



2026 CHEAC Annual Meeting

Standing Together for Health

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
Fresno Convention Center
October 7 – 9, 2026

#CHEAC26

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME



Dear 2026 CHEAC Annual Meeting Attendees,

On behalf of the CHEAC Executive Committee and staff, I am delighted to welcome you to the 2026 CHEAC Annual Meeting in Fresno County! We are honored to host local health department leaders and staff from every corner of California.

This year's theme, *Standing Together for Health*, reflects the unwavering dedication and strong leadership across our local health jurisdictions—and serves as a timely reminder that we must stand united to weather whatever storms come our way. As a social worker, I firmly believe in the power of collaboration and coalition-building to navigate unprecedented challenges. There is a deep sense of camaraderie that grows when we face tough times together. While we might all wish for less challenges, these trials and tribulations have sharpened our work, deepened our partnerships, and reinforced the value of our local teams.

We have planned a vibrant, dynamic conference for you here in the Central Valley. My hope is that you leave with practical tools, fresh insights, and the deep reassurance that comes with belonging to an amazing community.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our CHEAC staff for your exceptional planning and dedication in organizing the Annual Meeting.

We also could not host this Annual Meeting without the generous support of our sponsors, as well as the dozens of local health department staff who stepped up to share their best practices in our series of workshops.

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

And, of course, we need to have a little fun! I hope you find both laughter and community while you're here.

Thank you for traveling to Fresno to be part of this important gathering. I am so proud of the resolve, resourcefulness, and unity our members have shown throughout 2026. You are the backbone of protecting and serving our communities, and I am proud to be here with you, Standing Together for Health.



Michele Stephens
CHEAC President
Assistant Director, Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services

CHEAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Michele Stephens, President, Humboldt County
Jayleen Richards, Vice President, Solano County
Kim Saruwatari, Secretary/Treasurer, Riverside County
Elsa Jimenez, Immediate Past President, Monterey County
Colleen Rodriguez, Small County Committee Chair, Calaveras County
Sara Bosse, Madera County
Tim Lutz, Sacramento County
Elizabeth Hernandez, San Diego County
Colleen Chawla, San Mateo County
Shelly Davis, Siskiyou County

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

REGISTRATION AND CHECK-IN OPEN FROM 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM (FOYER)

8:00 am – 9:00 am	Continental Breakfast	Foyer
9:00 am – 9:20 am	Welcome – Fresno County Joe Prado, Director, Fresno County Department of Public Health	Salon B/C
9:20 am – 10:30 am	Opening Plenary – Stronger Together Kat Vellos, Author of <i>We Should Get Together</i>	Salon B/C
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Break	
11:00 am – 12:00 pm Breakout #1	Kratom Education and Survey of Retailers	Salon A-1
	Community as the Center: Elevating the Community Perspective as a Driver in CHA/CHIP	Salon A-2
	Strategic Fiscal Planning: A Structured Approach to Spending Down Grant Funding	Salon D-1
	Capital Food Access Alliance: A Collaborative Model for SB 1383 Success	Salon D-2
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Networking Lunch	
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Break	
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm Breakout #2	Keeping Indigent Care Responsive	Salon A-1
	Where the Need Is: Building a Mobile Health, Hygiene, and Referral Program	Salon A-2
	Leading Health Together: A Strategic Roadmap for Stronger Public Health	Salon D-1
	DC Decoded: What the Federal Budget & Midterms Mean for Public Health (Note: session offered on Thu as well)	Salon D-2
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Break	

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

(CONTINUED)

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Sponsor Sessions #1	California Health Care Foundation - Indigent Care in Transition: Early Insights from County Approaches to MIA Programs	Salon A-1
	Kaiser Permanente - Shared Assessments, Shared Impact: Advancing Community Health Through Aligned Partnerships	Salon A-2
	LANES Qualified Health Information Organization - Stronger Together: How Counties Can Strengthen Street Team Medicine	Salon D-1
	Transform Health - A Practical Approach to Improving What You Can Control	Salon D-2
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Reception	Salon B/C
5:30 pm	Dinner on Your Own	

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

REGISTRATION AND CHECK-IN OPEN FROM 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM (FOYER)

8:00 am – 9:00 am	Continental Breakfast	Foyer
9:00 am – 10:15 am	Thursday Plenary – Conversation with California State Leadership - Michelle Baass, Director, California Department of Health Care Services - Susan Fanelli, Chief Deputy Director, California Department of Public Health	Salon B/C
10:15 am – 10:45 am	Break	
10:45 am – 11:45 am Breakout #3	Naloxone Within Reach: Community-Wide Opioid Safety Program	Salon A-1
	Statewide Shared Vision and Action Plan for Climate Change and Health: Input Session for State and LHJ Action Steps	Salon A-2
	Routine Opt-Out Testing: FOCUSing on a Shared Vision to Reduce HIV, Syphilis, and Hepatitis C	Salon D-1
	DC Decoded: What the Federal Budget & Midterms Mean for Public Health	Salon D-2
11:45 am – 12:45 pm	Networking Lunch	
12:45 pm – 1:00 pm	Break	

