

SPEAKER BIOS

INFORMATIONAL HEARING

ASSEMBLY BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE No. 1 ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ASSEMBLYMEMBER DR. JOAQUIN ARAMBULA, CHAIR

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2019

1:00 P.M., STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 437

“THE PROMISE OF PROPOSITION 63 AND THE FUTURE OF MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING IN CALIFORNIA”

Scott Ashwood

Dr. Scott Ashwood (PhD, Carnegie Mellon University) is a Policy Researcher at the RAND Corporation and a faculty member of the Pardee RAND Graduate School. His research focuses on mental health, homelessness, and innovations in health care delivery, with expertise in program evaluation, cost benefit analysis, and health outcomes. Dr. Ashwood has led or co-led evaluations of federal, state, and local programs that address mental health and homelessness.

Angela Brand

Angela Brand is the Vice President of Strategic Development at NAMI California. She has extensive experience in mental health programming focused on community engagement, advocacy, training and workforce development, having worked in both the public and private sector. Prior to joining NAMI California, she worked for the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission and United Advocates for Children and Families.

She is passionate about family and consumer-led system transformation and the inclusion of consumers and family members in all aspects and levels of decision making. Her areas of special interest include peer support, trauma informed care, prevention, early intervention, and education. Her work is driven by a passion to support systems that improve access to care through community based and recovery focused programs that are reflective of and responsive to the needs of diverse populations. Ms. Brand holds a

degree in Sociology from Arizona State University, with emphasis on how the intersection of race, class, and gender impact social justice issues.

Michelle Doty Cabrera

Michelle Doty Cabrera joined CBHDA as Executive Director in May 2019. CBHDA represents the behavioral health directors from each of California's 58 counties, in addition to the City of Berkeley and the Tri-City Mental Health Center (Cities of Pomona, Claremont and La Verne). Ms. Cabrera has a wealth of experience on state budget and policy as an advocate and staff for the California legislature. Prior to joining CBHDA she served as the Healthcare Director for the California State Council of the Services Employees International Union (SEIU California), where she advocated on behalf of healthcare workers and consumers, including SEIU California's county behavioral health workforce. She served as a Senior Consultant for the Assembly Human Services Committee, where she specialized in child welfare issues and staffed legislation which extended foster care in California to age 21. Ms. Cabrera also served as a Program Officer for the California Healthcare Foundation, working as a liaison on state health policy in Sacramento. Ms. Cabrera is a member of Governor Newsom's Council of Regional Homeless Advisors. Ms. Cabrera also serves as a member on the National Quality Forum's Standing Committee on Disparities and as Vice Chair for the Board of Directors of the California Pan-Ethnic Health Network. She graduated from Georgetown University with a degree in International Politics

John Connolly

John Connolly, 38, of Los Angeles, has been appointed deputy secretary of behavioral health at the California Health and Human Services Agency. Connolly was director of the Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Division at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health since 2018, where he served as acting deputy director from 2017 to 2018 and deputy director for policy, strategic planning and communications from 2015 to 2017. He was deputy director of the Insure the Uninsured Project from 2012 to 2015, a lecturer at the University of Southern California, Keck School of Medicine in 2014 and a senior policy analyst for the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured at the Kaiser Family Foundation from 2010 to 2012. Connolly was a research assistant at the Harvard School of Public Health from 2007 to 2010 and a teaching fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government from 2007 to 2009. He earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in health policy from Harvard University.

Nicole K. Eberhart

Dr. Nicole Eberhart (PhD, University of California, Los Angeles) is a Senior Behavioral Scientist at the RAND Corporation and a licensed clinical psychologist. Her research focuses primarily on mental health, with expertise in mental health program evaluation,

prevention and early intervention, innovative care models, and behavioral health services and systems. Dr. Eberhart has been evaluating Mental Health Service Act-funded programs in the State of California for over eight years, since 2011. She has led evaluations of Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health's treatment, prevention and early intervention (PEI), and community engagement programs as well as evaluations of the California Mental Health Services Authority's statewide PEI programs.

Toby Ewing

Toby Ewing, Ph.D. is the Executive Director of the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, the body that oversees Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). Voter-approved Prop 63 is funded by a one percent tax on millionaires and has generated approximately \$14.4 billion for public mental health programs since 2005. Dr. Ewing has worked on governance reform, government oversight and improving outcomes of public programs for many years. He has worked on a range of public policy issues, including mental health, child welfare, immigrant integration, workforce and education, and veterans projects. From 2011 through 2014, Ewing served as a consultant to the California State Senate Governance and Finance Committee. He also served as Director of the California Research Bureau from 2009 to 2011. Prior to that, for eight years, he was a Project Manager with the Little Hoover Commission, an independent body charged with improving government. Ewing did his undergraduate studies at Grinnell College and received a Ph.D. in Sociology from Syracuse University. He served as a Fulbright Scholar in the mid-1990s in Costa Rica.

Ralph Flynn

Ralph Flynn has more than 13 years of experience conducting independent audits with the California State Auditor's Office. Mr. Flynn currently serves as a Senior Auditor Evaluator II, and he has conducted and led independent audits in a variety of areas, including audits of the California Department of Transportation, California Department of Veterans Affairs, Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program, and the Mental Health Services Act.

Brenda Grealish

Chief, Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Division (MCBHD)

California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

As the MCBHD Chief, Ms. Grealish is responsible for Medi-Cal mental health and substance use disorder services. Her prior roles in DHCS included Acting Deputy Director and Assistant Deputy Director for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services, and Chief of the Mental Health Services Division. Ms. Grealish began her state career with the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development. She then worked at the Department of Mental Health for ten years in increasingly responsible positions. She also

worked at the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for four years during which she advanced to Deputy Director. Ms. Grealish has a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Psychology.

