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ADDRESSING HEALTH AND SOCIAL NEEDS OF CALIFORNIA'S IMMIGRANT FAMILIES: LESSONS LEARNED FROM LOCAL RESPONSES AND FUTURE PRIORITIES

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The Citizen Hotel
Sacramento, CA

Panelist Biographies

Mayra E. Alvarez, MHA, is President of The Children's Partnership, a nonprofit advocacy organization working to ensure all children have the resources and opportunities they need to grow up healthy and lead productive lives. She was nominated by California Governor Gavin Newsom to serve on the First 5 California Commission and by Attorney General Xavier Becerra to serve on the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC).

Prior to The Children's Partnership, Ms. Alvarez completed a several-year set of assignments at the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in the administration of President Barack Obama. She served as the Director of the State Exchange Group for the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and led a team responsible for supporting states in the establishment of Health Insurance Marketplaces. Previously, Ms. Alvarez served as the Associate Director for the HHS Office of Minority Health, where she led the coordination of OMH's work related to the Affordable Care Act, community health workers, and language access. Prior to this role, Ms. Alvarez served as Director of Public Health Policy in the Office of Health Reform at HHS where she had primary oversight responsibility for coordinated and timely implementation of the public health, prevention, and health care workforce policy provisions in the Affordable Care Act.

Before joining the Obama Administration, Ms. Alvarez served as a Legislative Assistant for Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) and for then-Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis. Ms. Alvarez began her professional career as a David A. Winston Health Policy Fellow in the office of then-Senator Barack Obama. She completed her graduate education at the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her undergraduate education at the University of California at Berkeley. She is originally from outside San Diego, CA, and is the proud daughter of Mexican immigrants.

Samantha Artiga, MHSA, serves as Director of the Disparities Policy Project at the Kaiser Family Foundation and Associate Director for the Foundation's Program on Medicaid and the Uninsured. Ms. Artiga leads research and policy analysis to provide greater insight into health care disparities affecting underserved groups and strategies to promote equity in health care. In addition, she serves as a national expert on Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. Her work in this area focuses on eligibility policies at the federal and state level, outreach and enrollment, and coverage and access to care for vulnerable populations, including individuals experiencing homelessness, justice-involved individuals, and immigrants. Ms. Artiga holds a

Masters in Health Services Administration degree with a concentration in Health Policy and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the George Washington University.

Carmela Castellano-Garcia, Esq., is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the California Primary Care Association (CPCA), overseeing a membership association of more than 1,330 nonprofit, community clinics and health centers (CCHCs) which serve nearly 7 million patients a year. Ms. Castellano-Garcia has been committed to advancing multi-cultural health policy issues for more than 25 years, focusing on areas such as cultural and linguistic competency in health care delivery, ensuring the viability of safety net providers, health care reform, and access to care for vulnerable populations.

During her tenure at CPCA, community health centers have had significant income growth, more than tripling their collective income from \$795 million in 1997 to over \$5.5 billion in 2017. Patients served increased more than 275 percent during this same period from 2.4 to 6.9 million, and total annual encounters grew by more than 12 million. Under her leadership, Federal funding to CCHCs has increased from \$105M to \$750M annually, and the number of health center sites has more than doubled to over 1,330 sites in 2017.

In 2015, Carmela oversaw the creation of a new 501(c)4 CPCA affiliate corporation – CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates, a social welfare organization that is dedicated to advancing the mission of community health centers through state and federal advocacy. CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates is governed by a Board of Directors who have been designated by the CPCA Board of Directors. Carmela Castellano-Garcia is the President and CEO and leads a team of government affairs professionals.

In addition, Ms. Castellano-Garcia serves as the President of the Board of Trustees of the Castellano Family Foundation. Prior to that she served as the Board's Vice President since 2012. Founded by Alcario and Carmen Castellano in 2001, the Castellano Family Foundation has donated more than \$5 million in grants to Santa Clara County nonprofits supporting Latino education, arts and culture, leadership and diversity. The Castellano Family Foundation also continually supports these local organizations guided by the values of community, family, social change, empathy and integrity.

Prior to joining CPCA, Ms. Castellano-Garcia served as the Founder and Executive Director of the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California (LCHC), a health care policy and advocacy organization seeking to improve access to health and human services for California's Latino population. Ms. Castellano-Garcia's legal background includes six years as a Staff Attorney and Managing Attorney with Public Advocates, Inc., a public interest law firm in San Francisco.

Ms. Castellano-Garcia is a founder and continues to serve on the Board of the California Health Information Partnership and Services Organization (CalHIPS/O), the Regional Extension Center for California. She also sits on the Board of the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California (LCHC), and the National Center for Family Philanthropy (NCFP). She also serves on a number of Advisory Boards, including: Insure the Uninsured Project (ITUP), California Program on Access to Care (CPAC), and the Health Initiative of the Americas (HIA). Ms. Castellano-Garcia is a graduate of Yale Law School and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of California at Berkeley.

Carolyn Wang Kong, MPH, MPP is the Foundation's chief program director. In this role, she oversees the overall strategy, design, and management of the Foundation's programs as well as strategic planning, organizational learning, and evaluation. Previously, Carolyn led the Foundation's Collaborating for Healthy Communities initiative where she supported the Foundation's grantmaking and programmatic efforts to advance cross-sector collaboration as an approach to addressing the complex drivers of poor health and domestic violence in California communities. Carolyn has also led the Foundation's Act Now grantmaking, designed to protect policies and programs that support vulnerable populations in California. In this capacity,

she co-founded the Be Well Funder Group, a national collaborative of funders supporting immigrant mental health and well-being.

Prior to joining the Foundation, Carolyn was the project director for Medi-Cal strategy and operations at Kaiser Permanente in Northern California. She has also served as practice leader of language access for Kaiser Permanente and was responsible for developing a strategy to meet the needs of 350,000 limited-English-speaking members in Northern California. She has also served as a board member of the California Healthcare Interpreting Association.

Carolyn holds a master's in public health and public policy from UC Berkeley and a Bachelor of Science from UCLA. She is also an alumna of the Coro Fellows program in Public Affairs and in 2018, Carolyn was selected as a Terrence Keenan Emerging Leader in Health Philanthropy Fellow by Grantmakers in Health. She lives in the Bay Area with her husband and two young, active boys.

Cathy Senderling-McDonald, MSPPM is the Deputy Executive Director for the County Welfare Directors Association of California. She plays the lead role in advocating on human services legislation at the state level and also has worked extensively in the area of health policy throughout her tenure at CWDA. In addition to the state role she plays, Cathy is the primary CWDA liaison to the association's Washington, DC representative. Currently, she serves as the President of the National Association of County Human Services Administrators (NACHSA) and the Vice Chair of the Aging Subcommittee under the Human Services and Education Steering Committee of the National Association of Counties (NACo). Prior to joining CWDA in August 2000, Cathy served as the California Senate Budget Committee Consultant for social services programs and a Fiscal and Policy Analyst for the California Legislative Analyst's Office. Cathy has a Bachelor of Journalism degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a Master of Science in Public Policy and Management from the Heinz College of Public Policy and Management at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA. CWDA is a nonprofit association representing the human service directors from each of California's 58 counties. The Association's mission is to promote a human services system that encourages self-sufficiency of families and communities, and protects vulnerable children and adults from abuse and neglect.