

# MAKING THE DIFFERENCE

*Taking Stock of the Aging Policy Landscape*

Friday, January 24, 2025 • Nile Hall, Preservation Park, Oakland

## AGENDA

### **9am – Welcome & Opening Remarks**

Speaker: Wendy Peterson, Director, Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County

### **9:15 – Keynote and Plenary**

#### ***Centering People in a Changing Policy Landscape***

Keynote: Kevin Prindiville, Executive Director, Justice In Aging

#### ***Key Conversation: A Policy Maker's Perspective***

Speaker: Supervisor Elisa Márquez, Second District Supervisor, Alameda County Board of Supervisors

Moderator: Monica Kirkland, State Policy Director, Senior Services Coalition

### ***Panel I: Navigating a Changing Policy Landscape***

Panelists: Kimi Watkins-Tartt, Director, Alameda County Public Health • Faith M. Battles, MSW, Assistant Agency Director, Alameda County Department of Adult & Aging Services • Lara Calvert, Executive Director, Spectrum Community Services • Levon Gibson, Fremont Aging & Family Services Administrator • Sophay (Pai) Duch, LCSW, Sr. Manager of Care Management Programs, Institute On Aging

Moderator: Katherine Kelly, Director of Government Affairs, On Lok

### ***Panel II: Community Voices***

Panelists: Keith Arivwvine, President, Council of Elders, St. Mary's Center • Sheila Gay, Secretary, Council of Elders, St. Mary's Center • Arlene Hipp, Community Activist, St. Mary's Center

Moderator: Ruby Rodriguez, Hope & Justice Organizer, St Mary's Center

### **12:30 – Discussion Café**

Lunch & Small Group Discussions

### **1:35pm – Community Wall & Report Outs**

### **1:50pm – "I Rely On" Content Capture**

### **2:00pm – Close**

*Making the Difference* convenes community-based service providers, health care professionals, health, housing and social services agency leaders, policy makers and community members in Alameda County. Together we'll examine the challenges and opportunities we face as we transform our systems and our communities to serve older people, exploring these topics in terms of their practical relevance in Alameda County.

**WIFI: NILE2 | PW: 510-874-7582**

**Find full bios for our speakers and conference materials at  
our website: [tinyurl.com/325zpf33](https://tinyurl.com/325zpf33).**

---

**MADE POSSIBLE WITH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF:**



**County Supervisor Nate Miley, District 4**

## **About our Honored Guest**

### **Supervisor Elisa Marquez**

A lifelong, locally educated resident of District 2, Alameda County Supervisor Elisa Márquez proudly represents the vibrant communities of Hayward, Newark, Union City, as well as Fremont's Ardenwood, Bayside, Canyon Heights/Vallejo Mills/Niles Crest, East Industrial, Lakes & Birds, Northgate, and Warm Springs neighborhoods.

Throughout her two decades of public service, Supervisor Márquez has championed the creation of safer, more sustainable communities with affordable homes, solutions to homelessness, and a thriving, green economy with good paying jobs.

Prior to her unanimous appointment to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Márquez served as a Planning Commissioner, Hayward City Councilmember, and Ava Community Energy.

She continues to advocate for real solutions to our housing challenges at the county level, including expanding options that lower costs and increase home ownership to help reduce crime, blight and struggle.

As the Chair of the Public Protection Committee, Supervisor Márquez is focused on a "smart on crime" approach, ensuring that first responders, public safety professionals and crisis communicators have the support, technology and training needed to keep our communities safe, while also investing in safety-net programs and infrastructure like St. Rose Hospital to help lift people up from hardship.

Supervisor Márquez is also passionate about access to high-quality education for all as a daughter of an immigrant family with a deeply rooted strong work ethic. She holds a Master's degree in Public Administration and is deeply committed to making local government work better with residents, workers, and city officials who share her vision of a safer, cleaner, brighter future for Alameda County.

## **About Our Keynote Speaker**

### **Kevin Prindiville**

Kevin joined Justice in Aging in 2006 and became Executive Director in 2013. As Executive Director, Kevin works to promote Justice in Aging's mission with communities, partners, policymakers, funders, donors and the media. Kevin is passionate about issues of poverty, justice and equity. Kevin has a long history of developing partnerships and directing impactful strategic advocacy efforts. The author of numerous articles, reports and briefs, he frequently testifies before legislators, presents at national conferences and works closely with both federal and state policymakers. He is quoted often in national media.

Kevin's interest in aging is rooted in his family. He is from a large Bay Area family that cherished time together above all else and that modeled deep respect for older generations. His family and the broader community he grew up in impressed upon him the values of social justice and service that still drive him today.

Before coming to Justice in Aging, Kevin worked as a Staff Attorney at the Pennsylvania Health Law Project representing low income individuals to afford and access health care services. Kevin is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School and University of California, San Diego. Kevin served on Governor Newsom's Master Plan for Aging Stakeholder Advisory Committee, and is a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance and the American Society on Aging. From 2022-2023, Kevin was a Mel King Fellow.

