

Presenter Bios for January 21, 2026 Workshop Including Older Adults in County Behavioral Health Planning

Sarah Steenhausen

Sarah Steenhausen serves as Deputy Director of the Division of Policy, Research, and Engagement, California Department of Aging. In this role, she collaborates with state departments and stakeholders in developing policy and research impacting older adults, people with disabilities and family caregivers to advance system change and realize the goals of California's Master Plan for Aging. Previously, Sarah served as Director of Policy and Advocacy at The SCAN Foundation where she focused on working towards policy solutions to improve the system of care serving older adults and their family caregivers.



Sarah began her policy career in 2001 as a Consultant to the Senate Subcommittee on Aging and Long-Term Care. After her tenure in the Legislature, she served as Assistant Secretary for Long Term Care at the California Health and Human Services Agency, and later as Assistant Director for Strategic Planning at the Department of Developmental Services. Sarah's interest in the field of aging grew from her experience with the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) where she served as the Community Education Coordinator at Legal Assistance for Seniors in Oakland. Sarah holds a Master of Science in Gerontology from the USC Davis School of Gerontology.

Ana Acton

Ana Acton is the Assistant Deputy Director for the Division of Policy, Research, and Engagement (DPRE) at the California Department of Aging (CDA). Under this division, Ana oversees the Policy Branch and Master Plan for Aging Branch with a focus on development and implementation of California's Master Plan on Aging and other strategic goals and priorities that impact older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers. Central to this role, Ana collaborates and engages with stakeholders through the six Master Plan for Aging advisory committees. Ana has extensive experience in



disability and aging leadership, policy, and programs at the state and local levels. Working with federal and state partners, California's aging and disability networks, and stakeholders, Ana is committed to supporting older adults and people with disabilities to access home and community services and bring their skills, talents, and experiences to their communities.

Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Ph.D.

Dr. Clark Harvey received a B.A. in psychology, from Cal Poly Pomona, and a M.S. in community counseling and Ph.D. in counseling psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

While pursuing her Ph.D., she was licensed as a Professional Counselor and practiced in community and hospital settings in Wisconsin for 5 years. She completed a pre-doctoral internship at USC's Children's Hospital Los Angeles and a post-doctoral fellowship at UCLA's Mattel Children's Hospital.

Dr. Clark Harvey was a Social Justice Fellow at the Center for Policy Analysis where she researched the mental health provisions of the Affordable Care Act. She was a Science and Technology Fellow at the California Senate. She was a Principal Consultant in the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development (BPED) Committee. She served as the Chief Consultant to the Assembly Committee on Business and Professions before transitioning to the California Behavioral Health Association where she served as the Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs before her appointment as CEO. She also serves as the Executive Director of the California Access Coalition.

Dr. Clark Harvey was appointed by the California Lieutenant Governor to the CIRM Board, and is a past appointee to SAMHSA's Advisory Committee for Women's Services. She is a Board member of the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, California Association of NonProfits and is a past Board member of the American Psychological Association, Association of Black Psychologists, First 5 California Advisory Committee, Sacramento Children's Coalition and Sacramento County Public Health Advisory Committee. She is an alumna of the Nehemiah Emerging Leaders Program and an American Leadership Forum fellow.

