



Informational Hearing

Assembly Health Committee and Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 The Medi-Cal Asset Test: Options for Change

Tuesday, February 2, 2021 – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 4202

BIOGRAPHIES

Felicia Y Sze, J.D., MPH, *Founding & Managing Partner, Athene Law, LLP*

Felicia Y Sze is a recognized expert in Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement matters, focusing on both the managed care and fee-for-service programs. She advises healthcare providers on a wide array of compliance and reimbursement matters and in disputes with managed care entities and government payors. She founded Athene Law, LLP, a minority-owned healthcare law firm, in 2018. Ms. Sze earned her undergraduate degree in Molecular and Cellular Biology from the University of California at Berkeley in 1996, her M.P.H. degree specializing in Community Health Sciences/Health Policy from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1998, and her J.D. from the University of California at Berkeley in 2004. Ms. Sze has been acknowledged as a Top Healthcare Lawyer in 2020 by the *Daily Journal*.

Cathy Senderling-McDonald, *Executive Director Officer, County Welfare Directors Association of California*

Cathy Senderling-McDonald was named Executive Director of CWDA, effective January 1, 2021, following the retirement of long-time Executive Director Frank Mecca. In this role, she leads the association staff in working with the CWDA Board of Directors and partner organizations to promote legislative, budget and policy changes that improve human services programs and the delivery of those services. Cathy served as the Deputy Executive Director from 2010 through 2020. She joined CWDA in 2000 as the association's legislative advocate and later became senior legislative advocate until her promotion to deputy executive director. Prior to joining CWDA, she 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. She has a bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of Missouri at Columbia, and a master's degree from the Heinz School of Public Policy and Management in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. On the national level, Cathy sits on the Board of the National Association of Counties (NACo), is Immediate Past President of the National Association of County Human Services Agencies, and is Vice Chair of the Subcommittee on Aging of the NACo Human Services and Education Steering Committee, of which she is a longtime member.

René Mollow, MSN, RN, Deputy Director, Department of Health Care Services, Health Care Benefits and Eligibility

René has been with the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) since 1995. In the Medi-Cal program, she serves as the Deputy Director for Health Care Benefits and Eligibility (HCBE). She provides leadership for benefit and eligibility policy planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of health care services and delivery systems under Medi-Cal and for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). HCBE is comprised of five divisions and one office: Benefits, Eligibility, Pharmacy Benefits, Primary and Rural Indian Health, Dental, and the Office of Family Planning. René works to ensure that policies, procedures, and related activities in HCBE conform to applicable state and federal policies, statutes and regulations. She assists the Director, Administration, and State Legislature in determining program direction consistent with legislative intent and consults with the Director and State Medicaid Director on issues of significant policy impact involving both Medi-Cal and CHIP. René has played a major role in policy planning, development, and implementation on matters pertaining to health care reform implementation and coverage expansions for children and young adults under Medi-Cal.

Will Lightbourne, Director, Department of Health Care Services

Will Lightbourne was appointed Director of the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) by Governor Gavin Newsom effective June 16, 2020. Before his appointment to DHCS, Mr. Lightbourne served on Governor Newsom's Council of Regional Homeless Advisors, and previously as Director of the California Department of Social Services from 2011 through 2018. Before his state service, he was director of the Santa Clara County Social Services Agency, director of the Human Services Agency of the City & County of San Francisco, director of the Santa Cruz County Human Services Agency, and general director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of San Francisco. Mr. Lightbourne earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from San Francisco State University.

Jen Flory, J.D., Policy Advocate, Western Center on Law & Poverty

Jen Flory is a Policy Advocate specializing in access to health care for low-income Californians. Jen's passion for health care advocacy stems not just from a desire for social justice, but also from personal experience. As a young adult, she was unable to purchase health insurance, went without needed health care, and attended law school, in part, so she could get health coverage. She also witnessed other family members struggle to pay of large medical debts or put off care until illness was untreatable. In addition to her work at Western Center, Jen served as the Supervising Attorney for Neighborhood Legal Services of LA County's Health Consumer Center and the Director of the Cancer Legal Resource Center at Disability Rights Legal Center. She has also worked as an immigration attorney. Jen has experience litigating cases, drafting legislation and regulatory comments, writing consumer and advocate materials, and training advocates and community members.

Claire Ramsey, J.D., *Senior Staff Attorney*, Justice in Aging

Claire Ramsey joined Justice in Aging's Health Care team as a Senior Staff Attorney in June 2016 and is based in Oakland, California. Her work is focused on Medi-Cal, In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), and improving access to care for older Californians. Claire formerly worked as a staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County where she represented seniors on issues involving health care, public benefits, and elder abuse. Prior to Legal Aid, Claire worked at Child Care Law Center, first as an Equal Justice Works fellow and then as a staff attorney. She received her law degree from UC Hastings College of the Law in 2006 with a concentration on Public Interest Law. Claire received her B.A. in English from UC Berkeley and her M.A. in Drama from San Francisco State University.