

2026 CHEAC Annual Meeting Workshop Session Biographies Keeping Indigent Care Responsive

Dr. Kathleen Clanon, Medical Director

Dr. Kathleen Clanon is a clinician, educator, program director, and medical administrator specializing in improving health care for low-income people. She serves as the Medical Director of Alameda County's Health Care Services Agency, working on integration of primary care and mental health services, and on addressing social determinants of health. Most recently, she led a \$320 million project on Whole Person Care, focused on people experiencing homelessness and severe mental illness in Alameda County, California. She is an expert in Quality Improvement, teaching and consulting nationally on HIV-related program improvement.

Danice Cook, Senior Public Health Administrator

Danice Cook is a senior public health administrator with more than 15 years of experience leading safety net health care programs, policy implementation, and cross agency operations. In her role with Alameda County Health, she oversees the administration of the county health access program known as Health Program of Alameda County. Danice leads strategic planning, operational improvements, and system wide coordination across clinics and the public hospital system. She is recognized for strengthening program infrastructure, advancing equitable access to care, and supporting countywide health reform efforts that serve low income and uninsured communities.

Katherine Richard, Postdoctoral Associate

Katherine Richard is a Postdoctoral Associate at Georgetown's Better Government Lab. Her work employs quasi-experimental and experimental methods, in combination with large administrative data, to learn about how low income families interact with assistance programs and the labor market. In August of 2026, she will join the faculty at the University of Wisconsin's La Follette School of Public Affairs as an Assistant Professor of Poverty and Public Policy. She completed my Ph.D. in Economics and Public Policy at the University of Michigan in July 2025.

Kimia Pakdaman, MPP, Medi-Cal Strategist

Kimia Pakdaman, MPP, is Alameda County Health's Medi-Cal strategist. Her work centers on helping the County strategize, plan, and coordinate around Medi-Cal policy changes and programs, including CalAIM, Community Health Worker benefit, Population Health Management, and more. Kimia has extensive experience in community organizing, project management, quantitative and qualitative analysis, grant writing, and strategic planning. Her career has focused on centering community voices and creating more equitable government systems. Kimia received her Bachelor of Arts in International Development and French from George Washington University and her Master of Public Policy from U.C. Berkeley.

