

DDS HCBS Advisory Group Member Biographies

Mark Alipio is a second generation provider of family-owned and operated community care homes serving Los Angeles and Orange counties. He advocates for the provision of quality services and program improvements in Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly and Adult Residential Facilities. Early career experience included work in an Adult Residential Facility for Persons with Special Health Care Needs. Mark specializes in transition services for former residents of developmental centers who want to live in a homelike setting with intensive 24-hour services and supports. He also serves as the Social Media and Special Projects Chair of 6beds, Inc.

Diana Anderson is an Associate Director at Far Northern Regional Center, managing the Community Services Division. Prior to working at FNRC, she specialized in vocational rehabilitation services for ten years, assisting individuals with disabilities to obtain work training and employment. Diana also served over 20 years as a school trustee for both elementary and high school districts, advocating for skills planning and successful transition to work or college. She has a degree in business with experience in management and accounting.

Tony Anderson is the Executive Director and principle lobbyist for Arc California. Since 1987, his career has included stints as a case manager and resource development manager in a regional center, Executive Director of a residential service agency that served over 120 people, manager for the Napa County Department of Health and Human Services, and Deputy Director for Policy, Planning & Governmental Relations for the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities. Tony received both his B.A. in Research Psychology and M.A. in Organizational Development from Sonoma State University.

Boyd Bradshaw is the President and founding member of ResCoalition, a 501.c.6 business league for residential care providers. He has been the executive director of the Sutton Foundation, a large non-profit residential care program, and has owned and operated HCDD, Inc., a program in Orange County with a primary focus on severe behavioral issues, and SenseAbilities, a speech sensory clinic. A graduate of California State University, San Bernardino, Boyd served on numerous committees for various regional centers, chaired the Community Care Licensing Adult Advisory Group, and currently serves as a member of the California Health and Human Services Agency's Developmental Services Task Force.

Ernie Cruz is the Associate Director of Community Services for San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center. He oversees resource development, vendorization, transportation, and projects for the Lanterman Developmental Center closure and housing plan. During his 18 years with SG/PRC, Ernie has held positions as Service Coordinator in Transition Services, Quality Assurance Specialist, Manager of Transportation, and Manager of Community Resources. His experience also includes oversight of the downsizing of 16-bed or larger facilities to bring them into compliance with Home and Community Based Services Waiver requirements.

Terry DeBell, RN, is the President of CASHPCR representing families from Fairview and Porterville Developmental Centers. As a sibling of a brother born with a severe developmental disability, she is active on several task forces, advisory groups, and workgroups dealing with issues relating to current and former Developmental Center residents and others with

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developmental disabilities. Terry's critical care and cardiology nursing experience informs her policy development efforts. Terry currently serves as a member of the California Health and Human Services Agency's Developmental Services Task Force.

Carlos Flores is the Executive Director of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Developmental Services, Inc. (SDICDSI) and of SDICDSI's largest program, the San Diego Regional Center for Persons with Developmental Disabilities. Previously he held executive positions in the Prevention and Children's Services Branch of the Department of Developmental Services, California's Early Start Program, the Redwood Coast Regional Center, and the Developmental Disabilities Area Board 10 in Los Angeles County. Carlos also worked as a Program Manager and Service Coordinator for the East Los Angeles and Westside Regional Centers, and was a Special Education Teacher. Carlos currently serves as a member of the California Health and Human Services Agency's Developmental Services Task Force.

Carlene Holden works at Easter Seals Southern California helping design and implement community-based day services, senior day care, independent living, supported living, specialized residential group homes, supported employment services, and early childhood education and family supports. She has experience as a parent who has received regional center and special education services. Her previous professional work includes mental health social worker, teaching, and resource development at Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center. Carlene possess a B.A. in Psychology and an M.A. in Guidance and Counseling.

Michael Kaiser, RN, is President and Chief Executive Officer of People's Care and A Right Place for Seniors International. Since completing his service in the U.S. Army Infantry in the early 1990's, he has devoted his career to healthcare and social services issues. Starting as a Psychiatric Technician at the Lanterman Developmental Center, he worked in acute locked psychiatric hospitals, and then became a licensed Registered Nurse. These experiences inspired him to open and develop his own facility, People's Care, in 1998. People's Care has grown into an agency that serves individuals with developmental disabilities through numerous programs, along with non-disabled senior care services, home health, and hospice. Currently, People's Care employs over 1,000 employees while serving over 1,000 consumers, clients and patients every day.

Connie Lapin is a Speech Pathologist and parent who has been a lecturer and consumer advocate for children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders and other developmental disabilities for over 45 years. When her son Shawn was diagnosed in 1970, there was a shortage of information and no services available. Connie has testified before government bodies, lectured at universities and conferences, and made appearances on television and radio. Connie's accolades include "Woman of the Year" in Assemblyman Bob Blumenfield's district, and a Lifetime Achievement and Meritorious Service for Autism award from Senate Pro Tem Darryl Steinberg. As current co-chair of the Government Relations Committee for the Autism Society of Los Angeles, she helped lead the successful effort in California to enact Self-Determination legislation that was signed in October 2013 by Governor Brown. Connie is currently serving as a member of the California Health and Human Services Agency's Developmental Services Task Force.

