



Equity in Aging Advisory Committee Members

Dr. Marcy Adelman is a clinical psychologist, psychotherapist, and is the co-founder of Openhouse, a non-profit organization that develops and provides affordable housing, direct services and community programs for LGBTQ seniors in the San Francisco Bay area; and provides comprehensive training to senior services provider on the intersection of race, gender and sexual orientation.

Dr. Adelman is a pioneer in the field of lesbian and gay aging. For over 30 years, she has worked to make visible the lives, concerns, and contributions of LGBTQ elders, and is a leading advocate for quality LGBTQ elder care and policies that safeguard equal treatment. Adelman and her late partner Jeannette Gurevitch founded Openhouse in 1998 to address the housing and service needs of LGBT elders. She established collaborative relationships with providers and agencies to educate and eventually train them in how to make their services and agencies more inclusive and more responsive to the needs of the LGBT community. Adelman continues to serve as an advisor to the organization, as well as be involved in city, state and national advocacy work on LGBT senior issues.

Currently, she is Vice-Chair of the California Commission on Aging, where she chairs the Legislative Advocacy Committee; on the board of the Alzheimer's Association of Northern California and Northern Nevada; the San Francisco Dignity Fund Oversight and Advisory Committee; the Advisory Council to the San Francisco Department of Disability and Aging Commission; and is the founder of the LGBTQ Aging Research Partnership

Dr. Donna Benton is a Research Associate Professor of Gerontology and Assistant Dean of DEI at the USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology. She is the Director of the USC Family Caregiver Support Center (FCSC)/L A Caregiver Resource Center (LACRC). She has over 30 years of experience in providing direct service, advocacy and programs for families caring for persons with dementia. She was appointed to the CA Master Plan for Aging Stakeholder Advisory Commission and the CA Commission on Aging (CCOA). Her research focus is on the development of online evidence-based interventions for family caregivers to improve mental and physical health and well-being and prevention of elder mistreatment. She also serves as a mentor to students interested in advocacy for caregivers.

Dr. Benton received her graduate training in clinical psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology and was a Gero-psychological postdoctoral fellow at USC/Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center.

Catherine Blakemore has worked as an attorney and director, in legal aid and disability advocacy programs for 40 years. She recently retired as the executive director of Disability Rights California, the non-profit agency established under federal law to protect and advocate for individuals with disabilities. In 2016, she received the Loren Miller Legal Services Award, given annually to a lawyer who has demonstrated a long-term commitment to legal services.

Catherine Blakemore is dedicated to increasing equal rights and opportunities, access to services, and dignity for Californians with disabilities and individuals from other marginalized communities. She is the Vice-Chair of the California Commission on Access to Justice which works to identify innovative solutions and support efforts to increase access to courts and legal resources for low and modest means individuals. She also is a member of Governor Newsom's Business and Jobs Recovery Task Force, the Master Plan for Aging Long-Term Services and Supports Subcommittee and the California Health and Human Services Agency Alzheimer's Advisory Committee.

Catherine grew up in Southern California and received her juris doctorate from Loyola University School of Law in Los Angeles.

Cheryl Brown is a former member of the California State Assembly and a family-owned small business owner. While in the Legislature, she represented California's 47th District, located in the heart of San Bernardino County. Brown chaired the Assembly Aging and Long-Term Care Committee and authored a concurrent resolution establishing the California Task Force on Family Caregiving. She also served on the San Bernardino County and City Planning Commission for 17 years. Brown is a broadcast journalist who served as a television talk show host for 12 years.

Cheryl attended San Bernardino Valley College and earned her bachelor's degree in geography from California State University, San Bernardino.

Betsy Butler is an author and a former member of the California Assembly. She is the Executive Director of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC) based in El Segundo, California.

Prior to joining CWLC, Betsy served in the California State Assembly representing the 53rd District covering coastal Los Angeles. During her tenure in the legislature, Betsy prioritized bills addressing the needs of veterans, older Americans, working families, the environment and consumer rights. A committed advocate for fairness and equal rights, Betsy has worked for the California League of Conservation Voters, the Environmental Defense Fund and the Consumer Attorneys of California. She began her career in public service with Lt. Governor Leo McCarthy and was an appointee of President Bill Clinton in the International Trade Administration at the U.S. Department of Commerce in Washington, D.C.

