

HealthAffairs

Health Affairs Forum

Oral Health In California

Sheraton Grand Hotel, Sacramento, California

May 17, 2017

- 9:00 a.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Alan Weil (@alanrweil), Editor in Chief, *Health Affairs* (@Health_Affairs)
- 9:10 a.m. **Brief Remarks**
Judy Belk, President and CEO, The California Wellness Foundation
Timothy A. Lash, Chief Strategy Officer, Gary and Mary West Foundation
- 9:20 a.m. **Panel 1 Assessing the Oral Health Landscape**
Elizabeth Mertz (@bethmertz), Associate Professor, Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences, and Faculty, Healthforce Center, Affiliate Faculty, Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies, School of Dentistry, University of California, San Francisco (@UCSF_IHPS) on *The Dental-Medical Divide and Underrepresented Minority Dentists: Quantifying Their Numbers And Characterizing The Communities They Serve*
Marko Vujicic, Chief Economist & Vice President, Health Policy Institute, American Dental Association (@adahpi), on *Dental Care Presents The Highest Level Of Financial Barriers Compared To Other Types Of Health Care Services* (Health Affairs, December 2016)
Jane Koppelman (@JKoppelman1), Research Director, Pew Charitable Trusts Dental Campaign (@pewtrusts), on *Expanding Where Dental Therapists Can Practice Could Increase Access To Cost-Efficient Care* (Health Affairs, December 2016)
Peter Damiano, Director, Public Policy Center and Professor, Preventive and Community Dentistry, University of Iowa Public Policy Center, on *Eliminating Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage In California Led To Increased Dental Emergency Visits And Associated Costs* (Health Affairs, May 2015)
Anthony E. Wright, (@AEWright) Executive Director, Health Access California (HealthAccess), on *Opportunities on Improving Dental Access to Care in California*
- Q & A
- 10:20 a.m. Break
- 10:30 a.m. **Panel 2: The Oral Health Safety Net for California's Adults**
Paul Glassman, Professor of Dental Practice, and Director, Community Oral Health, Pacific Center for Special Care, University of the Pacific School of Dentistry
James J. Crall, Professor and Chair, Division of Public Health and Community Dentistry, UCLA School of Dentistry (@UCLADentistry)
Karen Becerra, CEO and Dental Director, Gary and Mary West Senior Dental Center
Laura Marcus, Executive Director, Dientes Community Dental Care
- Q & A
- 11:30 a.m. Adjourn

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Biographies of Presenters

Karen Becerra, DDS, MPH, is the CEO and dental director of the Gary and Mary West Senior Dental Center, a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to serving low-income seniors in downtown San Diego, California. Becerra played a lead role in the creation of the center, from concept to facility design, licensure and permits, to business planning and fundraising. With two decades of clinical research and expertise as a practicing dentist, she has a track record of excelling at both the provision of dental care services to diverse populations and public health research. Earlier Becerra worked for the Gary and Mary West Health Institute as a clinical project lead, where she was instrumental in ensuring the success of a remote, wireless fetal monitoring research project that was conducted in collaboration with the Carlos Slim Health Institute. She is a past president of the Hispanic Dental Association of San Diego and has served as a new dentist board member of the California Dental Association Foundation.

Judy Belk, MPA, is president and CEO of The California Wellness Foundation. The mission of the foundation is to improve the health of the people of California. Belk is a seasoned leader with more than 25 years of senior management experience in the philanthropic, government, nonprofit and corporate sectors. Before joining Cal Wellness in April of 2014, she served as senior vice president of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (RPA), where she played a pivotal role in building RPA into one of the nation's largest independent nonprofit advisory firms. Previously, Belk served as vice president of global public affairs at Levi Strauss & Co., reporting directly to the chairman and CEO, with responsibilities for both the company's and the foundation's leadership in the global fight against AIDS, as well as their economic development, environmental and antiracism initiatives.

James J. Crall, DDS, MS, ScD, is a professor and chair of the Division of Public Health and Community Dentistry at the UCLA School of Dentistry and directs the HRSA/MCHB Leadership Training in Pediatric Dentistry Program. Crall served as director of the HRSA/MCHB National Oral Health Policy Center from 2000-2008, was project director for the AAPD Head Start Dental Home Initiative from 2007-2010, and has been child advocate for the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry since 1995.

Peter Damiano, DDS, MPH, is the director of the University of Iowa (UI) Public Policy Center and is a professor in the UI Department of Preventive and Community Dentistry. A health services researcher studying access to and quality of primary care services, including dental care, Damiano is conducting funded studies in the areas of health care reform, health insurance coverage, health disparities and health care for underserved populations. The author of more than 200 journal articles and research monographs, he has been principal investigator on more than 75 funded research studies. Through the Public Policy Center he regularly shares research findings with policymakers and the public through talks and symposia to help them understand the nuances of challenging policy issues. He continues to be clinically active, providing dental services to patients in the UI's Faculty Group Practice.

