



## Healthy California for All Commission Member Biographies

### The Governor's appointees to the Healthy California for All Commission are:

**Mark Ghaly**, commission chair, was appointed Secretary of the California Health and Human Services by Governor Gavin Newsom in 2019. Ghaly previously served as medical director of the Southeast Health Center, a public health clinic located in the Bayview Hunters Point community of San Francisco. In 2011, he became the deputy director for Community Health and Integrated Programs for the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Ghaly led the Los Angeles County Whole Person Care Pilot program, oversaw the launch of the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System in Los Angeles County, and established the County's Office of Diversion and Reentry. He earned dual BA degrees in biology and biomedical ethics from Brown University, his MD from Harvard Medical School, and his MPH from the Harvard School of Public Health.

**Carmen Comsti**, of Oakland, has been a regulatory policy specialist at the California Nurses Association and National Nurses United since 2016. She was legal counsel at the California Nurses Association and National Nurses United from 2014 to 2016. Comsti was an attorney fellow at the Employee Rights Advocacy Institute for Law and Policy from 2012 to 2014. She is a member of the National Employment Lawyers Association. Comsti earned a JD from UC Berkeley School of Law.

**Jennie C. Hansen**, of San Francisco, has been an independent consultant at Hirsch and Associates LLC since 2018. She was chief executive officer at the American Geriatrics Society from 2010 to 2015. She was a federal commissioner of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission from 2005 to 2011. She held several positions at On Lok Senior Health Services in San Francisco from 1980 to 2004, including chief executive officer, director of programs, and research associate. She is a member of the California Master Plan for Aging, the National Committee for Quality Assurance Geriatric Measures Committee, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Gerontology and Geriatrics. Hansen is a board member of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, the SCAN Foundation, SCAN Plan and the Altarum Institute. Hansen earned an MS in nursing from UC San Francisco.

**Sandra R. Hernández**, of San Francisco, has been president and chief executive officer at the California Health Care Foundation (CHCF) since 2014. Prior to joining CHCF, Sandra was CEO of The San Francisco Foundation, which she led for 16 years. She previously served as director of public health for the City and County of San

Francisco. Hernández was assistant clinical professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco from 1988 to 2016. She is a member of the Covered California Board of Directors and the UC Regents Health Services Committee. Hernández is a former co-chair of San Francisco's Universal Healthcare Council. Sandra is a graduate of Yale University and earned her MD from Tufts School of Medicine.

**William C. Hsiao**, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, has served as a professor of economics at the Department of Health Policy Management and the Department of Global Health and Population at Harvard University since 1974. The state of Vermont commissioned Hsiao to develop a single-payer health system in 2010. He designed the single-payer healthcare system for Taiwan and it was implemented in 1995. Hsiao was an advisor for the International Monetary Fund in 1996 and 2006, an advisor to the International Labor Organization from 1999 to 2003, and an advisor for the World Health Organization from 1999 to 2000. He has served as an advisor to the World Bank since 1983. Hsiao was an advisor at the White House from 1970 to 1979. He was an advisor for Congress from 1974 to 1987. He is a member of the Institute of Medicine for the United States National Academy of Science.

**Rupa Marya**, of Oakland (Territory of Huichin), is an associate professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, where she has been on faculty since 2007. Marya is a member of the Boards of The Mni Wiconi Health Clinic and Farm at Standing Rock, a clinic working to decolonize food and medicine in Lakota Territory and Seeding Sovereignty, an organization committed to indigenous-led climate change solutions. She is a co-investigator of the Justice Study, a national study commissioned by the Justice for Mario Woods Coalition examining the health impacts of law enforcement violence. She is the faculty director of the Do No Harm Coalition, a group of health workers dedicated to eliminating the structures that make health impossible. She is the mother of two boys, a farmer's wife and the composer for the internationally touring band Rupa & the April Fishes, where she uses music as a tool to investigate how social structures impact health. Marya is a proud product of the UC system, completing her undergraduate training at UCSD and her residency at UCSF.

