



Workshop Speaker Bios

Kevin Aslanian

Executive Director, Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Inc.

Kevin Aslanian is the Executive Director and founder of the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Inc. (CCWRO). CCWRO is a support center formed in 1982 that provides support services to legal services programs throughout California. He is also the legislative advocate for CCWRO. In this role Kevin works on behalf of legal services programs to promote budget and policy changes at legislative and administrative forums that benefit the customers served by legal services organizations of California.

Prior to founding CCWRO, Kevin Aslanian worked for California Rural Legal Assistance as a food stamp advocate. In the early 70's, after discovering the many obstacles and injustices faced by families such as his who found themselves on public assistance, Kevin felt the need to form The Welfare Recipients League, a small advocacy non-profit in Santa Clara County. It was during this time when he acquired the advocacy skills he now uses to represent the recipient community of California.

Together, CCWRO and public benefit advocates statewide are currently working closely with state and county representatives to better the lives of recipients of public benefits in California.

Jessica Bartholow

Legislative Advocate, Western Center on Law and Poverty

Jessica Bartholow is a legislative advocate at the Western Center on Law and Poverty with over a decade of experience in anti-poverty advocacy and program development. Before joining Western Center two years ago, Jessica worked for the California Association of Food Banks, where she built a statewide network of food stamp advocates and application assisters and led California's anti-hunger community in the 2008 federal reauthorization of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps. As chairperson of the California Hunger Action Coalition, she led several legislative actions, including a budget coalition opposing cuts to safety-net programs. Jessica served for four years on the board of the Oakland Workforce Collaborative and has led or participated in several statewide tasks forces pertaining to SNAP, Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT), CalWORKs and program modernization. Jessica holds a Master's Degree in Political Science.

Kerry Birnbach

Nutrition Policy Advocate, California Food Policy Advocates

Kerry works to develop and implement policies aimed at improving CalFresh access and participation. She previously worked as the Interfaith Voices Against Hunger Coordinator at the NYC Coalition Against Hunger. Originally from Berkeley, California, she received a BA from Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon and a Master of Public Affairs from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, Austin. She also served as an AmeriCorps volunteer in Austin. Kerry joined CFPA in January 2011.

Andrea Bricker

Public Health Nutrition Consultant, California Department of Aging

Andrea has worked with the Nutrition and Health Promotion Team at the California Department of Aging (CDA) for five years providing administrative oversight of the Older Americans Act Title III C Elderly Nutrition Program and Title III D Health Promotion and Medication Management Program. Over the past two years, Andrea has concentrated her efforts advocating for older adults specifically focusing on CalFresh outreach. Her efforts have helped draw attention to older

adults by providing the senior perspective for successful CalFresh outreach to multiple state agencies, community based organizations, and advocacy groups. She has conducted numerous trainings on CalFresh and the older adult. Prior to her employment with CDA, Andrea was a clinical and consultant dietitian in several Northern California acute care hospitals, skilled nursing and assisted living facilities and a consultant for the Yuba County Multipurpose Senior Services Program. Andrea has been a registered dietitian for 10 years and completed her Masters Degree in Nutritional Science option in Nutrition Education in 2005 at Chico State where her professional paper examined food insecurity of the homebound elderly in Yuba County.

Andrea is married and is a proud mother of two children. Her hobbies include camping, hiking, eating chocolate, scrapbooking, making crafts, and spending quality time with her family.

Tanya Broder

Senior Staff Attorney, National Immigration Law Center

Tanya Broder specializes in the laws and policies affecting access to health care, public benefits and education for low-income immigrants across the United States. She writes articles and policy analyses, provides technical assistance, co-counsels on litigation, engages in administrative advocacy and provides trainings to legal and social service providers, government agencies, legislative staff, and community-based organizations. Before joining NILC in 1996, she worked as a policy analyst for the Northern California Coalition for Immigrant Rights and as a staff attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Alameda County in Oakland. Ms. Broder holds a juris doctor from Yale Law School.

Mareva Brown

Principle Consultant, Senate Human Services Committee

Mareva Brown is Chief Consultant for the Senate Human Services Committee. Prior to joining the committee, she worked at the Senate Office of Research, focusing on policy and fiscal issues related to social services, developmental disabilities, mental health and others. She also served as assistant director for communications at the Department of Developmental Services and the communications director for the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission. Prior to that, she was a reporter for *The Sacramento Bee*.