Corey Hashida

Corey Hashida is a Fiscal and Policy Analyst at the Legislative Analyst's Office, a nonpartisan agency that conducts rigorous and objective analyses to help the State Legislature make informed decisions. He specializes in issues related to behavioral health, Medi-Cal, and the Department of State Hospitals. Corey holds a Master of Public Policy degree from the University of Southern California.

Keris Jän Myrick

Keris Jän Myrick is the Chief, Peer Services for the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. Ms Myrick was formerly the Director of the Office of Consumer Affairs for the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) of the United States Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Ms. Myrick was previously President and CEO of Project Return Peer Support Network, a Los Angeles-based, peer-run nonprofit, the Board President of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), and served as a consultant to the American Psychiatric Association (APA) Office of Minority and National Affairs (OMNA) Ms. Myrick is a leading mental health advocate and executive, known for her innovative and inclusive approach to mental health reform and the public disclosure of her personal story. Ms. Myrick has over 15 years of experience in mental health services innovations, transformation, and peer workforce development. An early adopter, self-identified "geek" and interest in leveraging technology to aid in mental health Recovery and wellbeing, Ms. Myrick has recently been selected to serve on the American Psychiatric Association's App Advisor Panel.

Ms. Myrick is featured in the CalMHSA documentary A New State of Mind: Ending the Stigma of Mental Illness and her personal story was featured in the New York Times series: Lives Restored, which told the personal narratives of several professionals living with mental health issues. With her unique combination of executive skills, personal lived experience in the mental health system, Ms. Myrick is an in-demand national trainer and keynote speaker , and authored several peer reviewed journal articles and book chapters. She is known for her collaborative style and innovative "whole person" approach to mental health care.

Ms. Myrick has a Master of Science degree in organizational psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology of Alliant International University. Her Master of Business Administration degree is from Case Western University's Weatherhead school of Management.

Kelly Pfeifer

Deputy Director for Behavioral Health
California Department of Health Care Services

Dr. Pfeifer was appointed by Governor Newsom in July 2019 to lead the newly reorganized Behavioral Health Division of the California Department of Health Care Services. Prior to joining the State, she had been director of high-value care at the California Health Care Foundation since 2014. She was chief medical officer of San Francisco Health Plan from 2008 to 2014, medical director at Petaluma Health Center from 2003 to 2008 and medical director for access at the Redwood Community Health Coalition from 2006 to 2008. Dr. Pfeifer practiced as a family physician at Petaluma Health Center from 2000 to 2017. She earned a Doctor of Medicine degree from Medical College of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, and is Board Certified in family medicine, having completed family medicine training at the Sutter Santa Rosa Family Medicine Residency Program in 2000. Dr. Pfeifer is a graduate of Oberlin College, where she majored in English.

Darrell Steinberg

Former State Senate President Pro Tem and Founder of the Steinberg Institute, Mayor Darrell Steinberg is a powerful and effective advocate for mental health care policy in California. He has a long history of championing policy issues affecting brain health, and has gained the respect and trust of providers, decision-makers, business leaders and advocacy organizations across the state and nation.

Darrell has worked to bring awareness and solutions for what he calls “the under-attended issue of our time.” As a member of the state Assembly, he authored the 2004 Mental Health Services Act, landmark legislation that now generates \$2.4 billion annually for “whatever-it takes” services for individuals with the most severe brain illnesses, as well as innovative programs and research focused on early detection, intervention, and prevention of psychosis and serious mood disorders.

His commitment to improving mental health care has resulted in services that provide integrated care to the homeless. In 2013, as a state senator, Darrell authored SB 82, propelling a major statewide expansion of crisis residential and stabilization beds and mobile crisis capacity. In 2015, continuing his press for change, he established a first-of-its-kind statewide organization, the Steinberg Institute, dedicated to raising the profile of quality mental health care as a critical public policy and civil rights issue. In February 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom appointed Darrell to co-lead a new statewide Commission on Homelessness and Supportive Housing.

Dawan Utecht

Dawan Utecht has been the Fresno County Director of Behavioral Health, and the Public Guardian, for over six and a half years. Prior to this, Dawan worked in healthcare administration for over 20 years and with Community Medical Centers as the CEO of the Community Behavioral Health Center, a 61-bed adult acute inpatient psychiatric facility, in Fresno, California, for over 7 years.

Dawan serves on the Governing Board of the California Behavioral Health Directors Association, is the President of the CalMHSA Joint Powers Authority Board, is a Commissioner on First 5 of Fresno County and serves on Fresno's Community Corrections Partnership. She is actively involved in the local ACES Collaborative, Suicide Prevention Collaborative, and the Street2Home initiative. She is involved with the Fresno County Health Improvement Partnership, Pre-Term Birth Initiative, Children's Movement and Cradle to Career Initiative.

Karen Vicari

Karen A. Vicari, JD, is the Policy Director for Cal Voices and ACCESS California. After graduating from McGeorge School of Law, she practiced Poverty Law, working with clients on housing and public benefits issues. After a diagnosis of Rheumatoid Arthritis, Karen transitioned to policy and advocacy, representing people with chronic illnesses and mental health conditions at the state policy level in California. She has worked for the Arthritis Foundation, Mental Health America in California, and the Alliance for Better Medicine. Karen served on the Board of Directors of Cal Voices (formerly Mental Health America of Northern California) for over 10 years before accepting a position with them in June, 2018 as Policy Director, using her extensive knowledge of grassroots advocacy and mental health policy to improve the lives of people living with mental health conditions. Karen has personal lived experience as a consumer, a family member and the parent of a child living with a mental health condition.