



Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) Advisory Committee Member Bios

Andrea DuBrow

Andrea DuBrow (she/her), MSW, MPH brings eight years of advocacy and family caregiving experience for her mother who is living with late-stage Alzheimer's disease, after its early onset. Andrea has navigated systems of care in Arizona and California, including in-home caregiving, assisted living, memory care, skilled nursing, a board and care home, ombudsman and hospice services, health and financial power of attorney, and presided over a Family Council at a Residential Care Facility for Elderly on behalf of her mother. In her professional life, Ms. DuBrow has been on the field faculty and a lecturer at the School of Social Welfare for over twelve years, where she advised and taught students in social welfare and public health. In conjunction with UC Berkeley Extension and the Bay Area Social Services Consortium (BASSC), she coordinates workforce development training programs such as the Executive Development Program for the Human Services, which is a six-month leadership training program for Bay Area county human service managers. Ms. DuBrow previously worked for the Contra Costa County Health Services Department for over a decade, where she coordinated public health programs such as youth organizing, tobacco prevention, women's health, and homeless services. She has raised millions of dollars from federal grants and private foundations and has expertise in grant writing, program planning, and coordination of projects, advocacy, and multi-disciplinary teams. She also served as a board member for the National Women's Health Network in Washington, DC, for eight years as well as on a local public charter school board, and was previously a health educator for Planned Parenthood: Shasta-Diablo. Ms. DuBrow was honored to receive the 2018 UC Berkeley Extension Honored Instructor Award and the 2015 UC Berkeley Graduate Division Faculty Mentoring Award. She also consults on grant writing, planning and facilitation, and is a former member of the Alameda County Public Health Commission. She lives in Oakland with her husband, and they are proud parents of two college students.

Carl Sigmond

Carl Sigmond is the Operations Manager at FREED, the independent living center serving five rural counties northeast of Sacramento. Previously, he served as FREED's Disability Community Advocate, works to advance positive systems change to benefit the lives of people with disabilities and older adults and to promote more inclusion of these groups in society. He sees his service on the ADRC Advisory Committee as continuation of that advocacy work, especially representing rural communities. Outside of FREED, he is working to improve speech recognition algorithms to better understand people with speech disabilities. Mr. Sigmond is a person with a disability who relies on LTSS to live independently in the community. He knows firsthand some of the challenges that consumers in our state face when trying to access services and support.

Carol Leish

Carol Leish, MA (www.capablecarol.com), has been giving Motivational Talks on Disability Awareness from a personal perspective since 1997. Her talk is: 'Facing Challenges with Optimism & Humor.' Within her talk, she shares her story of encouragement and perseverance, with a witty sense of humor, of coping with physical & emotional challenges.

She also focuses on ways of improvising/accommodating to various situations. She also focuses on the importance of getting ongoing counseling and psychiatric help, including taking medicine, to better cope with her depression and anxiety.

She created and codeveloped a game for ages 8 and up: Call Me Capable ©, that was published for 15 years between 2002-2017. It deals with sensitivity training towards people without disabilities towards people with challenges. It also focuses on the fact that people with disabilities have capabilities, too. People without disabilities can learn that we are all more similar than different.

Carol has taught elementary school as a substitute teach in San Bernardino. She also taught preschool in Ventura. She has a B.A. in Human Development and an M.A. in Education/School Counseling, both from CSU San Bernardino.

Besides giving Motivational Talks, Carol also is a local journalist, who writes for the 'Ventura Breeze.' She writes on issues mainly related to mental health and to seniors. She also writes for other publications. She recently wrote, 'The Joy of Living Optimally,' for the 2024 'LiveWell,' by the Human Services Agency and the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging.

Cindy Kauffman

Cindy Kauffman is currently the Deputy Director of Community Services for the San Francisco Department of Disability and Aging Services (DAS). In this capacity, Ms. Kauffman has oversight of the Office of Community Partnerships (OCP) which serves as the Area Agency on Aging for San Francisco. OCP partners closely with a diverse community to provide needed services. She also has oversight of the DAS' Benefits and Resource Hub which serves as a one-stop shop for people looking for services, resources, or answers to questions. The Hub includes the Medi-Cal and CalFresh Eligibility unit, the County Veterans Service Office, and the Age and Disability Resource Connection for San Francisco.

