



Speaker Biographies

Informational Hearing

Supporting Public Health in California: The Critical Role of the State and Local Departments in Disease Surveillance and Control

Tuesday, February 11, 2014
State Capitol, Room 4202
1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Ron Chapman, M.D., State Health Officer and Director, Department of Public Health (DPH)

Ron Chapman, MD, MPH, was sworn in as director of the California Department of Public Health by California Health and Human Services Agency Secretary Diana S. Dooley on June 13, 2011. Dr. Chapman is a board-certified family physician who has dedicated his career to public health and medicine caring for the uninsured and underinsured in California. Prior to becoming the director of the California Department of Public Health, he was the chief medical officer of Partnership HealthPlan of California, a managed care Medi-Cal plan serving Yolo, Solano, Napa, and Sonoma counties. For six years prior to that, Dr. Chapman was the public health officer and deputy director of public health in Solano County, California. From 1998 to 2004, he worked at the California Department of Health Services as the founding chief of the Medicine and Public Health section.

Dr. Chapman has a medical degree from the University of Southern California, a Master's in Public Health from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Science from University of California, Irvine. He has completed fellowships in academic medicine at the University of California, San Francisco and graduated in the inaugural class of the California Health Care Foundation's Health Care Leadership Program. Before entering public health practice Dr. Chapman was on the faculty at the University of California, Davis School of Medicine. He is the American Medical Association 2008 Dr. Nathan Davis Award Winner for local government service. Dr. Chapman's primary interests are in the areas of care for the uninsured, the interface between public health and medicine, and chronic disease management.

Shawn Martin, Managing Principal Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office

Shawn Martin is the Managing Principal Analyst for Health and Human Services at the Legislative Analyst's Office where he provides nonpartisan fiscal and policy advice to the California Legislature. Prior to joining the Legislative Analyst's Office, Mr. Martin was a Finance Budget Analyst at the California Department of Finance. Mr. Martin served as a Peace Corps. Volunteer in Honduras for two years before he earned a graduate degree from the American Graduate School of International Management (MIM). Mr. Martin earned his undergraduate degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara (BA).

Karen Smith, M.D., MPH, Napa County Public Health Officer

Dr. Smith is the Public Health Officer and Deputy Director for Public Health for Napa County. Prior to Napa, she was Deputy Health Officer and TB Control Officer for Santa Clara County. Dr. Smith completed her medical training and infectious diseases fellowship at Stanford University after having obtained a Master of Public Health degree in International Health at Johns Hopkins University. Prior to her medical training she worked in communicable disease control in Morocco, Thailand, and Nepal. She has served as a subject matter expert on Public Health Emergency Preparedness for working groups convened by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and serves on the Board of Scientific Counselors of the CDC Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response.

Dr. Smith is currently President-Elect of the California Conference of Local Health Officers.

Gil Chavez, M.D., MPH, Deputy Director, DPH Center for Infectious Disease

Dr. Chávez holds Medical and Master of Public Health degrees, completed clinical training in Pediatrics, and advance training in Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine. In 1987, Dr. Chávez joined the staff of the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a member of the elite Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS). Upon completion of his training as a medical detective, he joined CDC's Preventive Medicine Residency Program assigned to the Epidemiology Program Office. In 1990, he joined CDC's Division of Reproductive Health as a Medical Officer and field assignee to the California Department of Health Services. During his initial assignment to California, Dr. Chávez served as State MCH Epidemiologist and Maternal and Child Health Director. Dr. Chávez subsequently returned to Atlanta to serve CDC as Director of the new Division of Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities where he directed a variety of complex and far-reaching national and international public health activities. Upon his return to California as a CDC field assignee, Dr. Chávez joined the California Department of Health Services as Associate Director and State Epidemiologist later also serving as Interim Chief of the Division of Communicable Disease Control. Dr. Chávez presently serves as the founding Chief of the Center for Infectious Diseases, Deputy Director, and State Epidemiologist in the new California Department of Public Health (CDPH), coordinating the Department's epidemiologic response to disease outbreaks and emerging health threats and administering over \$800 million dollars in infectious disease prevention and treatment programs. Dr. Chavez is a frequent spokesperson for the department on media, legislative, and public forums.

Dr. Chávez also serves as Senior Research Medical Officer in the Division of Public Health Performance Improvement, Office for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support (OSTLTS) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In this capacity, Dr. Chávez provides senior level expertise and advise to CDC on applied epidemiology, public health research, and science-based policy development.

Dr. Chávez is a frequent speaker and lecturer in local, national, and international conferences. He is also an Assistant Clinical Professor at the School of Medicine, University of California Davis. Dr. Chávez has authored or co-authored 87 scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals, reports, and book chapters. He serves as a peer-reviewer for numerous clinical, public health, and epidemiology journals. Dr. Chávez has received numerous honors and awards at the state and national levels for his contributions to public health and epidemiology. Dr. Chávez has served as a Temporary Advisor to the World Health Organization, Consultant to the World Bank, and expert on public health issues around the world.

S. Todd Stolp, M.D., MPH, Health Officer, Tuolumne County Public Health Department

Dr. Stolp graduated from the UCLA School of Medicine in 1980, completed a family practice residency in Ventura County and subsequently operated a full spectrum family practice for twenty years in Tuolumne County. He served as the Medical Director of a multicounty Tribal Indian Health system in California for three years before becoming the Tuolumne County Health Officer in 2003. He has engaged in research on access to insurance, tobacco trends in Native American communities, medical literacy and suicide epidemiology as well as laboratory research. He has also authored and illustrated children's books on health related topics and consulted for various health education projects with the Centers for Disease Control. He has served as the Co-Chairperson of the Communicable Disease Control and Prevention Committee of California Conference of Local Health Officers for the past four years and currently represents California Conference of Local Health Officers on the Board of the National Association of County and City Health Officials.

Barbara Cole, R.N., PHN, MSN, Branch Chief, Riverside County Department of Public Health

Barbara Cole is the Branch Chief for the Riverside County Department of Public Health. She graduated UCLA in 1972 as a Registered Nurse, BSN, and Public Health Nurse and Masters of Science in Nursing in 1993 from California State University, Dominguez Hills, December 1993. Ms. Cole is member and chair of the California Association of Communicable Disease Controllers and a member of the Board of Directors American Lung Association of Inland Counties, American Lung Association of California Board of Directors and Executive Committee, and California Conference of Local Health Officers – Communicable Diseases Committee. She is a past president the California Tuberculosis Controller's Association and California Sexually Transmitted Diseases Controller's Association.

Ms. Cole has specialized in Pediatric Nursing at Martin Luther King Hospital and Rehabilitation/Medical-Surgical Nursing at Huntington Memorial Hospital. Barbara has held several positions with the Riverside County Department of Public Health including Disease Control Supervisor and Director for Disease Control. Among the Awards Ms. Cole has received are the California Tuberculosis Controllers Association's Henry A. Renteln Award, the American Lung Association of California's Pottenger Award.

Claudia Jonah, M.D., Public Health Officer, Kern County

Dr. Claudia Jonah is the Kern County Public Health Officer. She served as Assistant Public Health Officer for 15 years, since joining the Department as a Deputy Public Health Officer in 1988.

During her 25 years in the Public Health Services Department, Dr. Jonah has gained experience in emergency response including flood, hazardous materials and fire evacuations; presenting public health messages to Kern County service organizations, schools and community programs; as well as extending public health messages via radio and television news interviews.

As Director of Clinics and Disease Control, Dr. Jonah conducted disease investigations including the Kern County measles outbreak of 1990, and she supervised multiple disease control programs including immunizations, AIDS, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted disease, and other communicable diseases. Dr. Jonah has oversight responsibility for California Children's Services, Disease Control, Public Health Nursing, the Public Health Laboratory, Child Health & Disabilities Program, California Children's Services and Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Programs.

Before joining the County, Dr. Jonah was a staff Family Practice Physician with Bakersfield Family Medical Center. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology and General Science from Grinnell College before completing basic medical sciences at the School of Medicine at Morehouse College and earning her MD degree from the University of Alabama in Birmingham.

Wm. Jahmal Miller, MHA, Deputy Director, DPH Office of Health Equity

William Jahmal Miller accepted the role of Deputy Director for the Office of Health Equity at the California Department of Public Health in October 2013. He previously served as Communications Manager with Kaiser Permanente's National Offices - Community Benefit, Health Policy & Research Division. At Kaiser Permanente, he also served in the Central Valley Service Area, where he was Manager for Community & Government Relations within the Public Affairs Division. Mr. Miller has provided overall management of for Sutter Health's Sacramento Sierra Region as Manager for Strategic Marketing & Communications and oversight of growth, marketing and communications efforts with large-employer groups and brokers. Prior to that, he was the Program Manager for Sutter Children's Hospital at Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento. Mr. Miller was responsible for managing inpatient and outpatient operations by providing strategic direction for Sutter Children's Cancer Program and Outpatient Clinics. He has been a board member of the California Child Care Referral and Resource Network, one of the most respected systems of child care resources and referrals in the United States. The following are additional volunteer boards where he has served - American Heart Association's Western Region Health Equity Task Force, American Diabetes Association, Bloodsource Community Advisory & Ronald McDonald House Charities. Mr. Miller completed an Executive Fellowship with the Nehemiah Emerging Leaders Program in conjunction with the American Leadership Forum & CORO.

Mr. Miller is a proud graduate of Columbia University in New York City, receiving a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology, and he holds a Master of Healthcare Administration from the University of Southern California.

Tony Iton, M.D., J.D., MPH, Senior VP, Healthy Communities, California Endowment

Anthony B. Iton, M.D., J.D., MPH, Senior Vice President of Healthy Communities, joined The Endowment in October 2009.

Prior to his appointment at The Endowment, Iton served since 2003 as both the director and County Health Officer for the Alameda County Public Health Department. In that role, he oversaw the creation of an innovative public health practice designed to eliminate health disparities by tackling the root causes of poor health that limit quality of life and lifespan in many of California's low-income communities.

Iton also served for three years as director of Health and Human Services and School Medical Advisor for the City of Stamford, Connecticut. Concurrent to that, he also served as a physician in internal medicine for Stamford Hospital's HIV Clinic. In addition, Iton served for five years as a primary care physician for the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

Iton's varied career also includes past service as a staff attorney and Health Policy analyst for the West Coast regional office of Consumer's Union, the publisher of Consumer Reports magazine.

Iton, who has been published in numerous public health and medical publications, is a regular public health lecturer and keynote speaker at conferences across the nation. He earned his B.S. in Neurophysiology, with honors, from McGill University, in Montreal, Quebec, his J.D. at the University of California, Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law, and his medical degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine..