Summit on Transforming California’s Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS)

Speaker and Panelist Bios

Bruce Chernof, MD
President and CEO, The SCAN Foundation

Prior to heading The SCAN Foundation, Bruce Allen Chernof, MD, FACP, was director and chief medical officer for the L.A. County Department of Health Services. He has also served as the Department’s senior medical director for clinical affairs, regional medical director for California health programs at Health Net, and an academic general internist in the VA system, as well as at Olive View UCLA Medical Center, serving as a UCLA faculty member.

Dr. Chernof earned his medical degree from UCLA and completed his undergraduate work at Harvard University. Currently, he is an adjunct professor of medicine at UCLA where he is the founding director of UCLA’s five-year combined MD/MBA Program. In 2002, the Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA recognized Dr. Chernof with the Award for Excellence in Education for these innovative programs.

bchernof@thescanfoundation.org
www.thescanfoundation.org

Secretary Diana S. Dooley, JD
California Health and Human Services Agency

In 2011, Governor Jerry Brown appointed Diana Dooley to lead the California Health and Human Services Agency, where she provides leadership to 12 departments and one board. She also serves as a member of many boards and commissions, including the newly created California Health Benefit Exchange Board, the Olmstead Advisory Committee, the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, and the Strategic Growth Council.

Prior to leading CHHS, Ms. Dooley was President and Chief Executive Officer of the California Children’s Hospital Association, which provides 40 percent of all inpatient care for children in the state. She has also served as Governor Brown’s legislative director and as general counsel and vice president at Children’s Hospital Central California.

A native of Hanford, Secretary Dooley has degrees from California State University, Fresno, and from the San Joaquin College of Law. She is married and has two adult daughters.

www.chhs.ca.gov
**Gretchen E. Alkema, PhD, LCSW**  
Vice President, Policy and Communications, The SCAN Foundation

Prior to joining The SCAN Foundation, Gretchen Alkema was a John Heinz/Health and Aging Policy Fellow and an American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow, in the office of Senator Blanche L. Lincoln. Dr. Alkema collaborated with legislative staff to advise Senator Lincoln on aging, health, mental health and long-term care policy.

Dr. Alkema holds a PhD from the University of Southern California’s Davis School of Gerontology and completed post-doctoral training at the Los Angeles VA’s Center of Excellence where her research focused on evaluating models of chronic care management.

She is also a licensed clinical social worker who has practiced in government and non-profit settings including community mental health, care management, adult day health care, residential care, and post-acute rehabilitation.

[galkema@thescanfoundation.org](mailto:galkema@thescanfoundation.org)  
[www.thescanfoundation.org](http://www.thescanfoundation.org)

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**Victoria R. Ballesteros**  
Director of Communications, The SCAN Foundation

As Director of Communications for The SCAN Foundation, Victoria Ballesteros directs national and statewide strategic communications programs that advance the Foundation’s mission.

Prior to joining The SCAN Foundation, Ms. Ballesteros was Communications Officer for the City of Long Beach Redevelopment Agency and Department of Development Services. She has also served as Director of Communications for California’s Senate Majority Leader, and served as staff to U.S. Congressman Esteban Torres (Ret).

Ms. Ballesteros has developed award-winning communications campaigns and programs, and has worked both behind the camera as Executive Producer and in front of the camera as host for award-winning public affairs programs. Ms. Ballesteros holds a bachelor of arts degree in political science from the California State University at Fullerton and is currently a Master’s Degree candidate at the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.

[vballesteros@thescanfoundation.org](mailto:vballesteros@thescanfoundation.org)  
[www.thescanfoundation.org](http://www.thescanfoundation.org)
Susan C. Reinhard, RN, PhD, FAAN
Senior Vice President and Director at AARP Public Policy Institute
Chief Strategist, Center to Champion Nursing in America

Susan Reinhard directs AARP’s Public Policy Institute and serves as chief strategist for the Center to Champion Nursing in America, a national resource and technical assistance center.

Prior to joining AARP, Dr. Reinhard served as a co-director of the Rutgers Center for State Health Policy. She also served three governors as deputy commissioner of New Jersey’s Department of Health and Senior Services, and she co-founded the Institute for the Future of Aging Services in Washington, DC where she was the executive director of the Center for Medicare Education.

She holds graduate degrees from the University of Cincinnati and from Rutgers.

Andy Bindman, MD, PhD
Director of California Medicaid Research Institute (CaMRI)
University of California, San Francisco

Andy Bindman is Professor of Medicine, Health Policy, Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the UCSF. He is also the chief of the division of general internal medicine at San Francisco General. As director of CaMRI, Dr. Bindman leads a partnership of the state and the University of California, conducting research and evaluation of the Medi-Cal program.

Dr. Bindman’s publications focus on access to primary medical care, health outcomes associated with barriers to primary care, and the evolving role of primary care physicians and safety net providers in US health care system.

abindman@medfsgh.ucsf.edu
www.ihps.medschool.ucsf.edu
Brenda Premo, MBA  
Founding Director of the Harris Family Center for Disability and Health Policy  
Western University of Health Sciences

Brenda Premo is a champion for disability rights. She came to Western University after four years as director of the California Department of Rehabilitation where she was also deputy director of the independent living section. Her advocacy work began in earnest when she was director of the Dayle McIntosh Center in Orange County, from 1977 to 1991.

President Ronald Regan named her to the National Council on Disability in 1986 where she wrote language for the Americans with Disabilities Act. She continued her ADA work at the State Department of Rehabilitation.

Premo holds a BA from Cal State Long Beach and an MBA from Pepperdine.

bpremo@westernu.edu  
www.westernu.edu

Steven P. Wallace, PhD  
Professor and Chair, Department of Community Health Sciences at UCLA School of Public Health  
Associate Director for the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research

Professor Steven Wallace chairs of the Department of Community Health Sciences at the UCLA School of Public Health. His research focuses on access to long-term care by diverse elderly groups, disparities in the consequences of health policy changes on racial and ethnic minority elderly, and the politics of aging.

He is currently examining the role of public services in the stability of support for disabled seniors, and he’s developing a measure of the basic economic needs of older adults. Wallace is past chair of the Gerontological Health Section of APHA and past chair of the Task Force on Health and Aging of the Association of Schools of Public Health. He is also a Fulbright scholar and received his doctorate in sociology from the University of California, San Francisco.

swallace@ucla.edu  
http://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/
Marty Lynch, PhD  
Executive Director and CEO, LifeLong Medical Care

Marty Lynch has led LifeLong Medical Care and the Over 60 Health Center since 1982. He co-founded the elderly sub-committee of the National Association of Community Health Centers and is past chair of the California Primary Care Association. He served on the state task force to examine changes necessary to integrate primary care and mental health services and to develop a California plan for Alzheimer’s disease.

Dr. Lynch received his Ph.D. in Social and Behavioral Sciences from the UCS and an MPA from Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government. He is also involved in public policy and research related to health access for the uninsured, long term care models, chronic care, and financing care for disabled populations. In his spare time, he lectures at UC Berkeley.

mlynch@lifelongmedical.org  
lifelongmedical.org

Whitney Barazoto, JD  
Senior Project Manager, Little Hoover Commission

The Little Hoover Commission is an independent government oversight agency charged with improving California government. It investigates government policy and operations and makes recommendations to the governor and Legislature. At the Commission, Whitney Barazoto lead the research and writing of the April 2011 report, *A Long-Term Strategy for Long-Term Care*, proposed improvements in California’s long-term care services and supports for seniors and people with disabilities.

Ms. Barazoto has managed government affairs at the California Fair Political Practices Commission and at a public health program in Contra Costa County. She also worked in the California State Assembly. She received an undergraduate degree from the UC Berkeley and a law degree from the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law.