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8
(CONTINUED)

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Breakout #4	Blunting the Impact: Partnership with CBOs to Increase Redetermination Rates	Salon A-1
	From Assessment to Action: Building Community Partnerships to Improve Rural Health	Salon A-2
	From Crisis Coordination to Community Infrastructure: Building Sustainable Public Information Networks	Salon D-1
	16 Million Pounds of Lithium and a Sea of Mud: Environmental Health Leadership During Complex Emergencies	Salon D-2
2:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Break	
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm Sponsor Sessions #2	Health Management Associates - Aligning Public Health, Health Care, and Behavioral Health for Population Health	Salon A-1
	Metopio - 2028 Is Tomorrow: How We're Preparing for the CHA (and What Comes Next)	Salon A-2
	Manifest MedEx - "Integrating Social, Behavioral, and Clinical Data to Advance Whole Person Care in Fresno County"	Salon D-1
	SacValley MedShare - The QHIO as a County Force Multiplier — Practical Wins for Public Health, Behavioral Health, and Social Services	Salon D-2
3:30 pm - 3:45 pm	Break	
3:45 pm - 5:00 pm	Closing Plenary - Connected, Supported, Heard: Connected, Supported, Heard: Youth Voices on Mental Health and Wellbeing Youth Leaders, Never a Bother Campaign, California Department of Public Health	Salon B/C
5:00 pm	Dinner on Your Own	

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

8:00 am - 9:00 am	Continental Breakfast	Foyer
9:00 am - 12:30 pm	CHEAC General Membership Business Meeting	Salon B/C



Scan For Event Materials



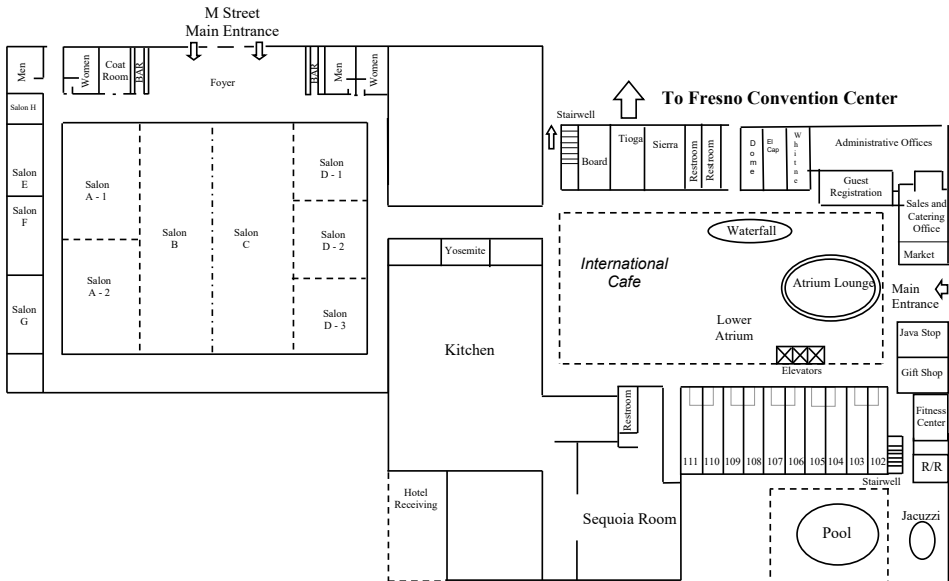
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Visit Fresno County

FACILITY MAP

DoubleTree by Hilton Fresno



OPENING PLENARY

STRONGER TOGETHER

Wednesday, October 7 | 9:20 am-10:30 am | Salon B/C

You're leading through a challenging moment — managing budget constraints, responding to growing community needs, and rebuilding public trust. The consistent way through challenges like these is connection: with yourself, your team, and the community of public health professionals that surround you. Our speaker for this session can assure you of that. Kat Velloso is a human-centered community design expert whose work translates research regarding belonging, connection, and healthy relationships into practical actions that you can start using right away. By strengthening connection for yourself and your teams, you'll improve your own health and you'll be better equipped to support the populations you serve while building trust every step of the way. Honest, warm, and solution-focused, this session will help you move from exhaustion to inspiration — and help you remember why you chose this work.

Kat Velloso is the author of the book *We Should Get Together* and a trusted expert on social health and cultivating connection in our personal lives, workplaces, and physical environments. Her writing is read in over 100 countries, and she's been featured by *The New York Times*, NPR, WBEZ, *Forbes*, *Vox*, *Strong Towns*, *Communication Arts*, *Creative Mornings*, *The Good Life Project*, and many more.



