

United We Ride Mobility Summit

Biographies

BRIAN J. SMITH, AICP

Brian Smith is the Deputy Director, Planning and Modal Programs, for the California Department of Transportation. He oversees the activities of six Divisions with over 350 staff and an annual budget of about \$1.3 billion: Aeronautics, Local Assistance, Mass Transportation, Rail, Transportation Planning, and Transportation System Information. In addition, the Department's System and Organizational Performance Measures Project Manager reports to Brian.

WILL KEMPTON

Will Kempton is the Director of the Department of Transportation. He began his career in transportation with Caltrans in 1973. He held a variety of positions here, eventually serving as Assistant Director for Legislative and Congressional Affairs from 1980 to 1985. In 1985, he joined the Santa Clara Traffic Authority, where he managed a sales tax program that is widely viewed as one of the most successful ever undertaken in the state. From 1992 to 2002 he was a partner in Smith, Kempton and Watts, a lobbying firm that specialized in transportation and development issues. Finally, before coming back to Caltrans, he was Assistant City Manager for the city of Folsom, his hometown since 1992. Throughout his career, Mr. Kempton has been successful in his creative approach to achieving favorable objectives and his ability to build interest group consensus.

SARAH STEENHAUSEN

Sarah Steenhausen has recently been appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger to the position of Assistant Secretary for Long-Term Care, working at the Health and Human Services Agency under Secretary Kimberly Belshe. Sarah will also assume the principal staff role for the Long-Term Care Council and the Olmstead Advisory Committee allowing her to work closely with Agency colleagues and departments, community stakeholders, and legislative partners to advance the collective interest in identifying and addressing barriers that stand in the way of more integrated community-based services for state residents. Ms. Steenhausen has a Masters of Science degree in Gerontology from the University of Southern California and has, most recently, served as consultant to the Senate Subcommittee on Aging and Long-Term Care.

BILL CATHER

Bill began his career with the DMV as a “Driver’s License Examiner” in 1974. Over the next few years he worked as a supervisor in several offices in Southern California, including Culver City, Westminster, Fullerton, Santa Ana, and Los Angeles Hope Street. In 1981, Bill was promoted to a staff management position in Sacramento where he participated in the development of a number of key projects, including the automation of the driver licensing programs. In 1983, Bill was appointed “Facilities Coordinator” for the 175 offices maintained by the DMV statewide. His duties included the development of capitol outlay programs for new and replacement offices.

In 1985, Bill accepted a position as the “Assistant Legislative Officer”. In this capacity he managed the DMV office located in the State Capitol building and learned the fundamentals of representing the Governor and the department before the State Legislature. In 1987, Bill came back to the DMV’s headquarters complex and became “Vehicle Registration Services” program manager which included a staff of over 350 managers, supervisors and technical employees. Then, in 1989, Bill was asked to take over the management of the “Office of Information Services”, which had responsibility for controlling the release of driver license and vehicle registration information from the department’s computer files. This office was created following the tragic death of actress Rebecca Schaeffer when a deranged individual tracked her down and murdered her using a home address obtained by a private investigator who accessed DMV records.

In 1991, Bill was appointed “Assistant Director for Legislation” where he has responsibility for the DMV’s legislative program. The Legislative Office tracks hundreds of pieces of legislation annually, and completes detailed policy and fiscal analyses of those bills having a direct impact on DMV and its operations. Bill works with Members of the Legislature, legislative staff, and representatives from other state departments in developing legislation to serve the citizens of California. Bill is the principle spokesperson for the department on legislative matters and testifies before legislative committees in support of DMV’s initiatives. He continues in that capacity today.

Bill has given of his free time to serve as Director of the DMV Child Care Center, President of the employee-owned Kairon Gnothi Club which operates DMV cafeteria food services, Departmental Chairman of the United Way Campaign, and Chairmen of the Motor Vehicle Conference which is a statewide association of transportation-related agencies from both the public and private sectors. Bill lives in the city of Folsom with his wife JoEllen and their daughter, Allison.

LESLIE ROGERS

Mr. Rogers is the Regional Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) Region IX Office in San Francisco, where he has also served as the Deputy Regional Administrator. Prior to coming to San Francisco, he held the position of FTA Regional

Counsel in New York City and Denver and staff attorney in the Office of the Chief Counsel in Washington, D.C. Leslie's leadership and involvement in the "United We Ride" program to establish relationships and promote coordination between State, Federal, and local partners working on human service transportation, has been instrumental in getting funding and support for this conference. Mr. Rogers is a graduate of Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, and the Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C.

