

PRESENTED BY THE SENIOR SERVICES COALITION OF ALAMEDA COUNTY



ALAMEDA COUNTY PERSPECTIVES - CALIFORNIA MASTER PLAN FOR AGING

Friday, December 3, 2021 – 8:30am-12pm
FORUM PROGRAM

8:30am – Soft Start – Virtual Orientation & Networking

9:00am – Welcome, Appreciation & Framing

Wendy Peterson, Director, Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County

9:15am – Legislative Perspectives

Speakers: **Representative Barbara Lee**, 13th Congressional District
Senator Bob Wieckowski, California Senate District 10
Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, Assembly District 15
Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, Assembly District 16
Assemblymember Alex Lee, Assembly District 25

Introduced by: **Kweli Kitwana**, Associate Director for Policy & Advocacy, Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County

9:30am – Key Messages from the California Department of Aging

Speaker: **Susan DeMarois**, Director for the California Department of Aging

9:35am – California Master Plan for Aging: First Year Wins

Speaker: **Sarah Steenhausen**, Director of Policy & Advocacy, The SCAN Foundation

Moderator: **Shukura Shani Reynolds**, Management Analyst, Alameda County Department of Adult & Aging Services

10:15am – Local Implementation

Panelists: **Faith Battles**, Assistant Agency Director for Adult & Aging Services, Alameda County Social Services Agency
Tanya Bustamante, Aging Services Manager, City of Berkeley
James Treggiari, Executive Director, Legal Assistance for Seniors
Michael Galvan, Executive Director, Community Resources for Independent Living
Andrea Dodge, Older Adult Program, Alameda County Public Health Department
Vanessa Baker, Division Director, Older Adult Services, Alameda County Behavioral Health Services

Moderator: **Wendy Peterson**, Senior Services Coalition

11:05am – Community Perspectives: Small Group Listening Sessions

12:00 – Close

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ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS

Susan DeMarois

Susan DeMarois joins the California Department of Aging as Director on November 1, 2021.

Prior to joining CDA, Susan led public policy and advocacy for the national Alzheimer's Association in California. As a registered lobbyist in Sacramento, Susan advocated for legislative, budget and regulatory changes at the state capitol on behalf of the 2.1 million Californians directly impacted by Alzheimer's disease. The organization led the effort to implement the Healthy Brain Initiative in California, resulting in a \$5 million investment in the state's public health infrastructure. On October 4, 2021, Governor Newsom signed SB 48 (Limón) into law, enacting the first dementia early detection initiative in the nation focused on the Medicaid population.

Susan served as an appointee to Governor Newsom's Alzheimer's Prevention and Preparedness Task Force, chaired by former First Lady Maria Shriver, in addition to the Master Plan for Aging Stakeholder Advisory Committee, a workgroup established by Executive Order. In addition, Susan represented the Alzheimer's Association on the CHHS Agency Secretary's Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Committee.

Before working for the Alzheimer's Association, Susan led government and community relations for the UC Davis Health System and its academic medical center, children's hospital, medical school, nursing school and physician group.

Early in her career, Susan worked for LeadingAge California, the professional trade association representing not-for-profit housing, residential care and skilled nursing providers along with home and community-based services.

A graduate of CSU Chico, Susan started her career working for the U.S. Congress and California State Assembly. Susan is a proud mom to two adult daughters. She resides in Sacramento, CA and draws inspiration for her work from her own mom's experience with dementia.

Sarah Steenhausen

Sarah Steenhausen is Director of Policy and Advocacy for The SCAN Foundation. In this role, Sarah partners with stakeholders and policymakers at the state and federal levels to develop, inform, and advance policy solutions to improve the system of care serving older adults and people with disabilities. Before joining the Foundation in 2009, Sarah served as assistant secretary for Long Term Care at the California Health and Human Services Agency, where she was the primary advisor on aging and long term care legislative and budgetary measures. Her policy career began in the California Legislature, as consultant to the Senate Subcommittee on Aging and Long Term Care. Sarah holds a Master of Science in Gerontology from the USC Davis School of Gerontology.