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Laura Larson has been the Executive Director of Far Northern Regional Center, in Redding, for 19 years. Previously, she worked for 13 years as the Executive Director of the Area 2 Developmental Disabilities Board. Her focus has been on transforming traditional day programs by developing creative business options for the employment of people with developmental disabilities. Laura has produced employment for people with developmental disabilities through a regional self-advocacy project focusing on abuse prevention, healthy relationships, person-centered planning, and anti-bullying.

Julia Lowe is the Senior Director for Dungarvin California, LLC. Dungarvin is a national organization providing community-based supports including day program services in California for nearly 20 years. Previously she worked for the Department of Developmental Services as Assistant Deputy Director for the Developmental Centers Division. At Agnews Developmental Center, Julia worked as a rehabilitation therapist, program manager and coordinator of the program for state staff in the community. She is a member of several organizations dealing with issues affecting persons with developmental disabilities.

Catherine McCoy has been privileged to serve people with intellectual and developmental disabilities for over 23 years. She is currently a service coordinator in the Community Placement Plan Unit at San Andreas Regional Center and assisted in the closure of Agnews Developmental Center. Catherine also serves as president of the San Andreas Chapter of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 521, as well as co-chair of the SEIU Developmental Disabilities Council and a member of the Lanterman Coalition. She has served in various positions at other regional centers, including Alta California Regional Center. Catherine holds a Master's Degree in Social Work and a B.A. in Psychology from California State University, Sacramento. Catherine currently serves as a member of the California Health and Human Services Agency's Developmental Services Task Force.

Carol McKinney is the co-founder and Executive Director of Harmony Home, Associated, a non-profit organization that provides independent living and supported living services to approximately 275 people in Contra Costa County. Carol is the co-chair of Governmental Affairs for the California Supported Living Network. She holds an M.B.A. and has been involved in the field of developmental disabilities for 39 years. Carol also serves as a member of the California Health and Human Services Agency's Developmental Services Task Force.

Sue North joined the staff at the California Disability Services Association in 2013 as the Director of Government Affairs after a long career working in the California Legislature. Sue served as Chief of Staff to two Senators and was Consultant for the Senate Human Services Committee for four years. Previously she worked in the Assembly Ways and Means Committee where she was responsible for all the budgets of departments under the Health and Welfare Agency for three years. She also staffed the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, the Select Committee on Mental Health, and the Assembly Health Committee. Prior to her work in the California Legislature she worked in the San Francisco Mayor's Office for seven years on human service programs and budgets at the local level. She is a graduate of UC Santa Cruz.

Marty Omoto is an advocate and founder of the California Disability Community Action Network (CDCAN). He publishes an e- newsletter about the state budget and legislation with a following of over 65,000 people across the state. Marty's older sister had developmental

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disabilities. Marty currently serves as a member of the California Health and Human Services Agency's Developmental Services Task Force.

Nicole Patterson has worked with people with disabilities for the past 16 years. Her experiences as a person with a developmental disability include providing information and assistance to people with all types of disabilities, advising them of their rights, and helping to educate the individuals who provide services to people with disabilities. She is the Coordinator of Consumer Services at the Department of Developmental Services providing a voice to the Director and his team and recommending solutions on issues that consumers face. Nicole also assists with coordinating the DDS Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) in its work on self-advocacy projects, and participates on consumer-driven projects across the state.

Lori Ramirez has served as the Executive Director of The Arc Fresno/Madera Counties for the past 17 years, guiding the organization in substantial growth in the provision of high quality services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities. She has been engaged in community outreach and program expansion in work opportunities, residential services through supported and independent living programs, social and leisure experiences, and adult day programs for consumers with a wide range of interests and needs. Lori is a member and former chair of the Central Valley Regional Center Vendor Advisory Committee; serves on the Board of Directors for the California Disabilities Services Association; is a member and past chair of the Valley Association of Rehabilitation Facilities; served as chair and is an active member of the California Conference of Executives, the professional component of The Arc of California; is active in and serves as a past president of LARCS, a local philanthropic organization; and is also a member of the California Health and Human Services Agency's Developmental Services Task Force.

Will Sanford is the Executive Director of Futures Explored, Inc. and a long-time advocate for persons with disabilities. Futures Explored is a community-based organization that provides a wide variety of day and vocational training programs to over 500 individuals with developmental and other disabilities each year. Will currently serves as a member of the California Health and Human Services Agency's Developmental Services Task Force.

Joan Schmidt is currently the President, CEO and co-founder of Creative Living Options, Inc., a supported living agency in West Sacramento. She became a parent vendor for her son's supported living services in 1991 and co-authored the manual published by CIRCL/DDS on providing supported living services as a single household /individual vendor. Joan has conducted workshops and trainings for teachers, administrators and families on inclusive education, alternative and augmentative communication systems, positive behavior intervention and alternative living situations. Additionally, Joan has participated in various statewide workgroups, legislative advisory committees, system reform efforts, the development of the supported living services regulations, and with children and young adults experiencing developmental disabilities. Among her many advisory roles, Joan serves on the California Supported Living Network Board of Directors.