EMORY LEE

Mr. Lee is Executive Officer for the Office of the Regional Director, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services for Region IX. Region IX, with headquarters in San Francisco, includes the States of Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada; the Territories of Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and the Freely Associated States of the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. Mr. Lee first joined the Department in 1971 when he was one of eight HEW Fellows selected in the U.S. for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in Washington, DC. In 1972, he was recruited by the Regional Director (RD) to come to Region IX, where he has remained and has served nine different RDs during his career. As Executive Officer, he assists the RD in coordinating the administration and implementation of the Secretary's policies in Region IX. He serves as the Secretariat for the Federal Regional Council, a consortium of twenty-three different federal departments and agencies in Region IX. He also chairs the Council's Outer Pacific Committee.

PATTY BERG, ASSEMBLYMEMBER

Providing quality services to the elderly and advocate on behalf of the Aging Community has been Assemblymember Berg's passion for many years. In February 2004, she was appointed as Chair of the Aging and Long-Term Care Committee after having served as Vice Chair of the Committee for a year. Prior to her tenure in the Assembly, Ms. Berg was the Founder and Executive Director of the Humboldt and Del Norte Counties Area Agency on Aging, which she directed for 19 years. She also has an extensive background in social work, having worked as a medical and psychiatric social worker in California.

SANDI FITZPATRICK

Sandra Fitzpatrick was hired in August 2004 to be the Executive Director for the California Commission on Aging. Prior to moving to Sacramento she was the Executive Director for the Area 1 Agency on Aging serving the counties of Humboldt and Del Norte. Sandra has over twenty years experience in the administration, design, and evaluation of programs for older adults. She has spoken at national, state and regional conferences on topics related to innovative rural service delivery methods. She has a bachelors and masters degree in communications and has taught courses at Humboldt State University.

CHERI JASINSKI

Cheri started her career in microbiology rising to the position of Public Health Laboratory Director. After a number of years she stepped away from microbiology and has spent the last 24 years in management consulting, breaking away for a time to work with Medicaid programs as the Director of Quality Assurance for Benova, Inc. and then as the National Director of Revenue Management for Apria Healthcare.

Her love for public service brought her to Sacramento in 2002 and to the Health & Human Services Agency. There she participated in the development of California's Olmstead Plan and managed the development of the SB 910 project, where she was the primary author of the Strategic Plan for An Aging California – Preparing for the Retirement of the Baby Boomers. Cheri returned to corporate management consulting in 2004, but the work of her heart is her role as a consultant to the CA Commission on Aging supporting the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Cheri received a BA in Microbiology/Chemistry from Mt. St. Mary's and an MPA from Cal State University, Northridge.

PETER STEINERT

Peter Steinert is the Chair of the Mobility Summit Planning Committee, which put this Mobility Summit together, and the Chair of the Transportation Task Team working to develop strategies to implement the transportation recommendations contained in the Long Range Strategic Plan on Aging. Mr. Steinert currently serves as Chief of the Transit Outreach & Enhancements Branch in the Caltrans Division of Mass Transportation, where his group works on projects, which enhance mobility choices through strategic partnerships. He has also overseen several other branches in that Division. In the 1980's, Mr. Steinert worked in the Division's Planning and Full Mobility Assistance Branch as a Project Manager, implementing a number of programs serving older persons and persons with disabilities. Other Caltrans experience has included acting as Chief of the Transit Programming Branch in the Division of Transportation Programming.

Mr. Steinert's non-Caltrans state experience has included: Statewide Transportation Coordinator for the Department of Developmental Services, and positions at the Department of Aging, DMV, and the Department of Food & Agriculture. In the mid-1970's, he started state service as a social worker at Sonoma State Developmental Center, and also served as Director of the Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Program, and transportation coordinator at the Center. He holds degrees in Business Management and Psychology.

Now, Mr. Steinert will be presenting the high-priority Long Range Strategic Plan on Aging transportation recommendations, and specific implementation strategies developed by the Transportation Task Team.

LOREE LEVY

Loree Levy was appointed Deputy Director of the Public Affairs Branch in November 2002. The Public Affairs Branch is comprised of the Marketing and Constituent Services Office, the Communications Office, the Senior Worker Advocate Office, and the Governor's Committee for Employment of Disabled Persons. Ms. Levy works closely with the Department, California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, and the Governor's Press Office to release information about EDD programs and policies to the news media.