Betsy is an appointed member and Immediate Past Chair of the California Commission on Aging and a former appointed member of the Los Angeles County Probation Commission (2016-2021) and the California Film Commission (2008-2010). She presently serves on the Board of the Planned Parenthood Advocacy Project of Los Angeles, Equality California, the Redondo Beach Veterans Memorial Task Force, the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, Creative Acts and the Advisory Board of Peace Over Violence, a domestic violence education and support organization.

Betsy graduated from San Diego State University and from the Executive Program in Management at UCLA.

Elvira Castillo has served in variety of senior roles in city, county, and state level government, and in the non-profit sector, for more than 35 years. Most of these experiences involved oversight, analysis or implementation of programs authorized by the Older Americans Act and other support programs for older adults.

As a first-generation Latina with a rural farmworker background, she has a heightened sense of awareness of how legislative and policy proposals can affect historically underserved communities. Today, Elvira continues her lifelong commitment to advocacy as both a policy adviser with AARP and a board member of St. Barnabas Senior Services in Los Angeles.

Elvira holds master's degrees in Public Administration and Gerontology from the University of Southern California and is a graduate of Pomona College.

Denny Chan serves as Directing Attorney for Equity Advocacy at Justice in Aging, a national non-profit legal organization dedicated to fighting senior poverty through the law. In this role, he is responsible for developing and leading Justice in Aging's Strategic Initiative on Advancing Equity, with a primary focus on race equity for older adults of color, and he also coordinates the organization's equity team. He joined Justice in Aging as an attorney on the health team in 2014 and is based in Los Angeles, CA.

The son of working-class Chinese immigrant parents, Denny Chan has worked significantly on non-discrimination, language access, and healthcare delivery reform issues for low-income older adults and brings these experiences to his advocacy. He previously served as a rotating law clerk for the US District Court in Los Angeles and participated in the Fulbright English Teaching Program as a fellow in Macau, China.

Denny is a member of the California bar and is a graduate of the University of California, Irvine School of Law. He received his BA from the University of Michigan.

Dr. Le Ondra Clark Harvey is a psychologist and the Chief Executive Officer of the California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies, a statewide advocacy organization representing mental health and substance use disorder non-profit agencies that collectively serve over 800 thousand Californians annually. She is also the Executive Director of the California Access Coalition- a group of advocacy organizations and pharmaceutical industry companies that advocates for patient access to behavioral health treatment. Dr. Clark Harvey has previously served as Chief Consultant to the California State Assembly Committee on Business and Professions, Principal Consultant to the Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development, and a health policy consultant to the office of former Senator Curren D. Price, Jr.

Le Ondra has a history of service on several national and local boards including the American Psychological Association (APA), and has held prior positions on the Association of Black Psychologists, Sacramento County Public Health Advisory Board and the Sacramento County Children's Coalition. Dr. Clark Harvey was appointed by California Governor Gavin Newsom to his Master Plan on Aging Advisory Committee and the Behavioral Health Task Force in 2020. In 2021, she was appointed by California Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis to the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine Board

Dr. Clark Harvey completed her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She completed her pre-doctoral fellowship at the University of Southern California Children's Hospital Los Angeles and a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of California, Los Angeles Mattel Children's Hospital.

Vincent Crisostomo has been an HIV/AIDS activist for more than 35 years in the U.S. and abroad, serving as an organizer, peer advocate, outreach, education and training provider, researcher and executive. Diagnosed with AIDS in 1995, Crisostomo brings a unique personal perspective to the challenges faced by medically disadvantaged populations and deep connections within the BIPOC and LGBTQ communities. He has been a caretaker to many friends and loved ones affected or lost to the AIDS epidemic as well as a caretaker to his own parents.

Vincent is a former member of the San Francisco Mayor's Long Term Care Coordinating Care Council, chaired the city's HIV & Aging Work Group, and served on the SF Dignity Fund Steering Committee. He is currently the Director of Aging Services at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and was appointed by the Mayor London Breed to the San Francisco Human Rights Committee's LGBTQI+ Advisory Committee.

