

2026 CHEAC Annual Meeting

Workshop Session Biographies

Kratom Education and Survey of Retailers

Selfa Saucedo, MPH, CPH, Division Manager

Selfa Saucedo, MPH, CPH, is the Division Manager of the Healthy Communities Division and Director of the Office for Health Equity at Ventura County Public Health. Selfa leads a team of 30 health educators, and program administrators and oversees 10 grant-funded programs. Selfa led three countywide initiatives—Health in All Policies, Racism Is a Public Health Crisis, and the county’s secondhand smoke policy—all of which passed with unanimous Board of Supervisors approval. Guided by her philosophy to “lead by example,” she approaches leadership with integrity, collaboration, and purpose. Selfa holds an MPH from UCLA and a bachelor’s degree from UC Santa Barbara. She also recently earned her CPH certification.

Charles Genkel, Director of the Environmental Health Division

Charles Genkel is the Director of the Ventura County Resource Management Agency’s Environmental Health Division (Division). He has over 32 years of Environmental Health program experience and currently oversees all the Division’s regulatory and service programs dedicated to the mission of “ensuring a sustainable quality of life by protecting the health, safety, and resiliency of community and environment.” He is an active Executive Committee member of the California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health (CCDEH) and chairs the CCDEH Solid Waste and Resource Recovery Committee.

Rigoberto Vargas, MPH, Public Health Director

Mr. Vargas will join the panel as CHEAC member representative.