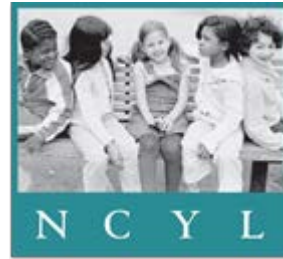




**California  
Children's  
Trust**



## **School Mental Health 101: A Primer for Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans**

Thursday, January 13, 2022

### **Speaker Biographies**

**Rany Ath** was born and raised in the San Antonio neighborhood of Oakland, and she is a dedicated leader in her community. Serving as the Shop 55 Wellness Center Managing Director at Oakland High School, her alma mater, allows her the opportunity to give back to and help build her community by cultivating an environment that supports, motivates, and inspires young people to become safe, smart, and socially responsible. She engages school staff, community-based partners, local businesses, and colleges to be involved in being a part of our youth's development. She received her BA degree in social welfare and ethnic studies with a minor in education at UC Berkeley in 2006.

**Alex Briscoe, MA**, was appointed Director of the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency in 2009, where he led one of the state's largest public health systems, overseeing health and hospital systems, public health, behavioral health, and environmental health departments with an annual budget of \$700 million and 6,200 FTE contracted and civil service staff. Before joining the county, he was the Director of the Chappell Hayes Health Center at McClymonds High School in West Oakland, a satellite outpatient center of Children's Hospital and Research Center.

Briscoe's work has helped design the nexus of public health and public education. He has designed and administered a number of mental health and physical health programs and services in child serving systems, including home visiting programs, programs for medically fragile children, and clinical and development programs in child welfare, juvenile justice, and early childhood settings. Briscoe has served on the Alameda County First Five Commission, the Alameda Alliance for Health, and the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and The Uninsured, as well as other public and private boards and commissions. Briscoe is a mental health practitioner specializing in adolescent services and youth development. He has advised or collaborated with local and national foundations including The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, The California Endowment, and most recently, with Tipping Point Community. He has specialized in Medicaid policy and administration, emergency medical services, youth voice and crisis counseling, and safety net design and administration.

**Nghia Do** is the Founder of and runs a youth-led organization with members nationwide, YouthMindsAlliance (YMA), which raises awareness about the importance of mental health and transforms systems to better serve young adults through policy advocacy. YMA was recognized by U.S. Congressional representatives and the California State Senate for their suicide prevention campaigns. Do was inspired to start YMA when his personal struggle with depression turned into a passionate journey to advocate for youth mental health. He is also the Project Director of the Youth Advocacy Board, a partnership of California Children's Trust and the California Coalition for Youth, and he is a member of the Board of Directors at California Mental Health Advocacy for Children and Youth (CMHACY). He is working to transform the California mental health system by working on public policy to implement peer-to-peer programs within high schools. If Do is not working, you will find him swiping TikTok, reading books, or watching shows (and crying.)

**Debra Duardo, MSW, EdD**, was appointed Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors effective May 15, 2016, designating her as the top education leader of the nation's most populous and diverse county. In this post, Duardo provides leadership and support to the superintendents and other top administrators of the county's 80 K-12 school districts. She has more than 30 years of professional experience working with at-risk students and their families. Her unique life experience as a high school dropout able to overcome obstacles and rise to the position of County Superintendent drives her passion to ensure that all students receive an education in a safe, caring environment and that every student is college-prepared and career ready. Duardo holds a master's degree in social work from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and a doctorate from UCLA's Graduate School of Education and Information Studies.

**Nichole Mosqueda** serves as the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for Camarena Health. She is responsible for oversight of various departments including; Marketing & Communications, Outreach & Development, and leads Camarena Health's Teaching Health Center Programs and School Based Health Models. Her work as the CAO focuses on various projects and activities related to strategic planning, project management, partnership, and business development. Mosqueda has been with Camarena Health since 2014 and was previously its Director of Programs & Development. Some initiatives that she has played an instrumental role in leading for Camarena Health have been the establishment of the first school based health centers delivery models in Madera County, workforce development, teaching health center programs, care coordination with hospitals, agricultural worker health care delivery models, grant development, and advocacy/policy work.