David “Jax” Kelly has been a tireless advocate for health care for people living with HIV and people of color for more than 30 years. He assumed his first leadership role in HIV advocacy in 1991 serving as a board member of The Upper Room AIDS Ministry (now Harlem United). Diagnosed with HIV in 2006, he helped formally establish the community support organization Let’s Kick ASS (AIDS Survivor’s Syndrome) Palm Springs and serves as its president in Riverside County, one of the largest populations of people who are aging and those aging with HIV.

Kelly is treasurer of The Reunion Project, the national alliance of long-term survivors of HIV. He is a member of the California Planning Group, a community advisory board for the CDPH Office of AIDS, serving as co-chair of its HIV and Aging Committee. He is also a member of the Coachella Valley Senior Collaborative, the AIDS Clinical Trials Group and the HIV 50+ Strong and Healthy Program of NMAC (formerly the National Minority AIDS Coalition). He is a former commissioner of the L.A. County Commission on HIV and served as a member of its Priorities and Planning Committee.

Jax graduated from Yale University, received an MBA from New York University and a Juris Doctor from Fordham University School of Law. As a student at the University of Southern California he expects to complete his MPH degree in Health Services and Policy in August 2022.

Marielle Kriesel serves as the Advocacy Program Manager for the Disability Community Resource Center in Los Angeles, a nonprofit Independent Living Center that provides local community and statewide advocacy and social service provision to intersectional, cross-disability residents across the lifespan. In this role, she is responsible for developing new programs to engage the disability community in education, resources and support. Marielle also contributes to public policy advocacy through diverse collaborations, legal and legislative advocacy.

Marielle is a woman with a congenital spinal cord injury and uses a wheelchair. Her personal insights from lived experience over five decades and her education on the shifting cultural and legal construction of disability inform her expertise in disability social justice.

Prior to the Disability Community Resource Center, Marielle worked as a paralegal in disability law practice in Los Angeles and served as a Commissioner on the Santa Monica Disabilities Commission.

Marielle received her B.A. in Honors English from CSU, Northridge and her Paralegal training at UCLA.

Darrick Lam is President and Chief Executive Officer at ACC Senior Services, responsible for the overall administration, management of programs and fiscal matters of ACC Senior Services. Darrick has over 30 years of experience in the field of aging and long-term services and support in both the public and private nonprofit sectors. He served as a member of California’s Master Plan for Aging Stakeholder Advisory Committee from 2019-2021 and has recently been appointed as a member of the California Alzheimer’s Advisory Committee.

Prior to serving at ACC, he was at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services where he provided technical assistance and grants management for programs serving older adults, people with disabilities and their family caregivers in California, Hawaii, American Samoa and tribal organizations.

Darrick received both his MSW and MBA from UC Berkeley.

Monika Lee is Communications Director for the California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN). Prior to joining CPEHN, Lee worked on several statewide campaigns and ballot initiatives as a Campaign Coordinator at Paschal Roth. She has experience in full-scale communications work, from public education campaigns to targeted legislative work, all with a desire to bridge policymakers and elected officials to the communities they serve and

are accountable to. She has worked across a variety of policy areas, including housing, clean energy, and labor unions.

Monika graduated from Scripps College with a B.A. in Legal Studies, focusing on Critical Race Theory.

Dr. Marty Lynch was the Director of LifeLong Medical Care and the Over 60 Health Center for 38 years and a non-profit administrator for more than 30 years. Dr. Lynch co-founded the Elderly Sub-Committee of the National Association of Community Health Centers and is past Chair of the California Primary Care Association. He recently served on the state task force to examine policy changes necessary for the integration of primary care and mental health services and worked to develop a California plan for Alzheimer's disease.

Dr. Lynch received his Ph.D. in Social and Behavioral Sciences from the University of California, San Francisco, and an MPA from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

Diana Pacleb Murray was born and raised in the Salinas Valley and is a Tutuni Tribal Elder of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. She has served as an organizer and advocate for health and human rights in numerous professional and volunteer roles including as a social worker, adult case worker and tribal elder advocate. Now formally "retired", Pacleb Murray served for eight years on the Board of Directors of the "Turtle Health Plan", a Native-American owned Health Maintenance Organization and the Sonoma County Indian Health Project, among other volunteer activities.

Diana attended the University of California, Santa Cruz where she received a BA in Psychology. She currently lives with her husband in Sebastopol, California.