Kat Velloso,
Author

THURSDAY PLENARY

CONVERSATION WITH CALIFORNIA STATE LEADERSHIP

Thursday, October 8 | 9:00 am-10:15 am | Salon B/C

Under the leadership of Governor Gavin Newsom, California's health and human services agencies have advanced significant efforts to expand access to care, strengthen public health infrastructure, address behavioral health needs, and improve health outcomes for Californians. As the Administration winds down its final year, join leaders from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) for a discussion on the Administration's key accomplishments, remaining priorities, lessons learned, and the work that will continue beyond 2026.

Michelle Baass was appointed Director of the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) by Governor Gavin Newsom in September 2021. Before her appointment to DHCS, Ms. Baass served as Undersecretary of the California Health and Human Services (CHHS) Agency since 2018 and Deputy Secretary of the Office of Program and Fiscal Affairs at CHHS from 2017 to 2018. Prior to joining the executive branch, Ms. Baass worked in the Legislature for 13 years, including in the California State Senate, Senate Office of Research, and at the California Legislative Analyst's Office.



Michelle Baass, MPPA
Director, California
Department of Health
Care Services

Susan Fanelli is the Chief Deputy Director of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), a position she has held since 2018. Ms. Fanelli served as Acting Director of CDPH in 2019 and has held a series of senior CDPH positions since 2004, including associate director, deputy director and assistant deputy director of the Emergency Preparedness Office, and chief of the program support section of the Emergency Preparedness Office. Ms. Fanelli held several positions at the California Department of Health Services from 2002 to 2004 and was the director of information services at the Institute for Fiduciary Education from 1996 to 2001.



Susan Fanelli, MA
Chief Deputy Director,
California Department
of Public Health

CLOSING PLENARY

CONNECTED, SUPPORTED, HEARD: YOUTH VOICES ON MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Thursday, October 8 | 3:45 pm-5:00 pm | Salon B/C

Youth mental health and suicide prevention remain critical public health priorities in California. Join youth leaders involved in the California Department of Public Health's Never a Bother campaign and related initiatives for a candid conversation about the challenges facing young people today, the importance of connection and support, and the role of youth voices in shaping effective prevention efforts. Through personal experiences and insights, panelists will discuss strategies to reduce stigma, promote help-seeking, and build communities where every young person feels valued, supported, and Never a Bother.



Shailen Dawkins

Shailen Dawkins, born and raised in Los Angeles, is a UCLA graduate with a degree in Film, Television, and Digital Media, specializing in narrative directing. With over 4 years of experience in filmmaking and music, Shailen enjoys exploring themes regarding coming of age, mental health, and social justice. Shailen has been involved in mental health and suicide prevention work since 2016. From 2023-2025, he served on the Youth Advisory Board for the Never a Bother media campaign, which focused on suicide prevention for underrepresented groups and youth. In 2024, he joined Youth Creating Change, a California-based non-profit promoting mental health and suicide prevention through art and film contests as a part-time program coordinator.

CLOSING PLENARY

(CONTINUED)

Xamara Carrillo (she/her) is a junior at California State University, Fullerton, studying Communications with an emphasis on public relations and double majoring in Spanish. Her past experiences with writing, non-profits, and advocacy work have developed her passion for the power of storytelling and being an advocate in her community. From 2023-2025, she served on the Youth Advisory Board for the Never a Bother media campaign, which focused on suicide prevention for underrepresented groups and youth.



Xamara Carrillo

Angela Soto Cerros (they/them & elle/ella) enthusiastically applies their lived experiences toward community advocacy, education, and being a peer mentor so they can be the adult they needed when they were younger. These lived experiences bring a wealth of understanding of the joys, needs, stigmas, and challenges that include being a first-generation student, LGBTQ+ person, growing up in a low-income traditional Hispanic household, living with mental health conditions, and much more. Angela graduated from California State University, Monterey Bay with a BA in Psychology in 2023, with aspirations to create brighter mental health outcomes for the next generation. From 2023-2025, they served on the Youth Advisory Board for the Never a Bother media campaign, which focused on suicide prevention for underrepresented groups and youth.



Angela Soto Cerros

WORKSHOPS

BREAKOUT #1

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7
11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Kratom Education and Survey of Retailers Salon A-1

Public Health, Behavioral Health, and Environmental Health collaborated to educate and survey food and tobacco retailers across Ventura County about kratom products, including illegal synthetic forms like 7-OH. Each department contributed staff time and expertise to conduct countywide surveys assessing the availability of kratom and identifying retailers selling prohibited synthetic variants. The effort included two rounds of onsite visits: an initial assessment followed by a second compliance check. Retailers found selling synthetic kratom products after the second visit will be referred to the California Department of Public Health for enforcement to help protect community safety and ensure regulatory compliance.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Selfa Saucedo, Ventura County Public Health Department
Charles Genkel, Ventura County Environmental Health Department
Rigoberto Vargas, Ventura County Public Health Department

Community as the Center: Elevating the Community Perspective as a Driver in CHA/CHIP Salon A-2

To drive sustainable public health change, the City of Berkeley developed a five-year Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Improvement Plan (CHIP). Fusing population data with authentic community partnership, the City recruited a diverse 10-member Community Steering Committee from over 60 applicants.