Prior to her work at Camarena Health, Mosqueda worked for Central Valley Health Network (CVHN) as their Director of Business Development, providing support to 13 Federally Qualified Health Centers in the Central Valley. This leadership included administration of the USDA funded Network for Healthy California Programs providing nutrition education programs to underserved populations in seven counties, as well as providing oversight to grants, peer network groups, local advocacy initiatives, and the operations of CVHN's Fresno Office. Mosqueda's work experience has also included the UC Cooperative Extension in Fresno County and prior to that, in Washington DC for a national non-profit focused on youth development. She received a BA in political science from Fresno Pacific University and sits on various boards including Fresno Pacific University, Workforce Investment Board of Madera

County, United Way of Fresno & Madera Counties, and Madera Unified School Districts Advisory Chair, as well as regional and local work groups.

**Brenda Smith** is Superintendent of the Hughson Unified School District, and she has worked in the Hughson District as a teacher, site administrator, and district administrator for the past 24 years. Her tenure demonstrates her significant commitment to the district vision and the students that they serve. Hughson is located in Stanislaus County in the Central Valley and has four comprehensive school sites and one alternative education facility to meet the diverse needs of its students who range in age from preschool to 12th grade. The district is fortunate to have a dedicated staff that cares about its students. Hughson has implemented multiple levels of support for its students including: Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS), mentoring, counselors at each site, Hazel Health and Hazel Heart, and various clubs at school sites that help students feel connected to their school. Hughson understands that parents entrust their child to the schools, and the district does all that it can to maintain a safe learning environment that is desirable for all students.

**Catherine Teare, MPP**, is Associate Director of CHCF's People-Centered Care team, which works to ensure that Californians — particularly those enrolled in Medi-Cal — receive responsive, comprehensive, and coordinated care that supports their health and well-being. She leads the foundation's work on behavioral health care, including behavioral health integration in primary care and behavioral health interventions for high-cost populations. She also manages projects related to the county role in health care delivery and oral health care.

Teare has worked at CHCF since 2011 and previously led the organization's efforts on enrollment in public programs, with a particular focus on consumer experience. Before joining the foundation, she worked as a consultant for safety-net health care providers, foundations, and local government, providing research and policy analysis in the areas of health care financing and delivery, public and private health insurance programs for children, adolescent health, reproductive health, HIV, and youth development. She also worked as director of policy for Children Now and as a health policy analyst for the National Center for Youth Law. She received a bachelor's degree in English from Yale College and a master's degree in public policy from the University of California, Berkeley.

**Hong Truong, MPH**, is a senior program investment officer for the CHCF Innovation Fund, where she makes mission-driven investments in health care information technology and tech-enabled service businesses, and leads CHCF's grant portfolio on data exchange and interoperability.

Prior to joining CHCF, Truong was an investor for multiple health care corporate funds, including Summation Health Ventures, the venture capital arm of Cedars-Sinai and MemorialCare Health Systems, and Kaiser Permanente Ventures. She holds bachelor's degrees in human biology and international relations from Brown University, and a master's degree in public health from Yale University.

**Rachel Velcoff Hults, JD**, is a Senior Equity and Access Attorney on the National Center for Youth Law (NCYL) Health Team, based in Sacramento. Currently focused on children's mental health issues, Velcoff Hults has worked on a variety of health, education, and child welfare projects. Before joining the Health

Team, she was an attorney with NCYL's FosterEd Initiative, where she developed and directed collaborative, multi-agency programs to improve the educational experiences and outcomes of students in foster care, students with juvenile justice system involvement, and students experiencing homelessness. She previously represented youth and families on public benefits, health access, and education issues at Bay Area Legal Aid, and she was a litigation associate at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton in Washington, D.C. Velcoff Hults received her BA from the University of Pennsylvania summa cum laude in 2005 and her JD from Stanford Law School with distinction in 2008.