Ronald Coleman

Statewide Policy Analyst, California Immigrant Policy Center

Ron is CIPC's Statewide Policy Analyst, based in Sacramento. Formerly, Ronald was the Legislative and Policy Director for the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), and most recently with the Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE). He has over 5 years' experience advocating on a wide-range of issues to protect the interests of low income communities and working families. Ronald has received his Juris Doctorate from Southern University Law Center, and his BA in Political Science from Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans. Ronald is also a member of the State Bar of New Jersey.

Claire Conlan

Legislative Aide, Senator DeLeon

Claire Conlon is a legislative/press aide to State Senator Kevin de León (D-26 Los Angeles). Claire is the primary staff for issues relating to health, human services, education, transportation and housing. She also has responsibility for press matters producing numerous releases and events to support the Senator's legislative agenda.

Previously, she served as Executive Director of the California Young Democrats (CYD), which tripled in size and saw a doubling of its budget under her leadership. At the CYD helm, she spent her time organizing young leaders and teaching them to mobilize using peer-to-peer campaign methods that would activate, engage and mobilize young voters. She also was a vocal leader for college affordability, healthcare for all and a sustainable economy. After graduating from UC Davis, Claire began her career and honed her communications strategy skills as an Associate at the well-known Democratic Consulting firm Acosta|Salazar.

While nothing makes Claire happier than checking things off a to-do list, she also enjoys communing with nature by taking her Newfoundland for walks in the woods and trying out campgrounds around the great state of California. She is a proud Puente Program mentor and on the board of Sababah at Congregation B'nai Israel.

Caroline Danielson

Policy Fellow, Public Policy Institute of California

Caroline Danielson is a policy fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California. Her research focuses on social safety net programs, including nutrition assistance, welfare, child welfare, and child care subsidies. Before coming to PPIC she was a principal analyst at the University of California's Welfare Policy Research Project, a RAND graduate fellow, and an assistant professor of politics at the State University of New York, Potsdam. She holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Michigan.

Stacy Dean

Vice President for Food Assistance Policy, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

As Vice President for Food Assistance Policy, Dean works extensively with program administrators, policymakers, and non-profit organizations to improve the food stamp program and provide eligible low-income families easier access to its benefits. She focuses on nutrition programs, immigrant issues, the federal budget, and cross program integration. Dean started at the Center in April 1997 as a Senior Policy Analyst working on national policy issues such as the federal budget, the food stamp program, and benefits for immigrants.

Before joining the Center, Dean worked as a budget analyst at the Office of Management and Budget where she worked on policy development, regulatory and legislative review, and budgetary process and execution for a wide variety of income support programs. In 1999, Dean spent seven months in the United Kingdom as an Atlantic Fellow in Public Policy, examining the integration of benefit and tax policy for low-wage workers. Dean received both her B.A. and Masters in Public Policy from the University of Michigan.

Scott Graves

Senior Policy Analyst, California Budget Project

Scott Graves has analyzed health and human services issues for the CBP since 2002. Prior to joining the CBP, Mr. Graves worked as a researcher in Austin, Texas, for the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute, Consumers Union, and the Public Policy Clinic at the University of Texas, Austin. He also was a California executive fellow and worked as a reporter for newspapers in Arizona and California. Mr. Graves received a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Texas, Austin, and a bachelor's degree in government and journalism from California State University, Sacramento.

June Hutchison

Deputy Director, Transitional Assistance Department, San Bernardino County Human Services

June Hutchison is the Deputy Director for the San Bernardino County, Transitional Assistance Department. She oversees their new Customer Service Center, which has two locations within the county. June was most recently the C-IV Regional Project Manager for San Bernardino, where she was part of the grant writing and design team for the C4Yourself online application. June has been with the county for over 22 years and during that time she has been a Program Specialist, Training Instructor, a Lead Worker and an Eligibility Worker. June has also been a UC Davis Training Instructor.