Rather than standard consultation, this group engaged in a year-long collaboration, treating the CHIP as a living document. This deep engagement built trust, fostered long-term community advocacy, strengthened organizational partnerships, and broke down departmental silos. Ultimately, Berkeley created a sustainable model where community members act as active partners in their collective health.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Janice Chin, City of Berkeley, Health, Housing, & Community Services Department
Tanya Bustamante, City of Berkeley, Health, Housing, & Community Services Department

WORKSHOPS

BREAKOUT #1

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7
11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Strategic Fiscal Planning: A Structured Approach to Spending Down Grant Funding Salon D-1

This workshop introduces a proactive fiscal planning approach that integrates monthly financial monitoring with the Program Innovation & Planning Tool (PIPT). Participants will learn how PIPT prompts — covering goals, staffing, partnerships, evaluation, budgeting, and equity — support clearer planning and accurate spend-down projections.

Attendees will explore how aligning budget decisions with PIPT guidance reduces underspending, strengthens audit readiness, and maximizes the impact of grant-funded public health programs.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Karl Stahlhut, Madera County Department of Public Health

Sara Bosse, Madera County Department of Public Health

Capital Food Access Alliance: A Collaborative Model for SB 1383 Success Salon D-2

California Senate Bill 1383 (Chapter 395, Statutes of 2016) requires counties and cities to establish edible food recovery programs that divert surplus edible food from disposal and redirect it to organizations serving people in need. Local governments must educate and monitor regulated food businesses, support food recovery partnerships, track compliance, and expand local food recovery capacity. To collaboratively address these requirements, Sacramento County and six cities formed the Capital Food Access Alliance (CFAA), a jointly funded effort led by consultant Abound Food Care to strengthen edible food recovery capacity and increase food access throughout Sacramento County.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Nick Mori, Sacramento County Public Health

Chantal Allen-Jarrell, Sacramento County Public Health

Mike Learakos, Abound Food Care

Lisa Coelho, Abound Food Care

WORKSHOPS

BREAKOUT #2

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Keeping Indigent Care Responsive

Salon A-1

Alameda County Health's indigent care program, Health Program of Alameda County (HPAC), provides access to care for low-income uninsured people. With federal and state changes to Medi-Cal eligibility, HPAC will need to cover more people than the December 2024 baseline of 2,500 enrollees. Estimates of how many people might meet current eligibility vary from 40,000 to 70,000, making planning for services virtually impossible. In this workshop, we will outline how Alameda County worked with a partner to develop a predictive model, what the inputs and results are, and how we're using the results to navigate planning for HPAC's scope and eligibility.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Kathleen Clanon, Alameda County Health

Danice Cook, Alameda County Health

Katherine Richard, Better Government Lab, Georgetown University

Kimia Pakdaman, Alameda County Health

Where the Need Is: Building a Mobile Health, Hygiene, and Referral Program

Salon A-2

When 65% of Calaveras County residents report that difficulty accessing healthcare and transportation ranks as a top-three barrier alongside affordability and provider availability (2023 CHA), the clinic has to come to them. Calaveras County Public Health (CCPH) procured the Mobile Programs and Services (MPS) Van in 2022 through the Whole Person Care Pilot and launched services in 2023, meeting community members where they live, shop, worship, and gather.

The MPS Van delivers blood pressure, A1C, cholesterol, STI, asthma, vision, and blood lead screenings, plus immunizations, dental fluoride, health education, and acute care for unhoused residents. Clients screening high for hypertension or diabetes go home with a BP monitor or glucose kit. Monthly pairings with CCPH's shower and laundry trailers draw in the highest-need residents, who stay for screening and referrals in the Van. Closed-loop referrals and local transit vouchers help connect community members to ongoing care, and outcomes are closely tracked.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Colleen Rodriguez, Calaveras County Public Health

Justin Barnes, Calaveras County Public Health

Quincy Dyson, Calaveras County Public Health

WORKSHOPS

BREAKOUT #2

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Leading Health Together: A Strategic Roadmap for Stronger Public Health

Salon D-1

This session explores how Placer County implemented a strategic roadmap to optimize County Medical Administrative (CMAA) and strengthen core public health services. Participants will gain insight into how to maximize CMAA claiming across diverse county programs to draw down this uncapped federal entitlement funding.

Participants will engage in an interactive exercise using statewide CMAA data to estimate the potential reimbursement for their own jurisdictions and identify key leadership moves to capture that opportunity. Attendees will leave the session with clear, actionable steps to elevate CMAA in their jurisdiction into a strategic funding tool.