For the last 25 years, Ms. Kauffman has worked in social services, counseling, and program administration focused on older adults as well as adults with disabilities. She has provided educational lectures and training for professionals in the healthcare field, as well as working with them to build strong teams. Before joining DAS, she served as Chief Operating Officer for a community-based non-profit whose mission was to enhance the quality of life for adults as they age by enabling them to maintain their health, well-being, independence, and participation in the community. Ms. Kauffman is active in the community and serves on many committees focused on long-term services and quality improvement.

Elaine Clark

Leadership, systems integration, revenue development, and communications strategies have been the focus of Elaine Clark's forty-two-year career in the business, nonprofit, and government sectors. Services to older adults have been an integral part of Ms. Clark's personal and professional life.

After graduating from college, Ms. Clark worked in the media business initially supporting business services, then twenty years later retiring as the Director of Revenue Development Systems (RDS), a division of Emmis Communication, an international media company, where she assisted organizations in developing alternative revenue streams and implement new management and training practices.

After retiring from RDS, Ms. Clark volunteered with programs for homeless families, children, and older adults. She became the Chief Executive Officer of Meals on Wheels Diablo Region, where she transformed the organization into the largest senior-serving organization in the county by integrating services, creating MOUs with 20 outside organizations, designing a single intake process, and creating a no-wrong-

door approach to rapidly assess client needs. She created and implemented client-centered practices providing wrap-around services, contracting with healthcare agencies, collecting outcome data, and building a sustainable funding model.

In January 2019, Ms. Clark joined Solano County to start the Napa/Solano Area Agency on Aging. Since then, the N/S AAA has been recognized for improving communications with providers and the community, establishing new programs, and participating in statewide initiatives to support older Californians.

Eli Gelardin

Eli Gelardin serves as the CEO of the Marin Center for Independent Living (Marin CIL). He has over 17 years of experience working in the field of disability rights advocacy. During his 14 years of leadership, the small grassroots organization has expanded its capacity to serve a diverse community of over 1400 older adults and individuals with disabilities every year. Marin CIL prioritizes equal access and racial equity.

Marin CIL plays a key role in supporting community members in accessing long-term services and support through "One Door." To expand this effort Marin CIL partners with local healthcare payors and providers as well as other safety net providers and community-based organizations. In 2019, Marin CIL and the County of Marin's Aging and Adult Services established California's 6th designated Aging and Disability Resource Connection.

Mr. Gelardin translates his personal experience as an individual with a disability into his professional roles. He served as a two-term appointee to the California State Independent Living Council (Chair from 2013-2014). Locally, he serves on the boards of the Marin Aging Action Initiative, Matrix Parent Network & Resource Center, and the World Institute on Disability. He lives in the Bay Area with his wife and son. He honors the memory of his daughter, Olivia, every day through his work.

Erin Crutcher

Pending receipt of bio.

Helen M. Lopez

Helen Lopez, OTR/L, M.P.A., J.D., is retired from both public and private healthcare administration, including time in Imperial County as AAA Director, and 3 years as Director of the Workforce Investment Board during that systems change from the "silos" of JTPA to the WIA's One Stop/No Wrong Door model of service delivery, and

10 years as Director of Work Training Center, an NPO serving Persons with Disabilities and Seniors in a variety of support services including MSSP, Linkages, Title V, LTC Ombudsman and Senior Peer Counseling; and in San Bernadino County for 8 years as Director of the IHSS Public Authority. In addition, she has been a consulting Occupational Therapist (OTR/L) over the last 30 years in Imperial County for SNFs, the school system, a variety of Home Health Agencies, and Adult Day Resource Centers. Currently, she serves as CSL's Senator for PSA 24, in her second term, and on CSL's Legislative Leadership Committee, on the Executive Board member for PSA 24 AAA. She is also a National Surveyor for CARF (aka Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) for over 30 years and still serves in that capacity. She is the Local Area Coordinator for AARP Foundation's TCE (Tax Consulting for the Elderly) program. She lives primarily in El Centro, CA but have second homes in rural east San Diego county, and San Felipe, Mexico. She lives with her husband, Rudy, of 33 years - another retired public servant who served as Director of Behavioral Health for both Imperial and San Bernardino counties, and for the State Department of Behavioral Health before that. They have 4 grown children, 3 grandchildren, a Scottish Terrier, and a very old cat.