Michael Murray is the Strategic Business Operations Director AARP California and, with the AARP State Director, makes up the state's leadership team. With 3.3 million members statewide, AARP California is committed to being a driving force and a tireless advocate, helping Californians 50-plus and their families to live their best lives. Our efforts focus on establishing AARP California as the "go-to" resource and statewide leader on caregiving, long-term services and supports, nursing home reform, age-friendly communities, financial resilience, and technology for the 50-plus population. Michael is the state campaign director with experience in leading campaigns on nursing home reform, long-term services and supports, prescription drugs, and CalSavers. In addition, Michael was the campaign manager for AARP's social security campaign during his time in Washington, DC. Michael brings 31 years of experience at AARP, at the national and state level, in providing strategic leadership, management and organizational context in developing comprehensive plans supporting state and national priorities.

Michael has a B.A. in Communications from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA; Certificate in Corporate and Social Responsibility, Pepperdine Graziadio Business School; Mini MBA Certificate, Pepperdine Graziadio Business School. Michael is based in Pasadena, CA.

Berenice Nunez Constant has nearly 20 years of experience working at the state and federal level to advance initiatives to eliminate disparities in health care access and outcomes for Latino and multi-ethnic and underserved communities. She is currently the Vice President of Government Affairs and Civic Engagement at AltaMed Health Services Corporation leading legislative and policy advocacy strategies to advance state initiatives to eliminate disparities in health care access and outcomes and engage communities in Los Angeles and Orange counties in the electoral process.

Berenice attended California State University, Long Beach and received a Master's in public health- management and policy from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Dr. Gail Orum is an academic and licensed pharmacist who has spent a significant portion of her career focused on advancing health professions education, including developing accreditation processes for nursing, pharmacy technology, physician assistant, public health and radiologic technology programs. She is a faculty member of the Keck Graduate Institute in Claremont and the Charles R. Drew University in Watts. She is co-chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Work Group for the Claremont Colleges and is the President of the Greater Los Angeles Pharmacists Association, an organization that represents hundreds of pharmacists, pharmacy owners, and managers.

Gail Orum's research involves geriatric polypharmacy, medication adherence, and chronic disease management with a special focus on medically disadvantaged populations. In addition to her academic career, she has had the opportunity to practice in numerous pharmacy settings including investigational drug services, chain pharmacy, long-term care pharmacy, home infusion services and managed care. As a community health practitioner, she has helped develop education interventions that encourage and reinforce the adoption of positive health behaviors among older adults and their care givers. Her perspective is further informed through her personal experience as the primary caregiver for her mother who is over 90 and is living with Alzheimer's Disease, as well as a number of other chronic health conditions.

Gail earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Southern California-School of Pharmacy and is a board-certified geriatric pharmacist.

Kevin Prindiville is Executive Director of Justice in Aging, the only national organization focused solely on protecting the rights of low-income seniors. He is a nationally recognized expert on Medicare and Medicaid policy and has served as counsel in several class action lawsuits protecting low-income senior's access to public benefits. Kevin has a long history of developing partnerships and directing strategic advocacy efforts. The author of numerous articles, reports and briefs, he frequently testifies before legislators, presents at national conferences and works closely with both federal and state regulatory agencies. Kevin is on the Board of Directors of the American Society on Aging. Prior to joining Justice in Aging, Prindiville worked as a staff attorney at the Pennsylvania Health Law Project in Philadelphia where he represented low-income individuals having trouble obtaining health care.

Kevin is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School and the University of California, San Diego and is a member of the California State Bar.

Kiara Pruitt (nee Harris) is Co-Founder of Sistahs Aging with Grace & Elegance (SAGE), a California non-profit with a mission to empower and support African American women with tools and resources to enhance their quality of life into their senior years. She draws from 30 years of experience in public agency communication including cause marketing, media relations, community outreach and engagement.

Raised in Prince George's County, Maryland, she attended Hampton University where she received her BA in Mass Media Arts. She earned her master's degree in Public Administration from California State University, East Bay.

Dr. Jeffrey Reynoso is the Executive Director of the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California (LCHC), a health policy organization advocating for health equity for California's Latinx community. He serves on several state-level technical working groups including as Advisory Member to the CA Department of Public Health (CDPH) Community Vaccine Advisory Committee, the Task Force on Alzheimer's Prevention and Preparedness Brain Trust, CA Health Interview Survey at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, and CA Initiative for Health Equity & Action at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health. He currently serves on the Board for the Insure the Uninsured Project. In addition to the Master Plan for Aging Equity Workgroup.