**Robert Ross**, of Altadena, has been president and chief executive officer of the California Endowment since 2000. He was director of the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency from 1993 to 2000, and he served as commissioner of public health at the City of Philadelphia from 1990 to 1993. He was founding medical director at the LINK school-based clinic program from 1986 to 1990. Ross was an instructor of clinical medicine at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia from 1984 to 1990. He was a diplomate at the American Academy of Pediatrics from 1983 to 1993. He is a past board member of Covered California. He received his undergraduate degree, MPA, and MD from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Richard Scheffler**, of Berkeley, is a professor in the Graduate School at the School of Public Health and the Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley. He founded the Nicholas C. Petris Center on Health Care Markets and Consumer Welfare in 1999 and continues to serve as its director. Dr Scheffler was the

distinguished professor of health economics and public policy at the University from 1981 to 2018. He held the Chair in Health Care Markets and Consumer Welfare Chair endowed by Office of the California Attorney General from 1999 to 2018 and is now its chair emeritus. Dr. Scheffler earned an MA in economics from Brooklyn College and a PhD in economics with honors from New York University.

**Andy Schneider**, of Washington, D.C., has been research professor of practice at the Center for Children and Families in the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy since 2017. He has worked on Medicaid issues his entire career, primarily as a Congressional staffer. He served as chief health counsel for the House Committee on Energy and Commerce during the enactment of the Affordable Care Act in 2009 and 2010 and during its implementation as senior advisor at the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services. He has also consulted for several California-based foundations and began his career as a legal services attorney with the National Health Law Program in Los Angeles. Schneider earned an AB from Princeton University and a JD from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

### **The Legislature's appointees are:**

**Caroline (Cara) Dessert**, Esq., Chief Executive Officer of The San Diego LGBT Community Center, was appointed by the Senate. A queer Latina, Dessert is an attorney and non-profit executive with 20 years in social justice leadership. Dessert was previously the executive director of Immigration Equality, a national organization focused on LGBT immigrant rights. She worked closely with the Obama Administration, as well as local, state and national organizations working at the intersection of LGBT and immigrant rights. She served in the California Department of Justice in the Office of the Attorney General as a Deputy Attorney General in the Public Rights Division, where she also worked with then-California Attorney General (now Vice President) Kamala Harris' executive team. Dessert has deep roots in the San Diego area. A native of El Centro, she previously served as The Center's public policy and community organizing coordinator, and as San Diego's field director for the No on 8/Equality for All campaign, and later, as its Chief Development and Community Engagement Officer. She also worked for Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest. She completed her Juris Doctorate at the University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Law, where she was the editor-in-chief of the Chicana/o Latina/o Law Review and earned degree specializations from the Epstein Public Interest Law and Policy and Critical Race Studies programs. She earned her BA at the University of California-San Diego (UCSD). Dessert chairs the Advisory Board of Engage San Diego and is a commissioner of the Leon L. Williams San Diego County Human Relations Commission.

**Sara Flocks**, founder and partner at Union Made, was appointed by the Senate. Union Made is a lobbying and consulting firm that works with unions, as well as economic justice organizations, on issues important to their members. She spent the last 11 years at the California Labor Federation as the Policy Coordinator with a focus on state and federal health care policy. Sara was the co-director of a worker center for low-wage retail and restaurant workers in San Francisco, winning millions of dollars in wage and hour claims for workers and addressing sexual harassment and other workplace issues. She helped develop and pass the city-wide minimum wage increase and San Francisco's innovative paid sick leave ordinance, work that was profiled in the book *Worker Centers: Organizing Communities at the Edge of the Dream* by Janice Fine. She started her career working for the United Farm Workers on several campaigns across California. Sara went to UC Berkeley and has a Masters' Degree in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School. She is one of the authors of "'I Know What It's Like to Struggle': The Working Lives of Young Students in an Urban Community College" published in the Labor Studies Journal.

**Antonia Hernández**, CEO of the California Community Foundation, was appointed by the Assembly. The Foundation partners with more than 1,600 individual, family and corporate donors and holds more than \$1.7 billion in assets. During her tenure, the California Community Foundation has granted nearly \$2 billion, with a focus on health, housing, education, immigration programs. Previously, Hernández was president and general counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, a national nonprofit litigation and advocacy organization dedicated to protecting the civil rights of the nation's Latinos through the legal system, community education and

research and policy initiatives. Ms. Hernández began her legal career as a staff attorney with the Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice and worked as counsel to the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary before joining MALDEF. Hernández earned her BA in history at UCLA and JD at the UCLA School of Law.