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ABOUT OUR MODERATORS

Shukura Shani Reynolds

Shukura “Shani” Reynolds is a Management Analyst in the Alameda County Social Services Agency Adult and Aging Services Department. In her role Shani supports the Alameda County Council for Age-Friendly Communities (Age-Friendly Council). The Age-Friendly Council coordinates efforts to effect policy and system changes that enhance the overall well-being of older adults who live in Alameda County, engaging leaders, consumers, and providers to develop and sustain a community framework that fosters healthy aging. The Council is a forum for expanding resources, services, and access to services and increasing collaboration among many stakeholders, including County departments, cities, and Community Based Organizations. Shani holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and Finance and a Masters degree in Public Administration from California State East Bay. Prior to her appointment in Adult and Aging Services Shani worked for Alameda County Behavioral Health as a Supervising Financial Services Specialist. Shani’s favorite quote is “Teamwork makes the dream work!” -- a model she exemplifies through her collaborations and efforts on the Age-Friendly Council.

Wendy Peterson

Wendy Peterson has directed the Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County since 2002, representing over 40 community-based organizations that together provide health and supportive services to over 85,000 older adults throughout the county. The Coalition and its members advance public policy and collaborative initiatives that will increase access to community-based supports and improve health and life outcomes. Wendy has worked in the field of aging policy and services for 25 years, after leaving the computer industry where she managed technology development start-ups.

Kweli Kitwana

Kweli Kitwana has served as the Senior Services Coalition’s Associate Director for Policy & Advocacy since 2017, and brings a combined 35 years of experiences in local, state and national grassroots advocacy and progressive policy. Before coming to SSC, Kweli served as Interim Associate Director for the Mid-West Academy for two years before handing off the reins to move closer to her family in California, and she continues to fill in as a lead trainer. Kweli has worked to advance affordable housing, economic security and social justice issues, working with USAction Education Fund, Planned Parenthood, The Center For Progressive Leadership and Progressive Majority.

Kweli's experience has taught her that organizing groups includes deepening their understanding of how strategic actions lead to wins, and she has specialized in leadership and coalition building. She is skilled in developing appropriate tools for dissecting the relationships of power, and has a broad understanding of policy and civic engagement. She values intersectional partnership building and is committed to advancing policies that positively impact underserved and disenfranchised communities.



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ABOUT OUR PANELISTS

Faith Battles

Faith M. Battles joined the County of Alameda Social Services Agency Department of Adult and Aging Services in February of 2020 as its Assistant Agency Director. Prior to this appointment, Faith served in the County Department of Children & Family Services for 20 years, with the last 10 years as Division Director responsible for directing the recruitment and approval of Resource Parents, the operation and coordination of the County's Assessment Center and the placement of children, youth and Non-Minor Dependents in safe and stable homes. Faith holds a Bachelor's degree in Law & Society from the University of California, Santa Barbara and earned her Master's Degree in Social Work with an emphasis in Administration & Planning from San Francisco State University.

Tanya Bustamante

Tanya began her role as Aging Services Manager for the City of Berkeley Health, Housing, & Community Services (HHCS) Department in 2017. As the Aging Services Manager, she is responsible for the administration and oversight of two senior centers, a case management unit, and a Meals On Wheels/senior nutrition program. Additionally, Tanya works closely with her Age Friendly Berkeley partners – both internal and external – to ensure that issues concerning the older adults of the Berkeley community remain at the forefront of the HHCS Department's work, as well as a priority of the City of Berkeley's Strategic Plan.

Tanya has been with the City of Berkeley for approximately 10 years. Prior to her current role, she supervised both emergency preparedness and chronic disease prevention programs in the Public Health Division. Tanya also worked for the San Francisco Department of Public Health and the San Mateo County Health Department. Tanya has a Master of Public Health degree from UC Berkeley, and a Doctorate of Public Health degree from the University of Illinois-Chicago. She has a passion for collaborating with, and serving, the community. In her free time, Tanya enjoys spending time with her husband, 2 kids, and 2 dogs.

James Treggiari

James Treggiari is the Executive Director at Legal Assistance for Seniors (LAS). He has spent his career focused on assisting clients from disenfranchised communities including older adults, homeless individuals and families, transgender youth in Los Angeles and dually diagnosed adults in New Hampshire. For the past twelve years at LAS, Jim has been a staff attorney assisting clients in elder abuse and conservatorship cases. For the past five years he has served as LAS's Executive Director, and has helped develop and implement a housing program for LAS that includes legal representation, community education, case management and policy advocacy.

