Nicaragua and Guatemala. Paula received an MPH from UC Berkeley in management and health policy and a BA in business administration from Sacramento State University. She currently serves on the Government Relations Council and co-chairs the Public Health Council for the California Dental Hygiene Association, chairs the California Partnership for Oral Health's School Dental Programs Workgroup, and works with the California Health Care Foundation Leadership Program where health care leaders expand skills and systems capacity to meet the challenges facing California's health care system.

### School Dental Programs Workgroup Resources Subcommittee

*Subcommittee members, with \* indicating speakers presenting on behalf of the Subcommittee:*

- **Claire Bleymaier, MPH, BSN, RN,\*** *Senior Community Health Planner, Oral Public Health Program, San Mateo County Health*, has been in the role for the last two years, and has focused on leveraging community partnerships to improve school dental program implementation, specifically KOHA. She has worked in the nonprofit, academic, and public sectors in the field of public health for the past nine years.
- **Somayeh Bolourchi, MPH,** *Program Manager II, Local Oral Health Program, County of Santa Clara*, is a Program Manager II for the Santa Clara County Local Oral Health Program. She has been with the County of Santa Clara for about 10 years and has worked for the LOHP since 2019. Somayeh previously worked in Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention, Tobacco Free Communities, and Lead Poisoning, focusing on upstream prevention and children's health. She currently works to advance KOHA compliance within the Santa Clara County school districts and continues to lead several collaborations with community partners pushing to build better oral health equity and oral health awareness.
- **Christy Lopez, MPH, CPH,\*** *Epidemiologist, County of San Diego*, has provided evaluation support to public health programs promoting chronic disease prevention and addressing health disparities in San Diego County for almost 10 years. She has previously worked on programs focused on increasing healthy eating, active living, and smoke-free environments through policy, systems, and environmental change approaches. Current projects include evaluations of CDC grant-funded programs for heart disease and stroke prevention and for addressing COVID-19-related health disparities. She has supported evaluation for the County of San Diego Local Oral Health Program since 2019.

- **Brandy Mattson, RDH, OMT,\*** *Health Education Specialist, Local Oral Health Program, County of Santa Clara*, is a Registered Dental Hygienist and Orofacial Myofunctional Therapist with nearly 30 years of experience working in oral health. She has worked in private clinical practices, public health clinics, and university emergency dental services addressing the needs of those with advanced gum disease and special needs. She is currently the Santa Clara County LOHP Lead Health Educator and is also a member of the National Network of Healthcare Hygienists.
- **Nancy Starr, RDH, MPH,** *Health Planning and Program Specialist, Oral Health Programs, County of San Diego*, is a registered dental hygienist with a master's in public health and has over 20 years of experience focusing on oral health. She has worked as a clinical hygienist and currently is the program director with the Local Oral Health Program for the County of San Diego.

## School Dental Programs Workgroup Data Subcommittee

*Christy Lopez, MPH, CPH, presented on behalf of the Subcommittee, listed below:*

- **Christy Lopez, MPH, CPH,** *Epidemiologist, County of San Diego*, has provided evaluation support to public health programs promoting chronic disease prevention and addressing health disparities in San Diego County for almost 10 years. She has previously worked on programs focused on increasing healthy eating, active living, and smoke-free environments through policy, systems, and environmental change approaches. Current projects include evaluations of CDC grant-funded programs for heart disease and stroke prevention and for addressing COVID-19-related health disparities. She has supported evaluation for the County of San Diego Local Oral Health Program since 2019.
- **Adrianna Alcalá-Beshara, JD, MBA,** *Division Chief for the Medi-Cal Dental Services Division, California Department of Health Care Services*
- **Claire Bleymaier, MPH, BSN, RN,** *Senior Community Health Planner, Oral Public Health Program, San Mateo County Health*
- **Katie Conklin, RDH, MS, MPH,** *Project Policy Analyst for the California Oral Health Technical Assistance Center*
- **Paula Lee, RDHAP, MPH,** *Dental Hygienist Consultant for the Office of Oral Health, California Department of Public Health*
- **Maryjane Puffer,** *Executive Director for The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health*
- **Sharrie Sprouse,** *Program Coordinator for Stanislaus County, Public Health Division*
- **Ariel Thomas-Urlik, MPH,** *Program Planning Evaluation Analyst for the Sonoma County Dental Health Program*
- **Lynn Walton-Haynes, DDS, MPH,** *Dental Program Consultant for the Office of Oral Health, California Department of Public Health*

## Shannon Conroy, PhD, MPH

*Chief, Surveillance and Evaluation Unit, Office of Oral Health, California Department of Public Health*

Dr. Conroy provides epidemiological leadership to the California Office of Oral Health and contributes to understanding oral health disparities in California. She has extensive experience in advanced epidemiological methods and applied biostatistics for population-based public health surveillance efforts and research projects, with a focus in chronic disease prevention, modifiable risk factors, and neighborhood contextual factors. Dr. Conroy earned her doctoral degree in epidemiology from the University of California (UC) Davis. She also completed four-years of postdoctoral research training in cancer epidemiology with internationally recognized

research programs. Previously, she served as a Research Specialist with the UCSF Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics and member of the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center. She has served as the Surveillance and Evaluation Unit Chief for the Office of Oral Health for almost four years (as of June 2019).

## Myryah Leighty

*Quality Management and Performance Specialist, Office of Oral Health, California Department of Public Health*

Myryah is the lead for quality improvement and performance initiatives for oral health programs. She brings 12 years of experience in Quality Management practices and a Black Belt in Lean Six Sigma to CDPH. Prior to working at the Office of Oral Health, she worked for California Correctional Health Care Services as a Quality Management Specialist and implemented Lean decision making within the institutional subcommittees, as well as teaching Lean concepts and statistical analysis to everyone from clinical staff to executives. She received her BA in Psychology from California State University, Bakersfield. Currently, Myryah has been appointed as a member of CDPH's Continuous Improvement Council and is co-chair to the OOH's Evaluation and Performance Management Workgroup.