Paul Glassman, DDS, MA, MBA, is professor of dental practice and director of community oral health at the Pacific Center for Special Care at the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry. The Pacific Center for Special Care is committed to improving the oral health of underserved people on the local, state and federal level. It employs best-practice models of, and advocates for, improved access to dental care for anyone who faces challenges receiving oral health services through the traditional oral health care system. Glassman is a member of the Federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's expert panel on assessing healthcare quality measures. He was also a member of the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Oral Health Access that recently released a report on "Improving Access to Oral Health Care for Vulnerable and Underserved Populations."

Jane Koppelman, MPA, is research director for The Pew Charitable Trusts' dental campaign, supporting Pew's efforts to grow the dental workforce and increase access to care. Before joining Pew, Koppelman spent more than 20 years researching, reporting on, administering, and evaluating programs that support disadvantaged families. She oversaw a variety of projects funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, including planning research conferences and advising federal grantees on how to conduct rigorous evaluations. As deputy director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's "Making the Grade" program, she worked to increase the number of school-based health centers nationwide.

Timothy A. Lash, MBA, is chief strategy officer and executive vice president of West Health, and president of the West Health Policy Center. He oversees the development and execution of West Health's successful aging portfolio across its nonprofit applied medical research, policy and advocacy initiatives and outcomes-based philanthropy. This work supports the organization's mission of enabling seniors to successfully age in place with access to high-quality, affordable health and support services that preserve and protect their dignity, quality of life and independence. Lash has extensive experience in shaping and advancing innovative and disruptive healthcare models, establishing collaborations across a diverse group of stakeholders and organizations, creating new growth platform strategies, and executing acquisitions/equity investments. Prior to joining West Health, he held leadership roles at Johnson & Johnson and several other healthcare companies.

Laura Marcus is executive director of Dientes Community Dental Care, an organization whose mission since 1992 has been to create lasting oral health for the underserved children and adults in Santa Cruz County, California, and neighboring communities. She returned to Dientes as executive director in 2011 after serving a three-year stint as vice president of risk at Nonprofits Insurance Alliance Group in Santa Cruz. Marcus previously worked at Dientes 2004 to 2008, becoming executive director in 2006. She began her career in nonprofits as part of an HIV/AIDS prevention project in South Africa, and became executive director of the Human Care Alliance. She serves on the boards of the Health Improvement Partnership and the United Way of Santa Cruz County and is also a fellow of Stanford University's Graduate School of Business, Leadership Institute for Nonprofit Executives.

Elizabeth Mertz, PhD, MA, is an associate professor at the University of California, San Francisco, with a joint appointment in the Department of Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences, School of Dentistry, and in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences in the School of Nursing. She is affiliated with Healthforce Center, the Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies, and the Center to Address Disparities in Children's Oral Health (CANDO). Mertz has researched, published and lectured on a broad range of health professions workforce policy and analysis issues including supply and demand of providers, health care regulation, state and federal workforce policy, access to care, and evolving professional practice models. She has served on a number of advisory and planning committees for organizations such as the Health Resources and Services Administration, the California HealthCare Foundation, The San Francisco Foundation and the Institute of Medicine.

Marko Vujicic, PhD, currently serves as chief economist and vice president of the Health Policy Institute at the American Dental Association (ADA). He came to the ADA from the World Bank in Washington DC. As a senior economist, he directed the global health workforce policy program, which addresses numerous human resources for health challenges in developing countries. Previously, Vujicic was a health economist with the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, where he was part of a team responsible for policy research and support to Ministries of Health in developing countries. He is the lead author of *Working in Health*, a book that examines the effect of fiscal policy on the health workforce in the public sector. He has also worked extensively on broader health systems and health financing issues in Africa, East Asia and the Pacific, South Asia and the Caribbean as well as Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Alan Weil, JD, became the editor-in-chief of *Health Affairs* on June 1, 2014. For the previous decade he was the executive director of the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP), an independent, non-partisan, non-profit research and policy organization. Previously, he directed the Urban Institute's Assessing the New Federalism project, one of the largest privately funded social policy research projects ever undertaken in the US; held a cabinet position as executive director of the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing; and was assistant general counsel in the Massachusetts Department of Medical Security. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and spent six years on the NAM (and its predecessor, the Institute of Medicine) Board on Health Care Services. He is also a member of the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, the board of trustees of the Consumer Health Foundation in Washington, DC, and of the board of directors of the Essential Hospitals Institute.

Anthony E. Wright has served as executive director for Health Access, the statewide health care consumer advocacy coalition, since 2002. Health Access has led state and national efforts to win consumer protections, fight budget cuts and invest in our safety-net, encourage prevention, and advance coverage expansions and comprehensive health reform. Wright led California's coalition effort to help pass the Affordable Care Act and state laws to implement and improve it, and campaigns to successfully pass first-in-the-nation laws to ensure timely access to care, and to stop hospital overcharging of the uninsured. As a consumer advocate and community organizer, Wright has been widely quoted in state and national media. He has also worked for New Jersey Citizen Action, the Center for Media Education, The Nation magazine, and in White House office of Vice President Al Gore.