

Presenter Biographies

APS Leaders Institute Workshop – Jun 11, 2024 Multi-Disciplinary Team Nuts & Bolts: How to Start and How to Level-Up

Carey Aldava is the Program Manager of Ventura County Adult Protective Services who holds a Master of Science degree in Gerontology and has 25 years of professional social work experience. She has enjoyed working with elders and is passionate about educating the community on elder abuse and its prevention and would like to continue making strides in the field to eliminate elder abuse as well as contribute to public policies that strengthen existing elder abuse laws. Carey brings this energy and experience to the professional development of her program staff. She believes the wisdom that can be gleaned from elders is priceless in helping to advance the next generation and one of the greatest honors in life is to give back to vulnerable elders in the community by providing a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Kelly Carpenter is the Program Manager for Adult Services in Nevada County. Kelly has a master's in health administration/gerontology and has worked for Nevada County in Adult Services for the last 17 years. The Adult Services Department has four programs to support our seniors and people living with disabilities: Adult Protective Services, In-Home Support Services, Senior Outreach Nurse Program, and our Public Guardian office.

Maria Loera holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of California, Riverside, and a Master's degree in Public Administration from California Baptist University. Maria currently serves as the Adult Protective Services (APS) Policy and Quality Assurance Regional Manager in Riverside County, CA. In addition to her administrative role, she also provides oversight for many of the multidisciplinary teams within Riverside county including the Elder Abuse Forensic Center. Specific areas of interest include enhanced service provision, consistency in practice, and program improvement through the use of technology and innovation.

Carol Sewell is Director of Policy and Project Coordinator for the California Elder Justice Coalition's (CEJC) A*Team, a federally funded project to eliminate systemic barriers to elder justice. Prior to her role with CEJC, Carol worked for over 15 years as Legislative Director for the California Commission on Aging, where she helped to secure the success of a number of elder justice initiatives, including requiring mental health provider training in detecting and reporting elder abuse, securing a four-fold increase in state training dollars for adult protective service workers, increasing funding and autonomy for the California State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, and facilitating an ongoing series of educational "brown-bag" sessions on elder abuse issues for legislative staff. Over her 30-year career working on state policy, her primary focus has been on social justice. She previously served more than ten years as legislative staff in the State Assembly and for Governor Gray Davis. She also serves as part-time Gerontology faculty at California State

University, Sacramento. Carol earned her master's degree in Gerontology from the Davis School of Gerontology at the University of Southern California.