Facilitator:

Kristal Baumbach, Placer County Public Health

** 1st of 2 offerings of this workshop*

DC Decoded: What the Federal Budget & Midterms Mean for Public Health

Salon D-2

Join Tom Joseph of Paragon Government Relations for a timely federal policy update as the federal fiscal year gets underway.

Tom will cover: Federal Budget & Appropriations: Current status and news, including details on continuing resolutions.

Political Outlook: Midterm projections and the potential for shifts in public health funding and authority. Regulatory & Agency News: What's happening at the NIH, CDC, and any key administrative rules on the horizon, including implementation of HR 1 Medicaid changes that impact county indigent care responsibilities.

Featuring open Q&A on all federal topics of interest to local health departments.

Facilitator:

Tom Joseph, Paragon Government Relations

SPONSOR SESSIONS

SESSION #1

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

California Health Care Foundation - Indigent Care in Transition: Early Insights from County Approaches to MIA Programs

Salon A-1

Counties across California are actively re-evaluating and reshaping their indigent care programs, including reestablishing Medically Indigent Adult (MIA) programs in response to ongoing policy and system changes.

This session shares early findings from a Phase 1 assessment of county activity, drawing on interviews with county leaders and stakeholders and a review of county materials and actions. The presenter will highlight emerging themes from January – September 2026, including differences in program structure, the locus of decision-making, and highlights of program changes.

The discussion will focus on what these patterns mean for the uninsured, counties, where approaches are converging or diverging, how local context is shaping decisions, and which questions remain unresolved. The session will also create space for peer reflection, helping county leaders situate their own efforts within the broader statewide landscape.

This session emphasizes practical insights, real-world examples, and opportunities for shared learning. It will also integrate live polling and example sharing.

Facilitator:

Len Finocchio, California Health Care Foundation

Kaiser Permanente - Shared Assessments, Shared Impact: Advancing Community Health Through Aligned Partnerships

Salon A-2

Local Health Jurisdictions play a critical role in advancing population health priorities across their communities. By aligning health plan and hospital capabilities with LHJ goals, organizations can reinforce shared goals, strengthen cross-sector collaboration, and maximize collective impact in the communities they serve.

Participants will explore how to strategically leverage each organization's unique assets, capabilities, and expertise to better support one another's work and identify opportunities to align efforts, reduce duplication, strengthen partnerships, and accelerate progress toward shared community health goals.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Hannah Cordero Chen, Kaiser Permanente

Lindsey Masukawa Wright, Kaiser Permanente

SPONSOR SESSIONS

SESSION #1

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

LANES Qualified Health Information Organization - Stronger Together: How Counties Can Strengthen Street Team Medicine

Salon D-1

County leaders are at the center of California's efforts to address public health concerns among those facing homelessness and unstable housing. Their unique position allows them to bring together healthcare, behavioral health, public health, housing, and social services to improve outcomes for people experiencing homelessness. While fragmented information, disconnected workflows, and limited visibility into the care individuals receive across organizations are historical struggles, some counties have leveraged health information exchange infrastructure to strengthen cross-sector collaboration through real-time notifications, longitudinal health records, and secure data sharing. This workshop will explore how street medicine and mobile care teams are delivering timely access to information to support whole-person care, improve follow-up after emergency department visits and hospitalizations, reduce duplication of services, and enable multidisciplinary teams to better coordinate care for vulnerable populations. Participants will leave with practical strategies for integrating healthcare and social services through interoperable data sharing, advancing California health priorities, and building a more coordinated, person-centered county response to homelessness.

Facilitator:

Ali Shefi Zadeh, LANES Qualified Health Information Organization

Transform Health - A Practical Approach to Improving What You Can Control

Salon D-2

We've been here before. Funding cuts and staff turnover amid a greater need for indigent care programs (due to evolving policies that are increasing uninsured rates and uncompensated care). Counties sit at the nexus of all these changes, and our workshop is designed for public health leaders to meet this moment, take stock of the information available, and act. This interactive discussion will review specific tools already in our collective toolkit to accomplish three main goals:

1. Adjust mandated, non-mandated, and priority programs/services with reduced funding and increased responsibilities, using a readiness assessment and practical methods.
2. Collaborate with partners, which is critical to flourish despite less funding and fewer staff.
3. Galvanize your teams to accomplish the difficult tasks ahead, using a checklist.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Sarabeth Zemel, Transform Health

