

2026 CHEAC Annual Meeting Workshop Session Biographies Transform Health

Sarabeth Zemel, JD, Senior Director of Policy

Sarabeth Zemel serves as the senior director of policy at Transform Health, with 20 years of health policy experience in consumer advocacy, policy research, and health systems. Her current work at Transform Health includes directing a variety of client engagements, including federal and state policy monitoring, assisting with 1115 waivers, developing proposals for Medicaid to cover services related to enrollee health and well-being, and sharing lessons from risk-bearing provider organizations focused on the dual eligible population.

Prior to Transform Health, Sarabeth managed federal regulatory advocacy for an integrated health system on a variety of issues including Medicare alternative payment models, health system reimbursement, and health IT and interoperability.

Sarabeth previously researched and disseminated policy best practices to state health officials, and she has monitored state and federal health policy developments in consulting, federal government, and consumer-focused organizations.

Sarabeth has a Bachelor of Arts in anthropology from the University of Washington and a JD from the Seattle University School of Law.

Joe Prado, Director

Joe Prado is the Director of Fresno County's Department of Public Health. In his 29-year career with Fresno County, he has had the opportunity to work in multiple departments: Behavioral Health, County Administrative Office, Public Works and Planning, and currently Public Health. Joe leads multiple local cross-sector partnerships in addressing social determinants of health (SDoH) with local transportation agencies, school districts, social services, community-based organizations, healthcare providers and behavioral health. Joe leads the development of the Fresno County's Community Information Exchange (FCIE) for data sharing and research to improve care coordination through various cross-sector partnerships.

Joe has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from CSU Fresno in Psychology.

Courtney Shapiro, CalViva Health

Courtney Shapiro is the Director of Community Relations and Marketing at CalViva Health, where she has served for more than 11 years. Her work centers on building meaningful relationships with community partners, government leaders, and health care administrators to improve the well-being of local communities. Before joining CalViva Health, Courtney spent seven years with First 5 Fresno County, where she developed a strong understanding of early education and the critical importance of a child's first five years. Courtney serves on numerous boards, bringing a valuable health care perspective to conversations that shape the region. She earned her Bachelor of Science from Notre Dame de Namur University, where she played volleyball, and her Master of Public Administration from California State University, Dominguez Hills. Courtney has been married to her husband, Josh, for 23 years, and together they have three daughters.

Peter Shih, MPH, Senior Advisor

Peter Shih is a senior advisor at Transform Health, overseeing county-level systems change work in California and across the country as a strategic operational executive to help solve complex challenges. Peter brings over 30 years of health care leadership in community engagement, operations, policy development, and implementation. He has worked throughout the country across a broad spectrum of private and public providers.

Prior to joining Transform Health, Peter oversaw system-wide capital projects, planning, legislative activities, and state Medicaid policy initiatives at the county level. Peter implemented a three-year pilot to give 200 Medicaid young adults and youth orthodontia services that the local health plan turned into a provided benefit. He also led a county health department's master facilities renovation and development program, a capital portfolio exceeding \$500 million.

Peter previously oversaw a regional health collaborative and contributed to PHAB national accreditation process. While serving as chief operating officer for a Federally Qualified Health Center system, Peter designed and implemented a revenue cycle initiative that doubled cash on hand and led to nearly 100% closed encounters in one year with improved productivity and management reports.

Peter received his undergraduate degree from UC San Diego and his Master of Public Health from San Diego State University. Outside of work, Peter serves in his local church and on the board of an international healthcare missions organization.