Whitney.Barazoto@lhc.ca.gov  
www.lhc.ca.gov
Fernando Torres-Gil, PhD  
Director, UCLA’s Center for Policy Research on Aging  
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at UCLA School of Public Affairs  

Fernando Torres-Gil’s career spans the academic, professional, and policy arenas. He is a professor of social welfare at UCLA, an adjunct professor of gerontology at USC, and director of the UCLA Center for Policy Research on Aging. He has been an associate dean at UCLA’s School of Public Affairs, six books and countless articles, and is a member of the Academies of Public Administration, Gerontology and Social Insurance.

President Carter named Torres-Gil to the Federal Council on Aging, he was a White House Fellow under Joseph Califano at HEW, and special assistant to Patricia Harris. President Clinton appointed him the first U.S. Assistant Secretary on Aging. He organized the 1995 White House Conference on Aging. In 2010, President Obama named him vice chair of the National Council on Disability.

He is currently a member of the L.A. Board of Airport Commissioners and a board member of both the AARP Foundation and the California Endowment. He is the son of migrant farm workers with an A.A. from Hartnell Community College, a B.A. from San Jose State, and an MSW and PhD from the Heller Graduate School at Brandeis University.

torres@publicaffairs.ucla.edu  
http://publicaffairs.ucla.edu  

Hector De La Torre  
Retired California Assemblymember  

Hector De La Torre served in the California State Assembly from 2004 to 2010, representing the largely Latino 50th District in Southeast Los Angeles County. He chaired the Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, the Rules Committee and helped create and chaired the Accountability and Administrative Review Committee during his tenure. De La Torre is currently the Vice President of communications and public affairs for FreeConferenceCall.com.

Prior to his service in the Assembly, he served as Mayor and as a member of the South Gate City Council, Judicial Administrator in the Los Angeles Superior Court, chief of staff to the Deputy Secretary of Labor in the Clinton Administration, and a teacher at Edison Junior High in South Los Angeles.

De La Torre graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Diplomacy and World Affairs from Occidental College and attended the Elliot School of International Affairs at The George Washington University. He lives in South Gate with his wife and three children.
Lisa R. Shugarman, Ph.D.
Director of Policy at The SCAN Foundation

Lisa R. Shugarman is the Director of Policy for The SCAN Foundation, managing state and national policy activities for the Foundation. Prior to joining the Foundation, Dr. Shugarman was a health policy researcher with the RAND Corporation in Santa Monica, CA. During her nine-year tenure with RAND, her research focused broadly on the needs of vulnerable populations, including seniors and people with disabilities. Among the many topics she has worked on are: estimating the impact of special payment policies within Medicare, developing measurements for and evaluating the quality of care for Medicare beneficiaries, palliative care policy, demographic and geographic disparities in health care among individuals nearing the end of life, identifying policy options to support consumers in need of long-term services and supports and developing and evaluating assessment tools and information systems to support the integration of home- and community-based services. Dr. Shugarman is the author of over 40 peer-reviewed publications and has taught courses in program evaluation and guest-lectured on various issues in health policy. The results of her work have helped to inform policymakers at the local and national levels.

Dr. Shugarman holds a PhD in health services organization and policy from the School of Public Health at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI. She was a National Institute on Aging Health and Aging Fellow and worked as a research associate at the University of Michigan Institute of Gerontology. She currently serves on the editorial board for the Home Health Care Services Quarterly and was a member of the Los Angeles County Long-Term Care Coordinating Council.

lshugarman@thescanfoundation.org
www.thescanfoundation.org

Hon. Roger Dickinson
Member of the California State Assembly, 9th District

Roger Dickinson served on the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors for 16 years before joining the California State Assembly last year. As supervisor, he focused on health care, welfare reform, economic development, clean air, improved transportation, and smart growth. He also spent eight years on the Regional Transit Board, served on the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Commission, and has chaired the Sacramento Transportation Coalition.

Assembly Member Dickinson received his undergraduate degree from UC Berkeley and his law degree from UCLA. He has worked at the California Department of Consumer Affairs and in a private law practice.