**Anthony Wright**, executive director of Health Access, was appointed by the Assembly. He has led state and national efforts to win consumer protections, fight budget cuts, invest in the safety net, encourage prevention, and advance coverage expansions and comprehensive health reform. He helped lead California's effort to help pass the Affordable Care Act and state laws to implement and improve it. He has been a leader in the campaign to successfully pass first-in-the-nation laws to ensure timely access to care, and to stop hospital overcharging of the uninsured. Previously, Wright worked for New Jersey Citizen Action, the Center for Media Education, The Nation magazine, and in Vice President Gore's office in the White House. Wright graduated from Amherst College magna cum laude in both English and Sociology.

#### **The Commission's ex officio, non-voting members are:**

**Peter V. Lee** is the executive director of Covered California. He oversees the planning, development, ongoing administration and evaluation of Covered California. Prior to his current role, he served as the Deputy Director for the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in Washington, D.C. where he led initiatives to identify, test and support new models of care in Medicare and Medicaid. Previously Mr. Lee was the Director of Delivery System Reform for the Office of Health Reform for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where he coordinated delivery reform efforts for Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and assisted in the preparation of the National Quality Strategy. Before joining the Obama Administration, Mr. Lee served from 2000-2008 as the CEO and Executive Director for National Health Policy of the Pacific Business Group on Health (PBGH), one of the leading coalitions of private and public purchasers in the nation. He earned a BA from the UC Berkeley and a JD from the University of Southern California.

**Will Lightbourne** is the Director of the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). 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 to 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.

**Don Moulds** is chief health director of CalPERS. He oversees CalPERS' health benefits program, including policy, research, plan contracting and administration, rate development, member and employer account management, and the long-term care program. Previously, he was executive vice president for programs at The Commonwealth Fund, a national foundation and think tank dedicated to improving the American healthcare system. He has served as acting assistant secretary for planning and evaluation at the U.S. Department of

Health and Human Services. Before that, he led California's bipartisan Senate Office of Research and was principal consultant for the leader of the Senate on health insurance and other issues. He earned a BA in philosophy from Bates College. He holds an MS and PhD from the University of Illinois.

Senator **Richard Pan** is chair of the Senate Health Committee. He was elected 2010 to the State Assembly and now is a State Senator representing Sacramento, West Sacramento, Elk Grove and unincorporated areas of Sacramento County. Dr. Pan also chairs the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee on Health and Human Services and the Senate Select Committees on Children with Special Needs, Asian Pacific Islander Affairs and the 2020 United States Census. He serves on the Senate Committees on Business, Professions and Economic Development and Education. Prior to serving in the legislature, Dr. Pan was a UC Davis faculty member and director of the Pediatric Residency Program. Dr. Pan co-founded and served as chair of Healthy Kids Healthy Future, where he helped secure health, dental and vision coverage for over 65,000 children in the Sacramento area. He helped create the Sacramento Health Improvement Project, bringing together doctors, hospitals, clinics and community leaders to ensure that Sacramento County residents have access to primary health care. Dr. Pan attended earned his BA in biophysics from Johns Hopkins University, his MD from the University of Pittsburgh and an MPH from Harvard University.

Assembly Member **Jim Wood**, DDS is chair of the Assembly Health Committee. He was elected in 2014 and serves the people in California's 2nd Assembly District, which comprises all of Del Norte, Trinity, Humboldt, and Mendocino counties plus northern and coastal Sonoma County, including the northern half of Santa Rosa. Wood opened a family dental practice in Cloverdale in 1987. He was elected to the Healdsburg City Council in 2006, serving two terms as mayor. During that period the council passed a local ordinance prohibiting the sale of tobacco to anyone younger than 21. He has been chair of the Assembly Health Committee since early 2016. Wood's priorities in the Assembly include health care, environmental protection, housing, homelessness and economic development, especially in rural areas. He continues to advocate for the homeless, beyond just shelters, for the wraparound services they need to make the transition to a stable home life successful. Wood has been a leader in passing legislation to protect and expand access to medical, dental and mental health care and containing health care costs. He began, in 2016, by co-authoring AB 72 which prevented surprise medical billing. He has attacked the ever-increasing costs of pharmaceutical drugs by curbing the marketing practices of drug companies that use discount coupons for brand name drugs when less expensive generics are available; increasing public transparency in how drug companies set prices; exposing how discounts and rebates affect how pharmacy benefit managers do business; and preventing the use pay-for-delay schemes between brand name and generic companies. He has also addressed one of our country's most serious health issues – opioids – and is invested in the state's process of identifying how California can provide health care to all.