Elizabeth Lansberg

Director of Legislative Advocacy, Western Center on Law and Poverty

Elizabeth Landsberg is Director of Legislative Advocacy for the Western Center on Law & Poverty. She joined Western Center in 2006 as a legislative advocate specializing in health care issues including legislative and budget advocacy in the areas of health reform, Medi-Cal, the uninsured, medical debt, and other health issues affecting poor Californians. Prior to joining Western Center, Elizabeth served as the Supervising Attorney for the Health Rights Hotline, a project of Legal Services of Northern California (LSNC). In addition to supervising the Hotline staff who fielded individual calls from health care consumers, Elizabeth analyzed data collected from the calls, identified systemic policy issues and advocated for needed change. She was the Ruth Chance Law Fellow at Equal Rights Advocates, a public interest women's law center in San Francisco and served as a law clerk to Federal District Court Judge Martha Vázquez. Elizabeth graduated from Boalt Hall School of Law where she was the Editor-in-Chief of the *Berkeley Women's Law Journal*. Prior to attending law school, Elizabeth worked at shelters for battered women and their children.

Anna Martinez

Assistant Director, Self Sufficiency Division, Riverside County Department of Public Social Services

Anna has been employed by the Riverside County Department of Public Social Services for over 25 years. Starting as of Office Assistant, Anna has worked her way through the ranks and held positions in program eligibility, appeals, operations management, human resources, and executive management. Anna holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Management, and is also a graduate of the A. Gary Anderson School of Management, Executive Management Program. In July 2011, Anna was appointed Assistant Director of the Self-Sufficiency Division, which includes CalWORKs, Welfare-to-Work, Medi-Cal, CalFresh, and Homeless Programs.

Sylvia Melena

Assistant Deputy Director, Strategic Planning and Operational Support, San Diego County HHS

Ms. Melena is currently responsible for the administration of self-sufficiency programs for HHS – including CalFresh, CalWORKs, Medi-Cal, General Relief, and San Diego County's Community Action Agency, the Community Action Partnership. Ms. Melena supports policy and program development for welfare/self-sufficiency and anti-poverty programs. Ms. Melena's career with the County of San Diego spans nearly 17 years and includes the administration of public policy, operations, quality assurance, and performance management.

Kim McCoy Wade

Public Policy and Philanthropy Consultant, Alliance to Transform CalFresh

Kim McCoy Wade is a public policy and philanthropy consultant focused on creating opportunities for low-income children and families. She was formerly the founding consultant for two statewide budget coalitions, the HHS (Health & Human Services) Network (2009 & 2010) and Together for California's Future (2008). She also was the primary outside consultant to the Walmart Foundation on their new "Fighting Hunger Together" campaign, a \$2 billion commitment to reduce domestic hunger (2010).

Before becoming a consultant, Kim served as the Executive Director for the California Association of Food Banks, where she held a series of leadership positions over seven years (2001-2008) and helped launch state programs in fresh produce delivery, food stamp outreach, and nutrition education. Kim also led advocacy campaigns at several national organizations based in Washington DC, including the Children's Defense Fund (juvenile justice), the Alliance for Justice (gun violence), and Bread for the World (food stamps). Kim is an alumna of NYU School of Law, Carleton College, the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, and the Emerge California training program.

Kim is active in the National Women's Political Caucus-Alameda North chapter and (most years) is a VITA volunteer at a free tax clinic for low-income families. Her greatest joy is weekends spent camping with her family and finishing the Saturday NY Times crossword puzzle. Kim is a native of the Washington, DC area and now lives in Oakland, California in a co-housing community she helped found.

Leo O'Farrell

CalFresh Program Director, San Francisco Human Services Agency

Leo has been with the San Francisco Human Service Agency for 19 years, working in CalFresh as a section and program manager. Prior to the City, Leo worked for over 10 years for Alameda County Social Services as an Eligibility Worker and unit Supervisor. Leo is interested in innovations in service delivery, program operations and CalFresh outreach. He led the effort in San Francisco to get a USDA grant to improve access and participation that resulted in BenefitsSF, now BenefitsCalwin, a customer focused service center and network of CBO's and FBO's referring eligible Californians to apply for CalFresh.

Leo is married with four children, enjoys practicing Aikido and flying small airplanes in his spare time.

Lino Rios

Program Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services

Lino Rios is currently the CalFresh Program Director in the CalFresh Nutrition Program (CFNP) Section. The CFNP Section has the responsibility of administering the CalFresh Program in the County of Los Angeles. Lino started with the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) in April 1990. As a Program Director within the CFNP section, Lino works extensively with front line administration and staff to provide CalFresh policy and procedures support. In addition, Lino is also one of the key players in the Department's CalFresh Outreach Program. He has been responsible for the implementation of the Department's many CalFresh outreach activities.