Joseph Cobery

Pending receipt of bio.

Kelly Takasu

Kelly Takasu is the Public Policy Manager for Alzheimer's Los Angeles. Ms. Takasu at Alzheimer's Los Angeles leads efforts to improve the lives of people living with Alzheimer's through impacting public policies, participating in strategic dementia healthcare initiatives, building relationships, and empowering grassroots advocacy. She administers the Dementia Friends program in the State of California which seeks to increase understanding and empathy for people living with dementia. She also supports dementia-friendly community initiatives in the greater Los Angeles region by providing expertise and technical assistance. Before Alzheimer's Los Angeles, she worked in federal health policy at the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA) and the office of Congressman Mike Honda as the JACL Mike M. Masaoka Congressional Fellow. She currently serves on the executive board of Little Tokyo Service Center. Ms. Takasu is a graduate of the University of California, San Diego, and is originally from Clovis, California.

Larry Grable

For the past 10 years, Mr. Grable has been the Executive Director of Service Center for Independent Life, (SCIL), one of the 28 Independent Living Centers in California. He was the Chair of the Board of Directors for 2 years before that. Before working for SCIL he worked for the Office of the Governor for 8 years as the Director of the Inland Empire Field Office. Before that, he worked for Senator Jim Brulte as a Field Representative. Mr. Grable is also a board member of the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers. He also chairs the States Assistive Technology Advisory Committee. Mr. Grable sits on Aging Next, as a senior service provider board. He is also a Commissioner on the San Bernardino County Aging Commission. Mr. Grable is married for 30 years with 3 children and 3 grandkids.

Letty Zuno

Letty Zuno is the Executive Director of Access to Independence of San Diego, Inc., a Center for Independent Living serving the counties of San Diego, Imperial, and Honolulu. Ms. Zuno has been with Access to Independence since 2005, initially in the capacity of Manager with direct oversight of independent living services in Imperial County before transitioning into the Executive Director role in 2017. Ms. Zuno has also served as the agency's data and reporting quality control team, compiling all programmatic and grant-related data and analysis to the present day.

She has previously held elected public office, in the capacity of School Board member, from 2012-2016 and subsequently appointed Planning Commissioner from 2016 - 2020, serving as the only woman on a Commission of ten commissioners. Ms. Zuno is a Certified ADA Training Facilitator, holds credentials in DSM-IV Diagnosis and Work Incentives and Benefits Planning. She served as Vice-Chair of the Area Agency on Aging council, the Transition Partnership Program over 10 years and was a voting member of the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council, advocating for the needs of people with disabilities. Ms. Zuno holds higher education degrees in English & French Literature, a master's degree in leadership & Governance and a Law Degree in Civil Rights and Legal Advocacy.

In her spare time, Ms. Zuno is an avid runner, logging over 25 full marathons and countless half marathons. She was a fitness instructor for over 15 years and taught fitness classes in the evenings. Ms. Zuno has 3 adult children and most recently became a grandmother.

Ramon Castellblanch

Ramon Castellblanch is a professor emeritus, of public health, at San Francisco State. He is on the advisory board of the California Elder Index and Cal Long-Term Care Compare. Mr. Castellblanch is the California Labor Federation's representative on the California Alliance for Retired Americans board and represent CARA in the California Aging & Disability Alliance. He also serves on the boards of Health Access and the California Health Care Coalition, an organization of public and private health plans. Earlier, Mr. Castellblanch served on the California Master Plan for Aging research subcommittee and was a member of the California Board of Pharmacy, chairing its subcommittee addressing drug use disorder. He served as a health policy advisor to the California chapter of AFSCME and was a health policy lobbyist for the SEIU state council. Mr. Castellblanch has a Ph.D. in Health Policy and Management from Johns Hopkins University, a master's in public policy from Harvard University; He is an alumnus of the University of California, Berkeley.

Rita Saenz

Rita Saenz is a Governor's Appointee to the California Commission on Aging. She is a Special Advisor to the California Office of AARP, and a member of the CA Executive Council. She was a member of the National Policy Council for AARP. Ms. Saenz was a member of the Equity Workgroup of the MPA. She was recently appointed to the CDA 2030 Committee. Ms. Saenz is the former Director of the State of California for the Office on Alcoholism, the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, the Department of Social Services, and most recently the Employment Development Department. She has extensive experience with State funded county planning and implementation. Initially a community organizer Hispanic community of East Los Angeles, a consultant/evaluator of NIAAA funded programs, and co-moderator of KCET AHORA! Television series, and staff of Mexican American Opportunity Foundation New Careers Department of Labor program, she entered state government in the 1970s and has worked for four governors. Ms. Saenz was California government affairs director for Affiliated Computer Services and Xerox.