Joe Prado, Fresno County Department of Public Health

Courtney Shapiro, CalViva Health

Peter Shih, Transform Health

WORKSHOPS

BREAKOUT #3

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8
10:45 am - 11:45 am

Naloxone Within Reach: Community-Wide Opioid Safety Program Salon A-1

Calaveras County has faced rising opioid overdoses, prompting Calaveras County Public Health (CCPH) to launch an Opioid Safety Program with support from the California Opioid Prevention Network braided with other categorical funding. Built for a rural community with significant access barriers, the program emphasizes community-based naloxone and fentanyl testing strip distribution and trainings, combined with cross-sector partnerships with Calaveras County Behavioral Health, Calaveras County Veterans' Services, schools, and community- and faith-based organizations. As of May 2026, these efforts have resulted in over 1,200 community members being trained, 3,500 boxes of Narcan distributed, and over 75 overdose reversals using CCPH-provided Narcan.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Colleen Rodriguez, Calaveras County Public Health
Justin Barnes, Calaveras County Public Health
Quincy Dyson, Calaveras County Public Health

Statewide Shared Vision and Action Plan for Climate Change and Health: Input Session and LHJ Action Steps Salon A-2

The Shared Vision and Action Plan will serve to guide CDPH actions and suggest climate and health priorities for local health jurisdictions (LHJs) in the near term. Engagement with LHJs, Tribes, community-based organizations, and the public has informed the Plan's development.

This workshop will introduce the context and purpose of the Plan, share input received, and invite your perspective. Join this workshop to learn which climate actions LHJ staff, Tribes and community-based organizations hope to see from local public health and provide your leadership perspective on how local and state public health can best advance climate and health work.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Elizabeth Rhoades, CDPH Office of Health Equity's Climate Change and Health Equity Branch
Kenna Lee, CDPH Office of Health Equity's Climate Change and Health Equity Branch

WORKSHOPS

BREAKOUT #3

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

10:45 am - 11:45 am

Routine Opt-Out Testing: FOCUSing on a Shared Vision to Reduce HIV, Syphilis, and Hepatitis C Salon D-1

Amid persistently high STI rates, Kern County Public Health collaborated with local hospitals to establish routine opt-out testing in emergency departments to uncover undiagnosed infections, accelerate linkages to care, and reduce transmission through a unified systems-based approach.

This workshop highlights how clinicians, patient navigators, and public health professionals assembled and sustained a powerful, multi-agency alliance grounded in a shared vision and responsibility to augment care and protect the community. Join panelists as they reflect on lessons learned, honor the champions of this cross-sector effort, and demonstrate how standing together for health can transform the lives of our most vulnerable residents.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Kimberly Hernandez, Kern County Public Health

Kristopher Lyon, Kern County Public Health

Patrick Salazar, Kern County Public Health

Mandy Herrera, Adventist Health Central Valley Network

** 2nd of 2 identical offerings*

DC Decoded: What the Federal Budget & Midterms Mean for Public Health

Salon D-2

Join Tom Joseph of Paragon Government Relations for a timely federal policy update as the federal fiscal year gets underway. Tom will cover:

Federal Budget & Appropriations: Current status and news, including details on continuing resolutions.

Political Outlook: Midterm projections and the potential for shifts in public health funding and authority.

Regulatory & Agency News: What's happening at the NIH, CDC, and any key administrative rules on the horizon, including implementation of HR 1 Medicaid changes that impact county indigent care responsibilities.

Featuring open Q&A on all federal topics of interest to local health departments.

Facilitator:

Tom Joseph, Paragon Government Relations

WORKSHOPS

BREAKOUT #4

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Blunting the Impact: Partnership with CBOs to Increase Medi-Cal Redetermination Rates Salon A-1

H.R. 1 and statewide policy changes to Medi-Cal have devastating impacts to counties across multiple services, including eligibility, medical costs, and behavioral health. This presentation will focus on keeping eligible residents enrolled in Medi-Cal.

Counties are required to be the final submitter for eligibility determinations, but how complete redetermination paperwork is when it is submitted to the county can dramatically influence eligibility worker workload. H.R. 1 increased pressure on the eligibility workforce, and state investments were not significant enough to meet the estimated demands. Instead, Merced County partnered with our United Way to create a grass roots CHW hub model. Leveraging an existing resource (211) as county-wide initial contact, 211 can refer out to CHWs across several smaller CBOs for in-person help as needed. In addition, CHWs in the county can be trained as certified enrollers, so that when redetermination paperwork is submitted to county eligibility workers, it has fewer errors.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Kristynn Sullivan, Merced County Department of Public Health

Robert Hypes, United Way of Merced County

From Assessment to Action: Building Community Partnerships to Improve Rural Health Salon A-2

This interactive workshop highlights Sierra County's journey from CHA findings to implementation of a community-driven CHIP in a rural frontier county. Presenters will share successes, challenges, and lessons learned related to food access, communication, recreation, healthy aging, and community engagement efforts, including the annual Health & Wellness Fair. Participants will engage in a collaborative concept mapping activity focused on barriers, engagement strategies, and sustaining partnerships, encouraging peer learning, cross-county discussion, and practical solutions for advancing community-centered public health initiatives.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Tina Slowan-Pomeroy, Sierra County Public Health

Melanie Del Carlo, Sierra County Public Health

WORKSHOPS

BREAKOUT #4

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

From Crisis Coordination to Community Infrastructure: Building Sustainable Public Information Networks

Salon D-1

Created during the H1N1 pandemic to streamline emergency communication, the Solano Public Information Network (SPIN) has grown into a countywide network of PIOs and communications professionals from city government, healthcare, CBOs, schools, first responders, and emergency management.

