

Speaker bios

Mark Ghaly, MD, MPH

Dr. Mark Ghaly was appointed Secretary of the California Health & Human Services Agency in early 2019 by Governor Gavin Newsom.

In serving California, Dr. Ghaly has the privilege of working with partners across sectors and disciplines to improve the lives and life chances of ALL Californians. This has been especially true during the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Ghaly is a primary care pediatrician who continues to use his clinical and community experiences, working in California's health care safety net system, to inform a whole person, whole community, approach to integrating services so they are equity-anchored and person-centered for ALL, but especially the most vulnerable Californians.

Dr. Ghaly holds the deep belief that together our collective efforts can not only serve Californians well today but set us on a path where ALL Californians have a brighter and healthier future.

Nothing he does can be done well without the support of his wife, Dr. Christina Ghaly, and his 4 young children.

Michelle Baass was appointed Director of the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) by Governor Gavin Newsom on September 10, 2021. DHCS supports the health of about 15.4 million Californians on Medi-Cal, the state's Medicaid program. Baass leads a team of more than 4,000 individuals at DHCS.

Before her appointment to DHCS, Baass served as Undersecretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency (Agency) since 2018 and Deputy Secretary of the Office of Program and Fiscal Affairs at Agency from 2017 to 2018. Prior to joining Agency, she worked for the

California Legislature for 13 years, including in positions at the Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Senate Office of Research, and Legislative Analyst's Office.

Baass earned a Master's of Public Policy and Administration degree from California State University, Sacramento, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government and German from the University of Notre Dame.

Tyler Sadwith was appointed Deputy Director of Behavioral Health at the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) by Governor Newsom in June 2022. Tyler is responsible for leading DHCS' ambitious agenda to ensure high-quality and accessible specialty mental health and substance use disorder services in Medi-Cal and other public programs. He leads the development and implementation of policy and initiatives designed to strengthen behavioral health care access, quality, service delivery, and achieve equitable health care outcomes for 15.4 million Medi-Cal members and Californians served through other programs. He provides direct management to four divisions: Community Services, Licensing and Certification, Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Oversight and Monitoring, and Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Policy.

Prior to his appointment, Tyler served as Assistant Deputy Director of Behavioral Health at DHCS, assisting to oversee the planning, implementation, coordination, evaluation, and management of the Department's behavioral health services. Tyler was a Senior Consultant at Technical Assistance Collaborative, Inc., where he provided strategic advice and technical support to state health leaders on behavioral health policy and delivery system reforms. Additionally, he served as Technical Director at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), where he spearheaded efforts in supporting states to introduce comprehensive benefit, program, and delivery system reforms through Medicaid Section 1115 substance use disorder (SUD) demonstration waivers. He also implemented the agency's opioid strategy and oversaw the SUD portfolio of CMS' Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program, a cross-agency strategic

support and technical assistance platform designed to support service delivery and payment innovation in Medicaid.

Tyler earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Reed College.

Gary Mendell is the founder and CEO of Shatterproof, a national organization focused on guiding communities, removing systemic barriers to recovery, mobilizing the country to advocate for change, and ending addiction stigma. After losing his son Brian to addiction in 2011, Mendell founded Shatterproof to spare other families the tragedy his had suffered.

Mendell has been a national leader in the addiction field creating solutions that will ensure that substance use disorder will be prevented and treated for generations to come, including providing the support needed to those in recovery and removing the shame and stigma so often associated with those afflicted with this disease.

He is a frequent speaker on how our society can end the stigma unjustly associated with addiction, has been honored numerous times for his leadership related to reversing the course of the opioid epidemic, and testified in front of the President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis, and before the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance on Treating Substance Misuse in America. His opinions are frequently reflected in *national media outlets*.

Mendell is a member of the National Leadership Steering Team for the Grand Challenge to Eliminate Stigma around Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder with the Huntsman Mental Health Institute, a member of the National Quality Forum's Technical Expert Panel for Opioid and Opioid Use Disorder and is an advisory member of The Opioid Policy Research Collaborative at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University.

Before Shatterproof, Mendell spent decades as an entrepreneur. He founded HEI Hotels &

Resorts, a multi-billion-dollar company that oversees a portfolio of approximately 70 first class hotels.

Mendell received his B.S. from Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration and his MBA with distinction from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Kristina Padilla is a leader with the California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals (CCAPP), where she serves as the Vice President of Education overseeing CCAPP's Education Department. She also is the Vice President of Strategic Development for the organization wherein she travels throughout California and the nation bringing addiction focused businesses together to promote the profession, increase access to services and improve the quality of AOD service provision through education, business development, and investment in quality programming.