Shari Roeseler

Shari Roeseler is the Executive Director of the Society for the Blind, which provides education and services to people who are low-vision and blind in a 27-county region. Before joining Society for the Blind, she served as Executive Director for the St. Anthony Foundation, one of the largest non-profit social service agencies in San Francisco. Ms. Roesler served for nine years as the Vice President of Resource Development for the West Region of Mercy Housing.

She has a B.A. in Social Work, Sociology, and Criminal Justice from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a master's in Ethics/Bioethics from Santa Clara University-Jesuit School of Theology. She is a lecturer at USF, the President of the board for the CA Agencies of the Blind and Visually Impaired (CAABVI), and the Secretary of the Board of Directors for Vision Serve Alliance, a national association of agencies serving people with vision loss. Shari is a member of the Equity Cabinet for LeadingAGE California.

She enjoys sports and fitness including cycling, pickleball, and golf. Ms. Roeseler holds a 2nd Degree Black Belt in Kenpo and has developed a self-defense program for people with vision loss called "Cane-Fu".

Sophia Rodrigues

Sophia Rodrigues PT, DPT, CALA, MHA is a Healthcare Leader who specializes in Physical Rehabilitation and Aging. Sophia has served as a leader for non-profit organizations and Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) across Northern and Southern California. She is also a certified administrator for Assisted Living (ALF) and Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE) and brings extensive clinical experience as a Physical Therapist to care and advocate for our aging & disabled population.

She has played a significant role in advancing organizations serving the elderly, including new startups, while also caring for her aging parents. Sophia's recent work for a Health Plan in the Inland Empire contributed in implementing CalAIM initiatives. She has collaborated with various organizations across the European Union to learn more about innovative senior care models.

Sophia is driven by a desire to improve community health for equitable access to senior care and a holistic approach to health for older adults.

Tammy Hartsch

Tammy Hartsch has been the Deputy Director of the Independent Living Center of Kern County since June 2022. She has worked at ILC for 11 years starting as the Finance Manager for the agency. Encompassed with her background in finance, her passion guides her in assisting, problem-solving, and working towards solutions and goals for those who are aging or have a disability. Disability has affected her family due to her diagnosis of an autoimmune disorder and her granddaughter, a Type 1

diabetic. Her granddaughter, who struggles daily with Type 1 diabetes, inspires her to push forward and be the advocate and voice for those who face barriers. Her goal is to advocate, be a voice and find solutions for those in need.

In her spare time, she enjoys listening to music, camping, spending time with family, and her dogs, and traveling.

Victoria Jump

Victoria Jump is the Director of the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging (VCAAA). She holds a master's degree in Public Administration and has been with the County of Ventura for over 19 years, with the last 16 years as the director. As a subject matter expert in the aging industry, Ms. Jump has witnessed the challenges that older adults and persons with disabilities face and is committed to providing services to those populations and their caregivers to connect them to resources that can make a meaningful difference in their ability to improve and/or stabilize their situations and maintain their independence. Before joining the VCAAA, she provided services to indigenous older adults in rural Alaska.

As a multi-disciplinary agency, VCAAA serves Ventura County's 60-plus population and persons with disabilities and employs a person-centered approach to aiding them in living a life with dignity and maximum independence. The VCAAA also provides leadership and advocacy in addressing critical issues that relate to older adults, and directly operates a full-service Area Agency on Aging (AAA) to include: the Aging and Disability Resource Connection, Benefits Enrollment Center, Home Share, Fall Prevention, Health Insurance Counseling, and Advocacy Program (HICAP), Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP), the Home and Community-Based Alternatives Waiver, Senior Nutrition, services to victims of crime in collaboration with the District Attorney's Office, ElderHelp, Alzheimer's Case Management, Depression case management, and Dementia Friendly Ventura County (a collaborative endeavor to make Ventura County a safe and welcoming place for persons with Alzheimer's or related dementia).

William Reed

Pending receipt of bio.