Manifest MEDEX

Evolution CA 2026: Bay Area

Building Healthier Communities by Connecting Whole Person Data

Meet Our Speakers

Partnership Spotlights: Data Sharing in Action

SEPTEMBER 30 | 1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

LinkedIn Profile

Kristen Azar, Ph.D.

Vice President, Quality and Performance Excellence
Institute on Aging

Kristen M.J. Azar, PhD, RN, MSN/MPH, CPHQ, FAHA, is Vice President of Quality and Performance Excellence at Institute on Aging (IOA) in San Francisco, a nonprofit organization delivering person-centered, integrated health, social, and supportive services to older adults, adults with disabilities, and their caregivers. As IOA's inaugural quality executive, she leads enterprise-wide efforts in quality improvement, performance excellence, patient safety, health equity, research, and organizational learning, while building a comprehensive quality infrastructure designed to improve outcomes and accelerate innovation in aging services.

A nurse scientist, epidemiologist, and nationally recognized healthcare quality leader, Dr. Azar has nearly 20 years of experience advancing quality, safety, population health, and health equity across healthcare and community-based care settings. Prior to joining IOA, she spent more than 16 years at Sutter Health, where she co-designed, launched, and served as the inaugural Executive Director of the Institute for Advancing Health Equity within the Quality and Patient Safety Division. Under her leadership, the Institute grew into a systemwide program focused on reducing health disparities, improving patient experience, and embedding equity into organizational strategy, governance, measurement, and improvement efforts.

Dr. Azar's work sits at the intersection of quality improvement science, implementation science and epidemiology. She has led numerous large-scale initiatives focused on chronic disease prevention and management, social drivers of health, population health, care delivery transformation, and disparities measurement. She has secured federal and non-federal funding, authored more than 60 peer-reviewed publications, and regularly collaborates with health systems, policymakers, researchers, and community organizations to advance equitable, evidence-informed approaches to care. Dr. Azar recently served as a lead author for an Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI)-convened national initiative to develop a standardized framework for measuring health disparities, helping establish a common approach for evaluating health equity performance and the impact of improvement efforts across healthcare organizations.

In addition to her role at IOA, Dr. Azar serves as faculty with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement and as an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of California, San Francisco. She holds graduate degrees in nursing, public health, and epidemiology from Johns Hopkins University and the University of California, San Francisco, and is passionate about advancing learning health systems that translate data, evidence, and quality improvement methods into meaningful improvements in people's lives.

The Sustainable Safety Net — Charting Medi-Cal's Path Through Budget Pressures

SEPTEMBER 30 | 9:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

LinkedIn Profile

Michelle Baass

Director
California Department of Health Care Services

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 14 million Californians on Medi-Cal, the state's Medicaid program.

Ms. Baass leads a team of more than 4,800 individuals at DHCS. Before her appointment to DHCS, Ms. Baass served as Undersecretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency (Agency) from 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.

Ms. 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.

Building the Future of Whole Person Care: Policy, Partnership, and the Path Forward

SEPTEMBER 30 | 2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Website

Mia Bonta

Assembly Member, 18th District
Chair, Assembly Committee on Health,
California State Assembly

Mia Bonta was elected to serve California's 18th Assembly District in a special election on August 31, 2021. The 18th Assembly District encompasses the East Bay area of Northern California. It includes a large portion of the City of Oakland and the cities of Emeryville and Alameda. Assemblymember Bonta's priority is to make California a more affordable, inclusive, and equitable home for all.

Mia has spent her career advocating for students and working families. Mia made Alameda her home more than 20 years ago where she has worked for and led several nonprofit organizations focused on improving educational outcomes for low-income students. Prior to being elected to the State Assembly, Mia served as the CEO of Oakland Promise, a cradle-to-college and career preparation initiative across Oakland public schools. In 2018, Mia was elected to the Alameda Unified School District School Board and she served as Board President from 2018 to 2021. In addition to her professional work, Mia has served on the boards of national non-profits seeking to build power for low-income people like Community Change Action and local providers like Alameda Free Library Foundation. Mia also served as an appointed 18th Assembly District Delegate to the California Democratic Party and on the AD-18 Advisory Committees for Women, Education, and Early Childhood.

Mia's advocacy on behalf of children and working families became the focal point of her campaign for Assembly. Mia has seen firsthand the cracks in the systems intended to lift up the most vulnerable in her community, and she campaigned on priority issues such as fighting homelessness, building more affordable housing, passing transformative criminal justice reform, and combating the threat of climate change. She also intends to prioritize issues in California's public education system so that students and teachers have the resources they need to succeed.

A proud Black Latina, Mia was raised by activists who protested outside the halls of power so that one day, people like her could have a seat at the table inside. Growing up, Mia moved 13 times in 16 years, and with every move she carried what was most precious to her: a crate of books. Education was the one constant in her life, and Mia was fortunate to attend schools that would foster her love of learning and offer her a caring community of teachers and administrators committed to her success. For Mia, education was life-changing, and was what first inspired Mia to become a public servant. Mia holds a B.A. in Psychology from Yale University and went on to pursue an Ed.M from Harvard Graduate School of Education and a J.D. from Yale Law School.