Mx. Padilla led California's innovative criminal justice program serving as the Offender Mentor Certification Program Director for three years where she managed 12 in-prison programs for training counselors. She worked closely with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) in California prisons for the duration of the contract bringing innovation and growth to the state's in custody treatment programming. Mx. Padilla also was the previous Program Director/Adjunct Faculty of the Peer Support training and Placement Program, which trained peers in recovery/mental health to become certified and how to work with other peers in recovery such as, self-direction, advocacy, ethics, person centered approach, personalization, empowerment, strength base, goal setting, respect, cultural sensitivity and competency, responsibility, hope and at the very core of the program.

Mx. Padilla has a Bachelor's of Science in Criminal Justice Administration and a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology with an emphasis on Marriage and Family therapy. Mx. Padilla is a Licensed Advanced Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor (LAADC), and an International Certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor (ICAADC). Mx. Padilla is also a Certified Gang Specialist of the National Gang Crime Research Center (NGCRC) and Certified Sex addiction

Therapist Candidate (C-SAT). Mx. Padilla is on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Addiction Professionals and their Allies (NALGAP) where she/they is the Vice president and is the California representative. Mx. Padilla is also on the Board of Directors for the Women's Association of Addiction Treatment (WAAT) Board where she was past Chair. Mx. Padilla is the Chief Academic Officer for the CCAPP Academy at CCAPP and is a past Board member for the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) Sacramento chapter. Mx. Padilla sits on the board of (NATI) Native American Institute in New Mexico and is Treasure and is a consultant for Faces and Voices NRI (National Recovery Institute).

Mx. Padilla is currently enrolled as a student at Clinton Global Incitive University (CGIU) and is the Chair of the (DEI) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee at the California Society of Association Executives (CALSAE). Mx. Padilla is on multiple DEI and LGBTQIA2+ boards across the nation and is making a deep impact providing Training, Advocacy, and Education to all professionals.

Mx. Padilla is also an independent consultant on LGBTQIA2+ Program development & Design/issues/services/Counseling/Therapy/Mentoring/Training and Coaching and travels the Nation providing training and lectures at conferences as well as in-service training for nonprofits, for-profits, county and state workers. Mx. Padilla is also an Addiction Technology transfer center (ATTC) Trainer and "Equality California" Leadership Academy fellow. Mx. Padilla obtained her/their "Higher Education Teaching Certificate" at Harvard, The Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning July 2020 and her/their Women's Leadership Program (WLP) Certificate from Yale University School of Management in 2022. Mx. Padilla is a mother to a beautiful 7-year-old little girl named Karisma. She/They also is a part of the LGBTQ+ (Rainbow) Community and identifies as Apache, Cherokee, Trans, Gender-Fluid, 2-Spirit, non-binary, same gender loving, Pansexual, biologically born Woman, Kristina's pronouns are She/Her, and They/Them and she/they goes by the prefix of Mx. Padilla.

Jennifer Christian-Herman, Ph.D. is the vice president of Mind Body Medicine at Blue Shield of California, a nonprofit health plan with more than \$22 billion in annual revenue serving 4.7 million members in the state's commercial, individual, and government markets.

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In this role, Dr. Christian-Herman leads an evolving portfolio of innovations that leverage technology and clinical interventions focused on lifestyle medicine, behavioral health, social drivers of health, and digital therapeutics, with a goal of improving member engagement and clinical outcomes. She is responsible for developing and leading strategy to transform total-person health for Blue Shield's members and providers by expanding access to behavioral health care, enhancing care coordination, integrating behavioral health into primary care, and offering robust upstream digital solutions rooted in lifestyle medicine.

Prior to joining Blue Shield, Dr. Christian-Herman was the executive director of Strategic Customer Engagement, Product Innovation and Evaluation at Kaiser Permanente. She previously served as the national vice president for Integrated Health Improvement at Health Net and as the regional director of Clinical Research for CIGNA Health. Dr. Christian-Herman has also held roles with Cerner Health Solutions and at UCLA's Neuropsychiatric Institute and Department of Psychology.

Dr. Christian-Herman has a Ph.D. in clinical psychology and is a licensed clinical psychologist.

Dr. Christian-Herman is passionate about housing as a driver of health and serves on the board of directors for the Skidrow Housing Trust, which provides permanent supportive housing to approximately 2,000 of Los Angeles' most vulnerable, chronically homeless individuals.