Growing up in a working-class immigrant family in California's Central Valley and North San Diego County, he believes that the future health and economic success of California is tied to achieving health equity for all medically underserved communities.

Jeffrey holds a Doctor of Public Health from Harvard University, a Master of Public Health from UC Berkeley, and a BA from UCLA.

Rigo Saborio has over 30 years of experience in the field of aging with an emphasis on public advocacy, diversity outreach, administration, and direct service. He has served on numerous state and local boards, committees and taskforces focusing on advocacy, diversity, equity and inclusion, as well as service issues related to aging and caregiving.

Currently, Rigo Saborio is the President & CEO of St. Barnabas Senior Services. As such, he is responsible for the organization's achievement of its mission and financial objectives. His previous experience includes serving as Director of Diversity Outreach and Alliance for AARP National Office in Washington DC; State Deputy Director for AARP-California; Director of the University of Southern California's Los Angeles Caregiver Resource Center; Research Assistant for the U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Aging; and Case manager for Alta Med Health Services Corporation, MSSP & SSI programs in Los Angeles.

Rigo received a Master of Science in Gerontology from the University of Southern California with an emphasis in Public Policy and Administration.

Dr. Valentine M. Villa is a senior research scientist and a faculty associate at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and an adjunct professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. She is also a professor of social work and director of the Applied Gerontology Institute at California State University, Los Angeles. Villa was a NIA pre-doctoral fellow in demography and aging at USC's Leonard Davis School of Gerontology.

Prior to obtaining her doctoral degree, Villa worked for five years developing health education and social service programs for older adults in both community and hospital settings. She has authored/ co-authored nearly 60 publications, including peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and policy briefs. Her primary research focus is minority aging and health disparities. Over a 25-year career in academia, she has taught graduate and undergraduate courses in advanced research methods, minority aging and advanced aging policy to students in gerontology, social work and public health.

Dr. Villa has served on several county and citywide projects to improve the health and access to services for low-income and minority-aging populations. Most recently, she was lead editor and an author on the Purposeful Aging Los Angeles (PALA) project and continues to contribute to her community through the AARP Latino Caregiver Initiative, the Veteran Identity Program of the Veterans Administration and the Los Angeles City Department of Aging.

Dr. Villa earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree at the University of Southern California. In 1993, she graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy in gerontology at her alma mater as well. She has the distinction of being the first person in the nation to receive this degree. She retains her professional alignment with the Gerontological Society of America, the American Society on Aging, the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education and the Los Angeles County Healthy Aging Initiative.

Julia Yarbough is a multiple Emmy Award-winning broadcast journalist with more than 25 years of media experience, including serving as anchor in several major US media markets in California, Florida and Kentucky. Yarbough has also served in the governmental sector, as Press Information Officer with the Chico Police Department and Media Ambassador for the City of Miami Beach.

As family caregiver to an elderly parent, Yarbough is passionate about raising awareness and educating others to the realities facing family caregivers and improving current services. She has launched Keeping It REAL Caregiving; a website, blog, podcast and public speaking platform, to produce segments highlighting challenges faced by those caring for elders. Most recently she was selected as a 2020 Journalists in Aging Fellow with the Gerontological Society of America.

Julia currently serves as a Communications Consultant with the national media firm MAGID and leads the Julia Yarbough Media Group, providing media coaching, producing client stories and promoting socially responsible entrepreneurial ventures for select clients. She is a native of Fairfield, California, and a graduate of The University of California, Santa Barbara with a Bachelor of Science in Economics.

Edie Yau is the Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Engagement for the Alzheimer's Association. She provides leadership and strategic direction to reach underserved populations in the pursuit of health equity. In her role, she leads national partnerships that work alongside communities to increase access to resources and support for all those affected by Alzheimer's and all other dementia. She was an appointee of the California Task Force on Family Caregiving which produced policy recommendations to address the issues faced by nearly 5 million caregivers. She currently serves on the California AARP Executive Council. Edie has been in the field of aging for nearly 25 years and has an MA in Gerontology.