Kevin lives in Oakland California and is an annoyingly proud Bay Area native. He enjoys spending time with his wife, two teenage daughters and two energetic dogs. Most mornings you can find him running a lap or two around Lake Merritt, enjoying the beauty and community of Oakland and the peace that comes from a nice, long run.

## About Our Moderators

### Monica Kirkland

Monica Kirkland serves as the State Policy Director for the Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County, with over 15 years of active involvement in the Northern California community. Her diverse background in organizational leadership, community engagement, government relations, and ministry has equipped her to drive meaningful change across various platforms. Monica has held leadership roles in nonprofit organizations, served on boards, and currently sponsors a local nonprofit, demonstrating her commitment to community empowerment.

Her passion for policy and advocacy has deepened her professional journey. Central to her mission is amplifying the voices of older adults, ensuring their concerns and needs are heard and addressed.

### Katherine Kelly

Katherine Kelly, Director of Government Affairs, joined On Lok in 2013. In this role, she leads On Lok's Government Community Affairs Team to increase On Lok's visibility and leadership in advocating for policies that support older adults as they age, enhance On Lok's relationships with elected officials and partners in the community, and provides support for On Lok's engagement in policy and planning efforts at the national, state, and local levels. Katherine serves as Planning Committee Chair for the biennial Bay Area Senior Health Policy Forum and is a committee member for the National PACE Association and CalPACE Public Policy Committees, a Steering Committee member for the Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County, a member of the Alameda Council for Age-Friendly Communities and represents On Lok as part of The SCAN Foundation's California Advocacy Network.

Prior to joining On Lok, Katherine served as a Senior Field Representative for U.S. Representative Susan A. Davis for eight years. In this role, she served as the Congresswoman's public liaison and advisor on issues concerning health care, seniors, Medicare, disability rights, armed services, and animal welfare. Katherine holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from San Diego State University.

In her spare time, Katherine enjoys practicing yoga, traveling with friends and family, gardening, embroidery projects and rooting for the San Francisco Giants.

### Ruby Rodriguez

Ruby Caroline Rodriguez (She, They), a second-generation immigrant with parents from El Salvador and Guatemala, is an organizer with four years of experience at St. Mary's Center. Inspired by her parent's financial struggles and her own experiences with housing insecurity, discrimination, and displacement in Orange County, Ruby is dedicated to dismantling systems that perpetuate racialized poverty, housing inequities, and economic injustice. A proud CSU Fullerton alumna, Ruby began her organizing journey during the 2016 primary election and honed her skills in 2018 by mobilizing students and teachers to help pass Garden Grove's first sanctuary school district for undocumented students. At St. Mary's Center, she empowers seniors who have faced homelessness to become powerful advocates and community leaders.

Through storytelling, leadership training, political education, and advocacy, Ruby equips them to shape policies addressing homelessness and systemic inequities. Committed to fostering a racially equitable society, Ruby ensures the most marginalized voices are not only heard and valued but lead the movement for transformative social change.

## **About Our Panelists**

### **Kimi Watkins-Tartt**

Kimi Watkins-Tartt serves as Director of the Alameda County Public Health Department. In this capacity she is responsible for providing overall direction, planning and organization of the programs and operations of the Public Health Department.

Prior to this, and in the role of Deputy Director, Ms. Watkins-Tartt was responsible for the oversight of the department's programmatic divisions which include Family Health Services, Community Health Services, Public Health Nursing and Communicable Disease Control and Prevention. Additionally, Ms. Watkins-Tartt oversaw the management of internal department policies, program budget, grant coordination and personnel management.

Ms. Watkins-Tartt has worked for over 25 years within the local public health community and brings a wealth of experience in public health administration, policy development, as well as community health planning and coordination. Prior to taking on the role of Deputy Director, Ms. Watkins-Tartt led the Division of Community Health Services, driving the division's strategic initiatives including the launching of new efforts that aligned with the department's strategic direction to achieve health equity. Ms. Watkins-Tartt was instrumental in helping the department design and implement its health equity and local policy efforts and spearheaded the department's first Chronic Disease Prevention Planning process. Ms. Watkins-Tartt has a long-standing passion and commitment to health equity and social justice. She is a founding member and current Co-Chair for the Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative (BARHII) and serves as Vice Chair of the Health Equity and Social Justice Committee of the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO).

### **Faith Battles**

Faith brings 25 years of leadership experience in social services, with expertise in program management, organizational development, and service delivery for diverse populations in public child welfare and adult and aging services. Over the past five years, she has focused on advancing the field of adult and aging services, overseeing several programs that address the unique needs of older adults, caregivers, and individuals with disabilities in Alameda County. Her leadership has driven improvements in service accessibility, resource coordination, and program innovation to enhance quality of life for these populations.

As Assistant Agency Director of over 300 employees, Faith is committed to fostering collaboration and transparent communication across departments. She champions empathetic leadership and works to create systems that support both staff and the communities they serve.

Faith is also a dedicated mentor who empowers emerging leaders to assess their strengths, develop new skills, and navigate complex organizational dynamics. She provides coaching in key areas such as management practices, strategic planning, effective communication, and leading executive-level initiatives. Her approach emphasizes thoughtful decision-making, fostering innovation, and building accountability in large, multifaceted organizations.

### **Lara Calvert**

Lara Calvert is the Executive Director of Spectrum Community Services where the health & safety of older adults and families are the focus. She represents Spectrum on regional and state-wide organizations including: the Association of California Community & Energy Services, Meals on Wheels of California, and the Tri-Valley Non-Profit Alliance.

## **Levon Gibson**

Levon Gibson is the Family Services Administrator for the City of Fremont. Prior to joining the City, Levon served as Division Manager of Adult Protective Services (APS) for Contra Costa County. He started with APS as line staff and a Supervisor in Washington state where he developed and led comprehensive services tailored to prevention, advocacy and enhancement of the quality of life for older adults aged 60 and above, dependent adults aged 18-59, including low-income seniors, veterans, and individuals with disabilities. Levon holds a Psychology degree from California State University Sacramento, as well as a Master of Aging Services Management from the University of Southern California. In his personal time, Levon enjoys spending time with his spouse and two boys and listening to music.

The newly appointed Aging and Family Services Administrator previously served with Contra Costa County and Washington State APS, developing services to enhance the quality of life for older adults, dependent adults, low-income seniors, veterans, and individuals with disabilities.

## **Sophay Duch**

Sophay Duch is the Senior Program Manager at the Institute on Aging in Alameda County, specializing in program development, aging services, and care management. With over a decade of experience, Sophay is dedicated to improving the lives of older adults and individuals with disabilities, helping them live independently and with dignity.

Her work is grounded in a commitment to equity, ensuring marginalized and underserved populations have access to high-quality, culturally responsive care. By fostering partnerships with healthcare providers, community organizations, and local agencies, Sophay builds inclusive networks of support for older adults in Alameda County.

A strong advocate for community-driven solutions, Sophay believes lasting change emerges from within communities themselves. She emphasizes collaboration, trust, and mutual respect in her approach, empowering individuals and organizations to address challenges and create resilient support systems.

Sophay also champions policies that promote fairness and remove barriers to care, such as language or financial challenges. Her goal is to create a healthcare system where every person, regardless of background, receives the care they need to thrive.

Sophay Duch is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). She earned her Master of Social Work (MSW) with a specialization in Community, Organization, and Business Innovation from the University of Southern California.

## **Keith Arivnwine**

Keith Arivnwine (K. Wine), a founding member of the Council of Elders established in 2014, has served as its President for the past six years at St. Mary's Center. Honored in 2023 with the Alameda County Healthcare for the Homeless Hero Award, he was also featured in The New York Times article, "People Tell Us What Homelessness Really Looks Like". Keith has been deeply involved in many St. Mary's Center programs, including the Hope and Justice program and Leadership Academy. He has been a vocal advocate for uplifting the organization in various policy spaces. His mission is to help cultivate and develop new leaders.

## **Sheila Gay**

Sheila Gay, the newly appointed Secretary of the Council of Elders and a graduate of the Leadership Academies at St. Mary's Center is a committed advocate for the homeless. As the leader of the Homeless Taskforce at the San Leandro Church of Christ, she provides essential support, including food, clothing, and placement services, to those in need. A practicing nurse and former instructor at Laney College, Sheila combines her professional expertise with deep compassion to address the complexities of homelessness. A proud UC Berkeley alumna, she emphasizes the importance of comprehensive solutions

that integrate mental health care, social counseling, and housing preparation. With experience on the Accreditation Board for Junior Colleges and partnerships with organizations like the East Oakland Urban League, Sheila is committed to securing resources and keeping homelessness a priority in public discourse. Her mission is to help individuals reintegrate into society and achieve stable residency, fostering meaningful and lasting change.

### **Arlene Hipp**

Arlene Hipp, a passionate community advocate and lifelong learner from Oakland, CA, has dedicated herself to driving change and empowering marginalized communities. A proud alum of leadership programs at St. Mary's Center, Everyone Home, EBHO, and Cal State Hayward, Arlene's journey began with the Home Together Advisory Committee under Alameda County's Continuum of Care. Today, she continues her impact as a Home Together 2026 Committee member. Arlene actively contributes to organizations such as ACCE State, BARHII, EBHO's regional committee, Bay Area Legal Aid (as Board Secretary), the Legal Service Corporation's National Client Council, the Oakland Basic Needs Electoral Committee, East Bay Gray Panthers, and more. Her mission is to educate, organize, and inspire others in the collective fight for racial equity and basic needs.