James is the current chair of the Alameda County Council for Age Friendly Communities Housing Work Group. The Works Group focuses on promoting equity focused housing policies, advocating for and implementing housing solutions tailored to the needs of older adults and age friendly initiatives around the creation and sustainability of older adult housing solutions across a broad spectrum of housing options.



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James received his J.D. in 2008, a Master of Social Work degree in 2005 and a BA in Psychology in 2003. In his free time, he is an avid rock climber, a tragically bad surfer and a collector of obscure music.

Michael Galvan

For the past 2 years, Michael Galvan has been the Executive Director at Community Resources for Independent Living (CRIL). This is his 11th year at CRIL. He was CRIL's Program Director from 2011-2019. He has been involved in Alameda County's Aging and Disability Resource Connection since 2013. Michael enjoys time with his family, reading, jigsaw puzzles and his chihuahua mix, Raul.

Andrea Dodge

Andrea has over 24 years of experience developing innovative projects that address the social determinants of health, with a focus on leading collaborative efforts among diverse stakeholders to support policy and systems change. She has focused on tobacco control, mental health, partner abuse, youth violence prevention, and alcohol-related injuries.

As part of Alameda County's health department, she has worked to expand and improve programs and services for older adults since 2013. Currently, she coordinates older adult and life care planning programs for the Public Health Department's Chronic Disease Program. She has been a member of the Age-Friendly Council's Leadership Team since 2017, and co-chairs the Council's Digital Inclusion Workgroup.

Vanessa Baker

Vanessa Baker, MS, LMFT, serves as the Alameda County Behavioral Health (ACBH) Older Adult Services Division Director. She has 17 years of experience working in the clinical and social services fields, providing support to children, individuals with developmental disabilities, adults and older adults through direct service and at a managerial level. Prior to joining ACBH in 2021, Ms. Baker oversaw the Social Services Agency Adult Protective Services Program and LPS/Mental Health Conservatorship program for seven years, expanding both programs through county collaborations and State grants. Ms. Baker has a collaborative and inclusive leadership style, with an emphasis on breaking down silos and building partnerships, so that Alameda County residents receive the most comprehensive mental health services possible. Ms. Baker's commitment to expand and strengthen mental health services for older adults guides her daily work and includes a strong commitment to equity and inclusion as she explores opportunities.

FORUM MATERIALS

Forum presentations and other materials are available on our website at:

<https://bit.ly/3nZrNmo>



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The Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County represents nonprofit and public organizations who are working together to ensure that Alameda County seniors can rely on an easily accessible, coordinated system of social, medical and supportive care.

SSC has been a unifying and collaborative force in Alameda County for over 20 years. SSC works to strengthen the aging services voice in policy making; increase funding for senior services and strengthen the safety net for economically disadvantaged seniors; make the case for community-based supportive services that help seniors live independently; and foster collaborative efforts to connect individuals with the services they need.

CALIFORNIA'S MASTER PLAN FOR AGING

GOAL ONE: Housing for All Stages & Ages

- We will live where we choose as we age in communities that are age-, disability-, and dementia-friendly and climate- and disaster ready.

Target: Millions of new housing options to age well

GOAL TWO: Health Reimagined

- We will have access to the services we need to live at home in our communities and to optimize our health and quality of life.

Target: Close the equity gap in – and increase – life expectancy

GOAL THREE: Inclusion and equity, not isolation

- We will have lifelong opportunities for work, volunteering, engagement and leadership and will be protected from isolation, discrimination, abuse, neglect, and exploitation

Target: Keep increasing life satisfaction as we age

GOAL FOUR: Caregiving that works

- We will be prepared for and supported through the rewards and challenges of caring for aging loved ones.

Target: One million high-quality caregiving jobs

GOAL FIVE: Affording aging

- We will have economic security for as long as we live.

Target: Close the equity gap in – and increase – elder economic sufficiency

For more information on California's Master Plan for Aging, go to <https://mpa.aging.ca.gov/>

To access the MPA Data Dashboard, go to <https://mpa.aging.ca.gov/DashBoard>