

2026 CHEAC Annual Meeting
Workshop Session Biographies
Blunting the Impact: Partnership with CBOs
to Increase Redetermination Rate

Kristynnn Sullivan, PhD, Director

Dr. Kristynnn Sullivan is the Director of the Merced County Department of Public Health (MCDPH). She holds a PhD in Quantitative Psychology from the University of California, Merced, and has dedicated her career to advancing public health initiatives in the region.

Kristynnn began her public health journey at MCDPH as an epidemiologist before rising to Division Manager, where she led critical programs, including COVID-19 operations, Communicable Disease, Emergency Preparedness, Epidemiology, and Public Health Accreditation. She later served as Program Development Director at Central California Alliance for Health (CCAH), a Medi-Cal managed care plan serving five counties, including Merced. At CCAH, she focused on expanding access to non-traditional health services such as Enhanced Care Management, housing support, and school-based health programs. In March 2025, Kristynnn returned to MCDPH as Public Health Director, bringing a deep commitment to improving the health and well-being of all Merced County residents. She lives in Merced with her husband, two children, and their five pets.

Robert Hypes, CEO

Robert Hypes is the Chief Executive Officer of United Way of Merced County, where he leads initiatives focused on health equity, youth opportunity, nonprofit capacity-building, and community resilience. After graduating from Arkansas State University in 2004, he moved to California to pursue a career in community theater and eventually became Managing Artistic Director of Playhouse Merced. During his decade in that role, he helped eliminate a \$200,000 deficit and grow the theater into a thriving \$750,000 organization.

Throughout his adult life, Robert has worked in a wide range of roles, including manual labor, office administration, the arts, and fundraising. His own experience living on a low income has given him a practical understanding of the challenges families face when trying to access stable employment, healthcare, housing, food, and other essential resources.

After unexpectedly losing his job in 2018, Robert joined United Way as a part-time fundraiser and later helped lead its COVID-19 response. Appointed Interim CEO in 2022 and CEO in 2024, he has worked alongside a dedicated team to quadruple the organization's size and build programs specifically designed around the needs of working families throughout Merced and Mariposa counties.