

# **The American Health Care Act: What Will it Cost Californians?**

**Wednesday, March 22, 2017 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Fresno City Hall Chambers, 2600 Fresno Street, Fresno**

## **Speaker Biographies**

### ***Brian Metzker, Fiscal & Policy Analyst, California Legislative Analyst's Office***

Brian is a Fiscal & Policy Analyst in the Health & Human Services section of the California Legislative Analyst's Office. He covers Medi-Cal generally, as well as family health issues and health planning and development. Last month, Brian co-authored a report—The Uncertain Affordable Care Act Landscape: What It Means for California—which summarizes the major provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), details the impacts of the ACA on California, and describes some of the common themes and elements from Republican replacement proposals including several in the American Health Care Act.

### ***Deborah Kelch, Executive Director, Insure the Uninsured Project***

Deborah Reidy Kelch is the Executive Director of the Insure the Uninsured Project (ITUP). Prior to joining ITUP, Deborah had 30+ years of experience analyzing and working to improve health care in California, including 15 years as policy and fiscal staff to the California Legislature, most recently as Chief Consultant to the Assembly Health Committee from 2007-2009, and more than 15 years as owner of Kelch Associates, an independent health policy consulting firm. Deborah received her master's degree in public policy and administration from CSU Sacramento and her bachelor's degree in political science from UCLA.

### ***Jen Flory, Policy Advocate, Western Center on Law & Poverty***

Jen Flory is a Senior Attorney specializing in health law and policy. She started her legal career at Western Center first as a law student, then as a Skadden Fellow. After a short time working in London as an immigration attorney, Jen returned to California and served as the Supervising Attorney for Neighborhood Legal Services of LA County's Health Consumer Center. Jen then served as the Director of the Cancer Legal Resource Center and taught a Cancer Rights Legal Seminar at Loyola Law School. Jen has experience litigating cases, drafting legislation and regulatory comments, and training advocates.

### ***Laurel Lucia, Manager, Health Care Program, UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research & Education***

Laurel Lucia has worked at the UC Berkeley Labor Center since 2009. She specializes in analyzing health care policy. Recent papers have examined California's Medicaid Expansion, health insurance for California immigrants, and who is likely to remain uninsured under the Affordable Care Act in California. She also analyzes the economic impact of public policy changes.

Previously, Laurel worked on issues affecting health care workers as a Researcher/Policy Analyst for the Service Employees International Union. She has served as an elected officer for two unions. Laurel received a Masters in Public Policy from UC Berkeley in 2005. During her time as a student, she was a Labor Summer intern and worked as a Graduate Student Researcher at the Labor Center.

### ***Ruben Chavez, Chief Administrative Officer, Clinica Sierra Vista***

Ruben Chavez is the Chief Administrative Officer – Fresno for Clinica Sierra Vista, a non-profit, Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). Ruben has been with Clinica for more than four years. Prior to working with Clinica, Ruben worked with Family HealthCare Network, a FQHC in Tulare County.

Ruben worked with Health Resource and Services Administration as a Project Manager while participating in the Presidential Management Intern program from 2000-2001. Ruben graduated from the University of California, Davis with a degree in English, and from the University of Maryland, School of Law where he concentrated in Health Care Law. He served on Active and Reserve Duty in the United States Marine Corps and retired after 20 years of service in August 2009. Ruben is a Rotarian and belongs to the American Legion. He is from Visalia, is married to Mariko and has two children Alena and Nicholas.

***Noe Paramo, Co-Director, California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, Sustainable Rural Communities Project***

Noe Paramo is on staff of California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation as Sustainable Rural Communities Project Co-Director and Legislative Advocate. For 15 years, Noe worked for California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. at the Modesto office. Noe was the Advisory Committee Chair for the Central Valley Health Policy Institute at CSU Fresno. Noe's work focuses on social justice policies supporting farmworkers and low-income rural communities. Mr. Paramo holds a BA degree in Political Science from UC Davis and a JD from Hastings College of the Law.

***Mary Adèr, Deputy Director, Legislative Affairs, County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California***

Mary Adèr has been the Deputy Director, Legislative Affairs at the County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA) since the spring of 2016. Prior to CBHDA she served as Senior Advisor for Government Relations at Kaiser Permanente's national headquarters in Oakland, California. For five years she provided substantive and strategic guidance on legislation in California, Hawaii, and Georgia.

Prior to joining Kaiser Permanente, Mary served for ten years as senior staff to California legislative leadership at the Assembly Appropriations Committee and the non-partisan Legislative Analyst's Office. Mary's areas of expertise include legislative analysis and writing, assessment of impacts of legislation and public finance. Mary holds a Master of Public Health and a Master of Public Policy from the University of California at Berkeley and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Dartmouth College.

***Kendra Rogers, Managing Director, Early Childhood Policy, Children Now.***

Kendra Rogers works on a range of state and local policy issues, including quality child care, preschool and connections between birth-5 and K-12, and also helps grow The Children's Movement of California. Prior to joining Children Now, Kendra worked at First 5 Fresno County from 2000-2014, where she served as executive director for five years. She holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration, and has a breadth of knowledge and experience in early childhood development and community coalition building.