

Meet the Newest Office of Health Equity Advisory Committee Members

Rye Baerg is the Regional Planner for Southern California Association of Governments. His expertise is in land use, transportation and active transportation, public health, data collection, modeling, the social determinants of health, cultural identification, behavior change and Health in All Policies.

Alison Chopel is the Director of the California Adolescent Health Collaborative, a program of the Public Health Institute, where she exercises her practical knowledge and experience in Community Based Participatory Research, social epidemiology theories, adolescent health, youth leadership development, and adolescent relationship abuse prevention. She also has lived experience with the systems of incarceration and mental health as well as rural and low-income conditions.

Lisa Folberg is the President and CEO of the California Medical Association Foundation. She has expertise in health policy, including health system reform and financing, designing and implementing public health programs, physician practice and ethnic physician organizations, coalition building, health care workforce development, and non-profit administration.

Guillermo Gonzalez is the Director of Consortia Services for the Health Center Partners of Southern California in the County of Riverside. His areas of expertise are in Medicaid/ Medi-Cal policy, working with vulnerable, uninsured and underinsured populations including migrant farm workers, increasing access to health care, and legislative process and programs at the state and federal levels of government.

Sylvia Kim is the Orange County Regional Director at Asian Americans Advancing Justice, currently the nation's largest legal services and civil rights organization serving the needs of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. Her areas of expertise are in advocating for cultural competency in a health and mental health context, civil rights/human rights, social justice and international law.

Nahla Kayali is the Executive Director and Founder of Access California Services and Chairperson/ President of The Refugee Forum of Orange County. She has expertise in providing services to underserved/vulnerable populations, limited English proficient individuals and families, and immigrants and refugees (New Americans), as well as health access advocacy, mental health access advocacy, program/service delivery, contract administration, cultural and linguistic competency, and collaboration building.

Yvette McShan is the Chief Operating Officer of Victorious Black Women, an organization she co-founded with a simple but powerful idea back in 2009 that the path towards healing lies in the ability of black women sharing their stories with one another. Her expertise lies in promoting life skills, mentoring, and substance abuse counseling, and she is a strong advocate for individuals and communities facing incarceration and re-entry, addiction, and mental illness.

Lloyd Nadal is the Program Manager for CA4Health, a program of the Public Health Institute. His expertise is in youth engagement (on a local, state and national level), organizing and advocacy, developing community- and youth-led public health programs/projects particularly in the areas of nutrition and physical activity policy, systems and environmental change. He has knowledge of school, after school and community based settings, where he has developed culturally appropriate and relevant curricula and social media/technology strategies and campaigns.

Michael Witte has been a physician since 1970 and currently serves as the Chief Medical Officer for the California Primary Care Association, where he works with a dynamic group of health policy experts who support the most vulnerable populations in California. Family medicine and Federally Qualified Health Centers are his primary areas of expertise.

Lisa Folberg is the President and CEO of the California Medical Association Foundation. She has expertise in health policy, including health system reform and financing, designing and implementing public health programs, physician practice and ethnic physician organizations, coalition building, health care workforce development, and non-profit administration.

Guillermo Gonzalez, MPP

Before serving in his current position as Director of Consortia Services for Health Center Partners of Southern California, a 501 C3 entity representing community health centers and federally qualified health centers in Riverside County, Mr. Gonzalez served as Director of Government Affairs at Gold Coast Health Plan, a Medi-Cal managed care health plan in Ventura County. Mr. Gonzalez has a demonstrated record of commitment to public service.

He also served for ten years as senior advisor and Deputy State Director to United States Senator Dianne Feinstein of California. During his tenure with Senator Feinstein he worked on forming coalitions and partnerships with diverse stakeholders to form consensus on numerous public policy issues concerning health, environmental, economic development, and immigration policy.

Mr. Gonzalez is former Legislative Fellow with the California State Legislature and has served as a legislative aide and consultant to the Speaker of the California State Assembly where he worked on health, education, and housing policy. He has taken on leadership roles in forming coalitions and partnerships with key stakeholders to advocate for safe working conditions, housing and healthcare for agricultural workers. Rounding out his demonstrated commitment to underserved communities, Mr. Gonzalez has solid academic credentials. He earned a BA in Political Science from the University of California at Santa Barbara and a Master of Public Policy from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University.

Lisa Folberg is President and CEO of the California Medical Association (CMA) Foundation. The CMA Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to improving individual and community health. Programs include the Network of Ethnic Physician Organizations (NEPO), a statewide program that brings together over 50 ethnic physician organizations. The CMA Foundation and NEPO work with physicians to help engage them as advocates for the health of their patients and their communities.

Folberg previously served as Vice President of Medical and Regulatory Policy at CMA where she managed the day-to-day operations of CMA's policy development and regulatory advocacy. She joined CMA from the California Legislative Analyst's Office, where she provided the Legislature with analyses on a variety of health and social services budget issues. Lisa has also spent time volunteering and working in health clinics, and spent a year in Colombia, South America developing a public health program for at-risk youth through a World Health Organization/UCSF collaborating project.

Folberg's expertise includes health system financing and reform, and public health. She has been quoted in state and national publications, including; the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, and the Los Angeles Times. She currently serves on the Insure the Uninsured Project Advisory Board. She holds a master's degree in public policy from Georgetown University.

Nahla Kayali serves as the Founder and Executive Director for Access California Services (AccessCal) in Anaheim, California. AccessCal is a health and human services non-profit family resource center dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for the underserved with a focus on the Arab-American and Muslim-American communities. Under Ms. Kayali's leadership, the organization provides culturally and linguistically competent programs in 13 languages delivered by 30 staff including 10 AmeriCorps members. Programs include: health access in government programs including ObamaCare, employment services, citizenship and immigration services, mental health services, refugee support services, English as a Second Language and client advocacy. Ms. Kayali is described as a foot soldier for her community in making sure individuals and families receive access to quality services. Ms. Kayali serves on national and international boards including the Community Action Partnership and the Orange County Food Bank. Ms. Kayali also serves as the Chairwoman of the Refugee Forum of Orange County and holds the State Refugee Forum Seat for the State Advisory Council on Refugee Assistance and Services. Ms. Kayali believes in a world in which each individual leads a dignified and enriched life.

Sylvia Kim is a lawyer and human rights advocate. Sylvia is the Co-Founder of HanVoice, a Policy Advisor for the European Alliance for Human Rights and a Fellow at the Transitional Justice Working Group. Sylvia received her Juris Doctor from Osgoode Hall Law School and completed her Master of Studies at the University of Oxford in International Human Rights Law where her research focused on applying the Responsibility to Protect to North Korea. Sylvia currently resides in Southern California where she is the Orange County Regional Director for Asian Americans Advancing Justice – the largest legal services and civil rights organization for Asian Americans in the United States. Sylvia is actively involved in statewide policy initiatives as a Steering Committee Member of the Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition and as an Advisory Committee Member of California's Office of Health Equity. Sylvia is a regular contributor to the Huffington Post.