

2026 CHEAC Annual Meeting
Workshop Session Biographies
Strategic Fiscal Planning: A Structured Approach to
Spending Down Grant Funding

Karl Stahlhut, Deputy Director – Administrative Services

Karl Stahlhut is an experienced public health administration and fiscal management professional with more than 15 years of governmental accounting, budgeting, auditing, and leadership experience. He currently serves as Deputy Director of Administrative Services for the Madera County Department of Public Health, a role he began in April 2025, bringing with him over 13 years of prior fiscal management experience at the Merced County Department of Public Health. Before entering the public health arena, Karl worked in public accounting as a Lead Auditor at C.G. Uhlenberg LLP, where he conducted governmental and non public audits, managed financial reporting, and prepared federal and state tax returns for a diverse client base.

Karl holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting, a Governmental Accounting Certificate, and a CSAC Credentialed California County Senior Executive certification. He has also completed specialized leadership and emergency management programs through the University of California Davis Extension and the California Specialized Training Institute.

Throughout his career, Karl has overseen complex financial operations, managed multimillion dollar budgets, and led teams through significant organizational initiatives. In his previous role as Fiscal Manager for Merced County, he administered a \$54.8 million annual budget across 17 budget units, incorporating diverse State, Federal, and community based programs. His work included fiscal oversight, internal control implementation, grant budget management, contract administration, and coordination of department-wide financial audits. He also collaborated with County leadership on enterprise system integrations, ensuring new financial systems aligned with public health operational and grant funding reporting needs.

Karl has served as the County Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (CMAA) program LGA Coordinator during his entire tenure at Merced and now with Madera County Department of Public Health. He was instrumental in the creation and implementation of Merced County's first Public Health Administration CMAA claiming unit. Karl supervised Merced's Indigent Health Care Program and directly involved in the programmatic and fiscal impacts of local Assembly Bill 85 implementation during the Affordable Care Act implementation in State of California.

Karl's leadership extends beyond fiscal management to Electronic Health Records system implementation, new payroll and time study software system setup and implementation and served as one of the lead managers in obtaining initial PHAB accreditation at Merced County Department of Public Health.

Sara Bosse, MBA, Director

Sara Bosse is a visionary thought leader and catalyst for transformational change in organizations and communities. Since 1998, she has led local, regional, and statewide initiatives to reduce health disparities in California through policy, systems, and environmental change interventions.

Creative, strategic, and curious, Sara is always thinking beyond current approaches. She has an uncanny ability to see the big picture while holding the data and details needed to chart a course toward tangible, measurable outcomes. Sara inspires innovation and motivates teams to dream bigger

and reach further. She is not just a leader who gets things done; she is a leader who makes others believe in their ability to achieve great things. Highlighted during her time as the incident commander and spokesperson throughout the 2-year Madera County COVID emergency response, Sara's leadership is marked with collaborative problem-solving, innovation, advocacy, humor, and hope.

As the Director of the Madera County Department of Public Health since 2017, Sara leads the department's operations and programs including community health and wellness programs, children and family services, disease investigation and mitigation, public health emergency planning and mitigation, and community and emergency medical services. In her tenure as Director, Sara ushered in a new season of expansion with the establishment of the Live Well Madera County Coalition in 2018, the first Madera County Health Improvement Plan in 2019, the construction and move to a new campus in 2019, department accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board in 2023, and securing funding and support to build and staff a community resilience center that will be finished in 2028. As a natural builder, throughout her career, Sara expanded every organization in her charge.

Sara serves as a member of the Cal Viva Commission, the First 5 Commission, the Central California Public Health Consortium Leadership Committee, and the Executive Committee of the County Health Officials Association of California; the Co-Chair of the California Prevention Leadership Team; and the Board Chair of Every Neighborhood Partnership. Certified in Essential Facilitation and Crucial Conversations, she is known for her ability to connect ideas and people, foster a sense of community and shared purpose, and develop innovative strategies to address complex issues. Sara possesses a BS in Dietetics and Food Administration from CSU Fresno, and an Executive MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology.