



## **L.A. Health Collaborative SPEAKER BIOS**

**Bonnie Bilitch, RN, MSN**, is the chief executive officer for the Los Angeles County + University of Southern California (LAC+USC) Medical Center, the 650-bed flagship hospital of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. She first joined the County family as a student nurse worker while attending the Los Angeles County School of Nursing. After graduation, Bonnie trained as a critical care nurse and worked in the Cardiothoracic Unit of LAC+USC. Over the past 30 years, she gained progressive experience in both clinical and administrative settings. Her past assignments have included Nurse Manager, Director of Nursing Administration, Outpatient Services Administrator, Director of Risk Management, Chief Clinical Operations Officer, and Interim Chief Operating Officer. She is passionate about providing high quality services to vulnerable patient populations. Bonnie has a bachelor of science degree in nursing from California State University, Fullerton and a master of science degree in nursing administration from California State University, Los Angeles.

**Cynthia Buiza** is the executive director of the California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC). CIPC is a constituent-based statewide immigrant rights organization with offices in Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego and Oakland. Cynthia has over two decades of experience in non-profit management and human rights advocacy. She worked on international refugee, migration, human rights, and civil rights issues in Southeast Asia before becoming the Policy Director for the San Diego regional affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union. Cynthia was also the Policy and Advocacy Director at Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) in Los Angeles from 2007-2010. For the past three years, she worked as a consultant for various immigrant rights and civil rights institutions and social justice organizations in California and the U.S., helping shape their strategic direction and plans for sustainability. Cynthia earned a master's degree in international affairs from the Fletcher School at Tufts University, with a concentration on human security studies. She holds a bachelor of science degree in social work from the Philippines and a Certificate in Refugee and Migration Studies from the Oxford University Refugee Studies Centre. In June 2003, Cynthia co-authored the book *Anywhere But War*, about the armed conflict and internal displacement in the Indonesian Province of Aceh.

**Maria Calleros** is senior director of safety net initiatives at L.A. Care Health Plan, the largest public Medi-Cal plan in the United States, with over a million enrolled members. The Safety Net Initiatives department was created in 2012 to implement L.A. Care's mission to support safety net providers that care for the most vulnerable low-income members. In this role, Maria oversees strategic initiatives and partnerships aimed at facilitating operational and strategic delivery system improvements in the safety net provider space. Maria has over 25 years of professional experience in managed care operations and administration of public health programs. Prior to joining L.A. Care, she worked for over 16 years at CalOptima, a Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan in Orange County, and was responsible for directing and executing operational, strategic and business development initiatives in connection with Medi-Cal managed care. She was also a senior consultant at Health Management Associates where she advised private health plan clients in multiple states on their Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program business. Maria holds a bachelor of science degree from the University of Southern California and a master of public health degree from the University of California, Los Angeles.

**Kevin Castillo** is a 2016-17 health ambassador fellow and currently works with Clínica Romero, specifically working in the Boyle Heights and Pico-Union areas. Kevin has focused on providing “Know Your Rights” and “Know Your Health Care Rights” presentations in various community settings. Kevin arrived in the United States in November 2011 at the young age of 14 years with the dream of living a better life. Kevin is currently a student at California State University, Los Angeles and is studying business administration, with an option in accounting and a minor in finance.

**Marianna Garcia** is a project coordinator for the Dream Resource Center’s health initiatives component. Committed to empowering underserved communities, she brings extensive community advocacy and outreach experience in the fields of immigration, education, and health. Marianna is passionate in helping immigrant communities improve their health and advocate for increased access to health care programs and services. Prior to working for the UCLA Labor Center, Marianna coordinated preventative and intervention projects in clinical and community settings. A native from San Diego, Marianna earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles.

**Ana Grande** is the policy and community organizing director for Clínica Monseñor Oscar A. Romero. She is responsible for developing and advancing Clínica Romero’s policy platforms and community organizing strategies, and integrating this work into the organization’s preventive and primary health care services. Ana is also responsible for maintaining the existing community relations, locally and in El Salvador, while implementing new programs and community partnerships. Prior to joining Clínica Romero, Ana worked as an organizer in community, civic, electoral, and faith-based environments since 1987. Her expertise includes ethics, leadership development, policy analysis, and organizing strategies. Her passion toward community and health access have gained recognition for Clínica Romero’s promotora and organizing models at the national, state, and local levels. Ana received a bachelor of arts in political science and a master of arts in humanities from Mount St. Mary’s College. She is currently pursuing her doctorate at Creighton University.

**Mayra Joachin** is a staff attorney with the National Immigration Law Center (NILC). As such, she focuses on improving access to affordable health care coverage for uninsured immigrants. She engages in policy analysis, consumer advocacy, direct work with affected individuals, and impact litigation to improve health care access. Before joining NILC as a Columbia Law Social Justice Fellow in 2015, Ms. Joachin interned at the Public Law Center’s Immigration Unit and was a judicial extern for Judge Denny Chin of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Her passion for immigrants’ rights advocacy stems from her experiences as a Salvadoran immigrant. Ms. Joachin holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of California, Los Angeles and a juris doctor from Columbia Law School.

**RJ Ronquillo**, a 2016-17 health ambassador fellow, works with the Asian American Pacific Islander community through Asian Americans Advancing Justice-LA alongside the Health Access Project (HAP), where he informs communities on health programs and educates undocumented immigrants about their rights to access health services. RJ is currently working on creating a resource guide that focuses on mental health services for undocumented communities in the region.

**Ana M. Suarez, LCSW**, joined the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health in April 2005. In her current role as district chief, Ms. Suarez oversees the mental health services provided by contract providers and directly operated clinics in the southeast region of Los Angeles County. Prior to her employment with the County, Ms. Suarez spent 20 years working in the mental health contract provider network beginning as a frontline therapist to eventually becoming an executive director. Ms. Suarez is responsible for the creation of the first directly operated Mental Health Promotores Program in the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health.