SPIN strengthens coordinated messaging, situational awareness, preparedness, and trusted information sharing. These partnerships are especially important as public health misinformation continues to cause confusion.

This workshop explores SPIN's evolution as a communications network for routine public health messaging and countywide emergencies. Participants will learn how it improves coordination, message alignment, readiness, and trust, and how sustained engagement, relationships, and shared learning support its long-term growth.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Jayleen Richards, Solano County Health & Social Services

Jasmine Aubry, Solano County Public Health

Mariana Munguia, Solano County Public Health

Jennifer Leonard, Solano County Office of Education

Rachelle Canones, Vallejo Flood and Wastewater District

16 Million Pounds of Lithium and a Sea of Mud: Environmental Health Leadership During Complex Emergencies

Salon D-2

The Pajaro Flood and Moss Landing battery fire presented vastly different public health emergencies — one driven by natural disaster and displacement, the other by emerging technology, environmental contamination concerns, and scientific uncertainty. Despite these differences, both incidents required strong coordination, risk communication, operational flexibility, and sustained public trust.

This workshop will compare response structures, communication strategies, and lessons learned across both incidents, with a focus on Environmental Health's role in emergency response, cross-sector collaboration, and community recovery. Attendees will gain practical strategies for strengthening preparedness and public health coordination during complex emergencies..

Facilitator & Panelists:

Marni Flagg, Monterey County Health Department

Ric Encarnacion, Monterey County Health Department

SPONSOR SESSIONS

SESSION #2

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Health Management Associates - Aligning Public Health, Health Care, and Behavioral Health for Population Health

Salon A-1

How can public health, health care, and behavioral health better align to advance population health? Join us to explore CDPH and partners to explore practical strategies for connecting community health planning with cross-sector population health efforts.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Brittney Dobson-Ellis, Health Management Associates

Nayely Chavez, Health Management Associates

Robyn Odendahl, Health Management Associates

Metopio - 2028 Is Tomorrow: How We're Preparing for the CHA (and What Comes Next)

Salon A-2

The 2028 joint CHA might feel far off — until you start counting the steps to get there. Kings County will share where they are right now in that process, how partnering with Metopio has helped a small team move faster without needing to become data experts, and what's coming next as the work feeds into the CHIP, Strategic Plan, and PMQI. Whether you're just starting to think about 2028 or already knee-deep in planning, you'll leave with practical ideas to bring home to your own county.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Meghan O'Neil, Kings County Department of Public Health

Nicholas Montoya, Kings County Department of Public Health

Alison Sunahara, Metopio

SPONSOR SESSIONS

SESSION #2

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Manifest MedEx - "Integrating Social, Behavioral, and Clinical Data to Advance Whole Person Care in Fresno County"

Salon D-1

Learn how the Fresno County and Manifest MedEx consolidated social care information from multiple sources into one single, unified longitudinal social care record that enables visibility into a client's care team to create opportunities for collaboration, reduce service duplication, and streamline client intake processes and community referrals, ensuring families are connected to in-home support that improves maternal health and well-being, enhances infant and child health and development, and strengthens family functioning.

Facilitator & Panelists:

Joe Prado, Fresno County Department of Public Health

Jason Buckner, Manifest MedEx

SacValley MedShare - The QHIO as a County Force Multiplier — Practical Wins for Public Health, Behavioral Health, and Social Services

Salon D-2

Discover how a single QHIO connection can become a powerful force multiplier for California counties—giving public health, behavioral health, and social services teams timely, actionable information to better coordinate care and services. This workshop highlights practical, real-world wins that improve outcomes while reducing the cost and complexity of point-to-point data connections. QHIOs simplify compliance by providing ready-made infrastructure that helps organizations meet the state's Data Sharing Agreement requirements under DxF AB 133.

Facilitator:

John Helvey, SacValley MedShare



The California Health Care Foundation is an independent, nonprofit philanthropy that works to improve the health care system so that all Californians have the care they need. We focus especially on making sure the system works for Californians with low incomes and for communities who have traditionally faced the greatest barriers to care.

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Hansine Fisher & Associates is a woman-owned consulting firm with over thirty years of experience in Medicaid program management.

HFA applies extensive knowledge of federal and state Medicaid policy to maximize federal reimbursement.

HFA offers a continuum of services to optimize Medicaid reimbursement through federal claiming. A critical focus of HFA's work is to increase understanding of how these Medicaid claiming options align with the everyday work of public health.