Assemblymember Bonta lives in Alameda with her husband, Rob, and their three children.

The Next Generation of HIOs: Innovation, AI, and Value That Matters

SEPTEMBER 30 | 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

LinkedIn Profile

Jason Buckner

Chief Information Officer
Manifest MedEx

Jason Buckner serves as the Chief Information Officer at Manifest MedEx, where he leads technical strategy and drives innovation in health data infrastructure across the state.

Jason has been at the forefront of the nonprofit HIE industry for over two decades, holding pivotal leadership roles at NC HealthConnex and The Health Collaborative. Throughout his career, he has leveraged deep expertise in interoperability, informatics, and analytics to advance strategic initiatives and bring innovative solutions to some of healthcare's most complex data challenges.

Jason's contributions extend beyond his organizational roles. He has participated in state and national committees, including the California Data Exchange Framework Policies & Procedures Committee and the eHealth Exchange Coordinating Committee, where he helped shape the future of health and human services information exchange and strengthen state health data infrastructure.

Jason holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Queens University of Charlotte.

Opening Remarks | Whole Person Care Without Silos: How Santa Cruz County is Rising to the Moment

SEPTEMBER 30 | 9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.;10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

LinkedIn Profile

Erica Galvez

Chief Executive Officer
Manifest MedEx

Erica Galvez is the Chief Executive Officer at Manifest MedEx and has extensive experience in health information exchange and interoperability. Erica has served in leadership roles at Manifest MedEx since 2017, previously as Chief Operating Officer, Chief Strategy Officer, and Chief of Staff. She has been instrumental in guiding the organization's growth and expansion while ensuring MX delivers increasing value to customers. Prior to joining MX, she led the HIE work for Aledade, with ACOs spanning 15 states and accounting for more than $1.5B in annual health care spending. She led efforts that tripled the company's hospital connectivity and evolved the use of health information to reduce avoidable hospitalizations and emergency department encounters.

Prior to Aledade, she led the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT's (ONC's) Interoperability Portfolio. She also served as one of the directors of ONC's State HIE Program and as program manager for AHIMA's State-Level HIE Consensus Project. Erica came to the HIE space through years of healthcare quality and patient safety research at The Joint Commission. She holds a master's from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and a Six Sigma yellow belt from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Partnership Spotlights: Data Sharing in Action

SEPTEMBER 30 | 1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

LinkedIn Profile

Amie Miller, Psy.D.

Executive Director
California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA)

Dr. Amie Miller is the executive director of the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA), where she leads the organization's initiatives to help county behavioral health departments increase Californians' access to the best care possible when they need it.

CalMHSA is a state government entity that works to advance the public behavioral health system by creating technical solutions, operational innovations, training, and statewide prevention campaigns for counties. Dr. Miller has been instrumental in CalMHSA's development of a semi-statewide electronic health record system; the first statewide Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist certification program; training and guidance for county compliance with the state's California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal initiative; and statewide public awareness campaigns focused on decreasing stigma and expanding mental wellness.

Previously, she served as Behavioral Health Director for Monterey County, where she realigned efforts to better serve the area's highest poverty zones, collaborated with local schools to increase the number of individuals served, redesigned fiscal models, expanded the number of Crisis Intervention Trained law enforcement officers, and enhanced clinical practices.

Prior to that, Dr. Miller served Monterey County for nearly a decade as a therapist and quality improvement coordinator. She is a licensed marriage and family therapist and holds a Doctor of Psychology degree.

Whole Person Care Without Silos: How Santa Cruz County is Rising to the Moment

SEPTEMBER 30 | 10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

LinkedIn Profile

David Nessim, MD, MBA

Medical Director
Central California Alliance for Health

Dr. David Nessim is a Medical Director at Central California Alliance for Health. He is a board-certified pediatrician and clinical informaticist with more than 20 years of experience leading health care quality, population health, clinical operations, and digital transformation initiatives across public and private health care organizations.

Dr. Nessim served with the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), where he led clinical quality and health equity initiatives, including statewide quality measurement and analytics programs. Prior to DHCS, he was a Medical Director of Informatics at Sutter Health, leading initiatives focused on quality improvement, care delivery, and technology optimization. He also held leadership roles at health care technology companies, overseeing large-scale electronic health record development and implementation efforts nationwide.

Throughout his career, Dr. Nessim has worked to advance patient care through data-driven decision making, technology-enabled solutions, and collaborative clinical leadership. In his current role, he supports initiatives that enhance health care quality, operational effectiveness and member outcomes. His clinical, informatics, and operational experience enables him to bridge health care delivery, data, and technology to improve patient and member outcomes.

Connected Communities: Uniting Schools and HIOs for Youth Mental Health

SEPTEMBER 30 | 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

LinkedIn Profile

Joe Prado

Director
Fresno County Department of Public Health

Joe Prado is the Director of Fresno County's Department of Public Health. In his 29-year career with Fresno County, he has had the opportunity to work in multiple departments: Behavioral Health, County Administrative Office, Public Works and Planning, and currently Public Health. Joe leads multiple local cross-sector partnerships in addressing social drivers of health (SDoH) with local transportation agencies, school districts, social services, community-based organizations, healthcare providers and behavioral health. Joe leads the development of the Fresno County's Community Information Exchange (FCIE) for data sharing and research to improve care coordination through various cross-sector partnerships.

Joe has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from CSU Fresno in Psychology.

Whole Person Care Without Silos: How Santa Cruz County is Rising to the Moment

SEPTEMBER 30 | 10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

LinkedIn Profile

Jessica Randolph

Director of Administrative Services
Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency

Jessica Randolph is the Director of Administrative Services for the Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency (HSA), where she serves as a member of the Agency's executive leadership team. She oversees a broad portfolio that includes fiscal services, human resources, contracts, information technology, facilities, policy development, emergency preparedness, and administrative operations in support of an agency with more than 600 employees and a budget exceeding $300 million. During her nearly two decades with Santa Cruz County, Jessica has led numerous complex organizational initiatives focused on improving operational effectiveness, strengthening cross-departmental collaboration, and advancing innovative approaches to public service delivery.

Jessica has been instrumental in advancing data-sharing and interoperability initiatives that support more coordinated, whole-person care across Santa Cruz County. She has helped lead the County's transition to Manifest MedEx, implementation of new health information exchange partnerships, and the development of the County's Bridge Project to expand secure data sharing across health care, behavioral health, public health, and social service programs. She also leads strategic initiatives related to the County's indigent care system, including MediCruz, hospital partnerships, and the modernization of Access to Medical Care Agreements, helping the County to respond to evolving healthcare delivery models, CalAIM, and changing federal and state funding landscapes. Jessica is passionate about building partnerships that break down traditional silos, improve care coordination for vulnerable populations, and leverage technology and data to create a more integrated, efficient, and person-centered system of care.

Whole Person Care Without Silos: How Santa Cruz County is Rising to the Moment

SEPTEMBER 30 | 10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

LinkedIn Profile

Darlene Torres Voss

Director of Community Health Services
Salud Para La Gente

Darlene Torres Voss (she/ella) is Director of Community Health Services at Salud Para La Gente (Salud), a Federally Qualified Health Center serving California's Central Coast. She is a devoted healthcare and community health leader with more than a decade of experience advancing health equity, access, and whole person care for underserved communities.

At Salud, Darlene leads a diverse portfolio of programs designed to address the barriers that impact health both inside and outside of the traditional healthcare setting. These programs include Medi-Cal enrollment and renewals, community health worker services, food and nutrition access, housing navigation, health education and coaching, chronic disease prevention and management, school-based wellness, and connections to social and community resources.

Darlene also helps develop and strengthen programs that integrate social drivers of health into healthcare delivery, ensuring patients and families receive support that reflects the realities of their everyday lives.

Throughout the community, Darlene works closely with healthcare providers, health plans, schools, food banks, community-based organizations, and other regional partners to build stronger systems of care and improve coordination across sectors. Her leadership has focused not only on expanding access to services, but also on developing sustainable workflows, strengthening community health worker infrastructure, and creating meaningful connections between clinical teams and community resources.

At the heart of Darlene's work is a belief that improving health requires us to look beyond the walls of the clinic. She is passionate about moving healthcare upstream—addressing food insecurity, housing instability, healthcare coverage, education, and other social factors before they become health crises.

A longtime community advocate and nonprofit board leader, Darlene brings a collaborative, culturally responsive, and community-centered perspective to healthcare transformation. She is deeply committed to ensuring that the voices and lived experiences of the communities we serve remain central to how programs, partnerships, and systems of care are designed.

Partnership Spotlights: Data Sharing in Action

SEPTEMBER 30 | 1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

LinkedIn Profile

Daniel Welch

Director, IT Business Integration
Santa Clara Family Health Plan

Daniel Welch is Director of IT Business Integration at Santa Clara Family Health Plan, where he leads technology and data initiatives supporting interoperability, regulatory compliance, clinical data exchange, and healthcare operations. With nearly two decades of experience in healthcare information technology, Daniel works across business and technical teams to connect systems, improve access to actionable data, and translate complex technology initiatives into practical solutions for health plan operations and member care.

At Santa Clara Family Health Plan, Daniel has helped lead the organization's expansion of health information exchange capabilities, including its partnership with Manifest MedEx. His work includes implementing clinical and administrative data exchange, advancing ADT and clinical data integration, supporting quality and risk adjustment initiatives, and expanding interoperability with providers and community partners. He focuses on ensuring health information exchange delivers measurable operational value and gives teams the information they need to better serve members and providers.