How Can California Close its Looming Health Workforce Gaps?
Presentation of California Future Health Workforce Commission’s Final Recommendations

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS & REPORT AUTHORS

Kevin Barnett, DrPH, MCP, is Co-Director of the management team for the California Future Health Workforce Commission and a Senior Investigator at the Public Health Institute. He has led research and fieldwork in hospital community benefit and health workforce diversity at the Public Health Institute for over two decades, working with hospitals, government agencies, and community stakeholders across the country. Recent work includes a study of community health assessments and implementation strategies for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and a national initiative funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to build hospital/health system board and senior leadership knowledge of population health and investment strategies with health and related sector stakeholders in low-income communities. He serves as the Co-Director of the Center to Advance Community Health and Equity, a member of the Board of Directors of Communities Joined in Action, and a member of the Board of Directors for the Trinity Health System.

Joseph I. Castro, PhD, MPP, is President of California State University, Fresno. He served as a commissioner and Primary Care and Prevention Subcommittee member for the California Future Health Workforce Commission. Dr. Castro is a Professor of Educational Leadership in the Kremen School of Education and Human Development. He previously served as Vice Chancellor of Student Academic Affairs, and Professor of Family and Community Medicine at UCSF where he led programs that served the academic and health care needs of the school’s talented and diverse students. He serves on a number of boards, including the WASC Senior College and University Commission, Mountain West Athletic Conference Board, Stanford University Graduate School of Education Advisory Council, James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award Selection Committee, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities’ Governing Board, Jumpstart National Board, and the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium.

Janet M. Coffman, MPP, PhD, is a Professor at Healthforce Center and the Institute for Health Policy Studies at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Coffman served as a consultant to the California Future Health Workforce Commission, whose recommendations drew upon her previous research on California’s primary care and behavioral health workforce needs. She has authored numerous publications on the supply and demand for health professionals, access to health professionals, and strategies for improving the geographic distribution and racial/ethnic diversity of health professionals in California and the United States. Her other research interests include health care reform, access to care for vulnerable populations, and innovations in management of chronic illnesses.

Katherine Flores, MD, is Director of the UCSF Fresno Latino Center for Medical Education and Research (LaCMER). She served on the Primary Care and Prevention Subcommittee for the California Future Health Workforce Commission. The LaCMER is a unit of the UCSF Fresno Medical Education Program. The overall mission of LaCMER is to work with disadvantaged students and help prepare them to become healthcare professionals who will ultimately return to the Central Valley to provide culturally competent healthcare to the medically underserved. Dr. Flores is also an Associate Clinical Professor in Family Medicine at the UCSF School of Medicine. She has been active over the past 30 years in developing and overseeing programs that recruit and retain Latino and other underrepresented youth into the health professions. She has worked collaboratively with multiple partners to establish a comprehensive health careers pipeline program in the Central Valley of California, targeting disadvantaged youth, particularly from migrant farmworker backgrounds. Dr. Flores is the...
Past Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Hispanic Medical Association and serves on many national and statewide committees and boards.

Anthony Iton, MD, JD, MPH, is Senior Vice President for Healthy Communities at The California Endowment, one of the major funders of the California Future Health Workforce Commission. The California Endowment is a private, statewide health foundation whose mission is to expand access to affordable, quality health care for underserved individuals and communities, and to promote fundamental improvements in the health status of all Californians. Dr. Iton's primary interest is the health of disadvantaged populations and the contributions of race, class, wealth, education, geography, and employment to health status. He has asserted that in every public health area of endeavor, be it immunizations, chronic disease, HIV/AIDS, STDs, obesity, or even disaster preparedness, public health practitioners must recognize that they are confronted with the enduring consequences of structural poverty, institutional racism and other forms of systemic injustice.

Catherine Martin is Vice President of workforce policy for the California Hospital Association (CHA). She served as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee for the California Future Health Workforce Commission. Ms. Martin is responsible for leading the CHA Workforce Committee, a hospital-led committee that focuses on identifying and implementing coordinated, strategic solutions that will address the long-term need for health care professionals in California. She also leads the Health Laboratory Workforce Initiative, comprised of clinical laboratory experts who are developing strategic solutions to the laboratory workforce shortage in California. Other areas of issue management include health care climate resiliency, facilities and operations, and disasters.

Rishi Manchanda, MD, MPH, is President & CEO of HealthBegins. Dr. Manchanda served as a commissioner and Primary Care and Prevention Subcommittee member for the California Future Health Workforce Commission. HealthBegins is a mission-driven consulting and technology firm that helps healthcare and community partners improve care and the social factors that make people sick in the first place. Client-partners include the American Hospital Association, the CMS Accountable Health Communities model, and health plans and health systems across the country. Dr. Manchanda serves on the board of the Beyond Flexner Alliance, California Future Health Workforce Commission, and was a member of the HHS Health Care Payment Learning & Action Network's Primary Care Payment Model Work Group.

Jeffrey S. Oxendine, MPH, MBA, is Co-Director of the California Future Health Workforce Commission and CEO and Co-Founder of Health Career Connection. He has been a health executive, educator, and consultant for over 30 years. He has held senior administrative positions in hospitals, medical groups, academic institutions and currently leads OXS consulting. He is the former Associate Dean of Public Health Practice at UC Berkeley School of Public Health where he has been a faculty member in health policy and management for over 16 years. Mr. Oxendine now serves as Director of Health Workforce Development and Diversity at the Berkeley’s Center for Healthcare Organizational and Innovations Research. He also is a leader in California health workforce and diversity efforts as Co-Director of the California Health Professions Consortium and The California Health Workforce Alliance, and on a regional level with the East Bay Health Workforce Partnership.

Dawan Utecht is the Director and Public Guardian of the Fresno County Department of Behavioral Health. She served as a member of Behavioral Health Subcommittee for the California Future Health Workforce Commission. Among Ms. Utecht’s other roles: serving on the Governing Board of the California Behavioral Health Directors Association, President of the California Mental Health Services Joint Powers Authority Board, Commissioner on First 5 of Fresno County and serving on Fresno’s Community Corrections Partnership. She is actively involved in the local ACES Collaborative, Suicide Prevention Collaborative, and the Street2Home initiative. She is also involved with the Fresno County Health Improvement Partnership, Pre-Term Birth Initiative, Children’s Movement and Cradle to Career Initiative.