Colleen Rivecca

Advocacy Coordinator, St. Anthony Foundation

Colleen Rivecca is the Advocacy Coordinator for St. Anthony Foundation, a San Francisco social service organization that works to feed, heal, shelter, clothe, and lift the spirits of those in need. Colleen received her MSW with a concentration in advocacy and community organizing from CUNY Hunter College School of Social Work. She has done community organizing work in Brooklyn, New York and has worked with HIV + homeless and marginally housed people in New York City. Colleen moved to San Francisco in 2005 and she has worked on local and state level policy issues related to homelessness, hunger, health care, and the civil rights of homeless and low-income people.

Julie Salley-Gray

Principle Consultant, California State Assembly Appropriations Committee

Julie Salley-Gray is the Principal Consultant for the Assembly Appropriations Committee in the areas of social services, nutrition and food policy, governmental organization, insurance, business & professions, and agriculture. She has over 15 years of public service experience, nine years with the Legislature, beginning with the Legislative Analyst's Office, moving to the Appropriations Committee in late 2005. She began state service in the executive office of State Controller, Kathleen Connell. Julie moved to policy and fiscal work for the Department of Social Services, primarily handling welfare reform issues. Prior to state service and her work in the Legislature, she worked in development/fundraising for the Crane School in Montecito, California. Julie studied United States History and African American Studies at the University of California at Davis (BA), University of California at Santa Barbara (MA), and the University of Virginia.

Cathy Senderling

Deputy Executive Director, County Welfare Directors Association of California

Cathy Senderling is the Deputy Executive Director for the County Welfare Directors Association of California. In that role she works with the Association's Executive Director and the human services directors in all 58 of California's counties to promote legislative, budget and policy changes that improve health and human services programs and the delivery of those services.

Prior to joining CWDA in August 2000, Cathy served as the California Senate Budget Committee Consultant for social services programs and a Fiscal and Policy Analyst for the California Legislative Analyst's Office. She has a Bachelor of Journalism degree from the University of Missouri at Columbia and a Master's degree from the Heinz School of Public Policy and Management in Pittsburgh, PA.

Tia Shimada

Nutrition Policy Advocate, California Food Policy Advocates

Tia's work focuses on issues of access, participation, and nutritional quality primarily in the school breakfast and summer nutrition programs. Tia co-coordinates the BreakfastFirst Campaign and contributes to CFPA's data analyses that examine impacts of the federal nutrition programs, particularly CalFresh. She received her Master of Public Health at UC Berkeley through the Public Health Nutrition Program. Tia began with CFPA as a graduate student intern in 2008 and joined the staff in 2009.

Susan Smith

Director, Insight Center for Community Economic Development

Susie Smith leads Californians for Family Economic Security, a policy coalition comprised of legislators, advocates, direct service providers and foundations who support policies and programs that build economic security for families, elders, and the communities in which they live. Her responsibilities include: researching and writing; planning new programmatic areas; conducting trainings, developing new resources; cultivating the coalition; and creating and disseminating practical tools for public and nonprofit agencies to help families reach economic security. Susie also conducts research and provides technical assistance in the areas of asset building and workforce development. Susie has been involved in the field of community economic development for over 12 years. Prior to joining the Insight Center, she directed a matched savings and financial education program for low-income refugees. Prior to her work at Lao Family, Susie was an advocate at the Urban Justice Center in New York City, working with low-income families, and before that, a project manager at the New York City Department of Housing, Preservation and Development.

Ellen Vollinger

Legal Director, Food Research and Action Center

Ellen Vollinger is Legal Director for FRAC. She has responsibility for directing FRAC's advocacy on behalf of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/Food Stamps). Ellen has led FRAC's efforts to bolster SNAP/Food Stamps, particularly to serve working families, legal immigrants and victims of disasters. She has worked with administrators, elected officials, industry representatives, and non-profit partners on strategies to provide a more accessible and effective nutrition assistance safety net. She serves on the eGovernment Payments Council.

Her prior positions include serving as director of the nonprofit National Committee for Full Employment as well as a practicing attorney with the Washington, D.C. law firm of Ross, Dixon and Masback.

Ellen has a B.A. in American Studies from Smith College, an M.A.S.S. in Legislative Affairs from George Washington University and a J.D. magna cum laude from the American University's Washington College of Law.