HFA's contract work in California includes extensive hands-on technical assistance and support to the LGA Consortium and its members, counties, cities, and school districts for Medi-Cal Administrative Activities, Targeted Case Management, and CalAIM.

A cornerstone of the company is building ongoing partnerships with our clients. HFA takes pride in our capacity to sustain relationships over time and to provide continuity through changes in leadership.

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The HMA logo consists of the letters 'HMA' in a bold, blue, serif font. The letters are centered between two horizontal blue lines. The background of the entire advertisement features a photograph of a smiling woman with long dark hair holding a young child with curly hair, both looking off-camera with joy. The scene is outdoors with soft, natural lighting.

HMA

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- » Strengthen community partnerships
- » Optimize care delivery
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Across California

LANES gives California's local health departments access to connected health and social data to better understand community needs, identify risks and coordinate action across the care ecosystem.



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Earlier Risk Identification



Connected Health Data



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High-Resolution Data for Healthier Counties

Manifest MedEx (MX) provides the expertise **and data** county health leaders need to **manage population health** and address the social drivers of health that impact 80% of wellbeing.

We support counties in two vital ways: powering disease surveillance and population health for public health agencies, and facilitating the cross-sector coordination required for whole-person care.

3,800+

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PARTICIPANTS

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REAL-TIME ADTs
PER MONTH

52M

LONGITUDINAL
HEALTH RECORDS

With MX, counties can:

- ✓ Identify and manage communicable diseases using real-time ADT notifications
- ✓ View comprehensive health records to effectively coordinate care for at-risk populations
- ✓ Use SDOH data and tools through our social health information exchange to coordinate social services
- ✓ Generate dashboards and analytics to manage population health
- ✓ Participate in the Data Exchange Framework

To learn more about Manifest MedEx, please visit us at manifestmedex.org
or contact us at info@manifestmedex.org.



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Trusted by Public Health
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UNLOCK THE POWER OF DATA

Streamline Your Upcoming CHA or CHIP – No Matter Where You Are in the Process

ACCESS POWERFUL PUBLIC HEALTH DATA ANALYTICS

Metopio is the only platform built for public health teams to find, analyze, and share community data — without the need for a data analyst.

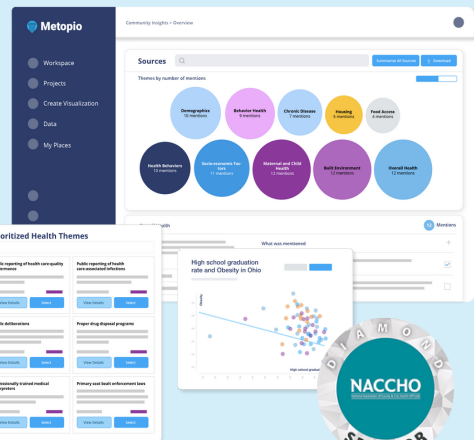
Use AI to automate tedious tasks and accelerate every step of the CHA & CHIP processes, from data discovery to public-facing reports to community collaboration.

- Instant community trend analysis
- Automated CHA & CHIP workflows
- Effective community data sharing
- Interactive maps and visuals
- User-friendly report generation and dashboards



The flexibility of the platform allowed us to use our staff's time more efficiently, which made a significant difference in how we approached public health planning and provided our partners with the customized analysis they needed."

COMMUNITY HEALTH DIRECTOR



Spend less time in manual processes and more time driving community change.

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DRIVING SYSTEMS CHANGE >>> to build healthy communities

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Transform Health, LLC is a **Sacramento-based national health policy consulting firm** committed to building health care systems that serve the whole person in their community.

What We Do

We offer **health policy and implementation expertise to cities and counties** to tackle complex challenges and improve quality of care and health outcomes.

Our Services

- Medi-Cal policy design and implementation
- Stakeholder engagement and facilitation
- Outreach and enrollment
- Strategy and planning
- Organizational change management



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**SACVALLEY
MEDSHARE**

SacValley MedShare: Taking data from moveable to useable



**California
Care360**
by SacValley MedShare

We're working toward a future where health inequities—whether human or electronic—no longer stand in the way of better care.

Our HIE strengthens care coordination and puts timely, actionable insights in the hands of county teams—supporting better decisions and better outcomes.



Learn more at
www.sacvalleyms.org



Our mission is to Improve the health and well-being of the communities we serve through the exchange of vital information with trusted partners

SacValley MedShare is a statewide QHIO and a member of TECCA.

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CenCal Health is *proud to support* the **County Health Executives Association of California** and their 2026 Annual Meeting.

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Our vision is to be a trusted leader in advancing health equity so that our communities thrive and achieve optimal health together.



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NOTES

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NOTES

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Save the Date!

2027 CHEAC Annual Meeting
October 6-8, 2027

Sacramento County, California



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