



## Share & Learn Speaker Bios

### Simplifying the Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment (KOHA) Data Process

April 17, 2025

#### Katie Conklin, RDH, MS, MPH

*Project Policy Analyst, California Oral Health Technical Assistance Center (COHTAC)*

Katie Conklin is with the COHTAC team at UCSF. Her role supports Results-Based Accountability (RBA), the Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment (KOHA), and the dental public health post-graduate residency program. She co-founded a non-profit called the Oral Health Awareness Society to train dental professionals in public health best practices and participated in the Dental Transformation Initiative (DTI) implementation in Sacramento and San Joaquin counties.

#### Bahar Amanzadeh, DDS, MPH

*Care Coordination and Sustainability Specialist, California Oral Health Technical Assistance Center, 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, including 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 CHW model. Previously, she directed the community-based dental education program at the UCSF School of Dentistry. Dr. Amanzadeh has an extensive background in working with underserved communities and designing educational, preventive programs and integration models. She is passionate about the role of CHWs 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.

#### Claire Bleymaier, MPH, BSN, RN

*Senior Community Health Planner, Oral Public Health Program, San Mateo County Health*

Claire has been in the role for the last three 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 ten years.

#### Ariel Thomas-Urlik, MPH

### *Project Director and Program Planning Evaluation Analyst, Sonoma County*

Ariel is a program planning evaluation analyst with the Sonoma County LOHP. She has been with Sonoma County Department of Health Services for about 8 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 on 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.

### **Karen Jacoby**

#### *Policy Specialist and School Dental Program Coordinator, Office of Oral Health*

Karen started her current role in January 2025. She was previously a program consultant with OOH for four and a half years, providing technical assistance and building relationships with partners and collaborators from sister departments, academia, nonprofits, and the private sector. Her experience also includes serving as a project manager, stakeholder communications specialist, and a grant manager for a traumatic brain injury program. Her background also includes private sector experience.

### **Pamela Vera**

#### *Member Outreach Trainer, Gainwell Technologies*

Pamela Vera started with Gainwell in October of 2022 as a customer service representative for Medi-Cal, assisting providers with the Provider Portal and assisting member inquiries. On October of 2023, Pamela transferred to the DBO team and became a professional trainer. Pamela lives in Los Angeles with her son.