Ms. Levy began her career at EDD in April 2001 when she was appointed Assistant Director of the Communications Office. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Levy spent 15 years in television news. In the Sacramento area, she was an on-air reporter for NBC-affiliate KCRA-TV Channel 3 and a news anchor for "Good Day Sacramento" at KPWB-TV Channel 31. Ms. Levy is a native Sacramentan and holds a Bachelor's degree in Communications from California State University, Sacramento.

BONNIE L. PARKS

Bonnie Parks has served as a management consultant and senior executive in both the private and public sectors for over 20 years. She presently serves as the Executive Director of the Senior Worker Advocate Office, Employment Development Department. This office strives to improve the employment opportunities of workers age forty and over.

She has previously held such diverse positions as Deputy Director of the Legislative Liaison Office at the Employment Development Department, Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Fair Employment and Housing, Senior Consultant for the Pacific Gas and Electric Company and Senior Consultant for the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee. As Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Fair Employment and Housing she was responsible for the implementation of California's laws protecting workers age 40 and over from employment discrimination. In this capacity she promoted diversity training in the private and public sectors to promote understanding of the value of all workers to California's economy. She served on the board of the University of California, Berkeley Alumni Association for three years and on the Sacramento Public Television, KVIE, Business Advisory Board for three years. In both of these positions she provided marketing consulting and fund raising assistance.

She was an appointee to the California State Commission on the Status of Women and was part of a team that wrote and passed into law statutes that gave women the ability to establish financial credit ratings in their own name without the co-signature of a spouse or male relative. She also served on the California Highway Patrol Women Traffic Officer Project, which established the ability of women to become a California Highway Patrol Officer. She graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a Bachelor of Arts and with a Masters of Business Administration. She also has a Life Teaching Credential in Business Administration.

DAVID W. WILDER

David W. Wilder is a resident of San Bernardino County, and currently serves as the Chairman of the County Triple A Advisory Council; is a member of the Triple A Council of California; as well as a member of the State Independent Living Council, where he is serving as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Wilder is blind and physically impaired, and has been an active advocate for elders and individuals with disabilities in the community for a number of years.

CLAY KEMPF

Kempf is Executive Director of the Seniors Council/Area Agency on Aging of Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties. He is the Vice-President of C4A, the California Association of Area Agencies. In addition to his work at the AAA, Clay is a former director of Lift Line, the C.T.S.A. (Consolidated Transportation Services Agency) of Santa Cruz County. Clay is past president of the California Association for Coordinated Transportation, known as CalACT. Clay is also the past president of the Human Care Alliance, a collaborative of over 60 community non-profit agencies working together to maximize the coordination and delivery of human services in Santa Cruz County. Clay is a recognized leader in interagency collaboration, and in advocating for community support for the delivery of services to seniors and individuals with disabilities.

JERRY SMITH

Jerry Smith is a retired corporate training director. He served on Riverside County Office of Aging Advisory Council, and was Past President and member of PSA 2 serving Shasta, Siskiyou, Trinity, Lassen, and Modoc Counties. He is currently a member of California Senior Legislature (serving the same counties) and the 2005 California Senior Legislature Legislative Committee Chair. Jerry also chairs the Local Transportation Agency and Modoc County Transportation Commission. He is a member of the Alturas City Council, and TAAC.

HELEN RUSS

Helen Russ worked for the Employment Development Department for twenty-three years. During that time, she developed and conducted classes in all areas of Supervision and Management Skills, developed a Team Building model used for management teams and project or working teams, facilitated team building, planning and goal setting sessions, and managed a team of supervision and management trainers.

Since her retirement in 1996, she has been an active volunteer with AARP as well as with other nonprofit organizations, using her skills to develop training programs in team building, planning and goal setting and stress and time management. She was the AARP State Training Coordinator from 1996-2002, was Acting Regional Volunteer Director in 2000 and Acting California State President in 2002. She was appointed State President in 2003. She serves on several national staff/volunteer teams, including the Volunteer Restructure Design

Team, the National Leadership Conference Planning Team and the National Training/Facilitation Team.

PETE SPAULDING, CAE

Pete Spaulding has served as CalACT's Executive Director since November 1991. Pete's has extensive experience in transportation program administration, which he has gained over the past twenty-one years. He has worked for the New York State Department of Transportation on rail and specialized transportation programs, including the first round of the then Section 16 b 2 program; as a highway and transit planner for the Elmira-Chemung County MPO in upstate NY; on transportation energy conservation programs for the New York State Energy Office; for the national consulting firm, Moran, Stahl & Boyer, on employer relocation and employee commute programs; and on rural road and transit under the Rural Transportation Assistance Program in Vermont.

He holds Bachelor of Science and Master of Engineering degrees in Civil Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY. Pete is an active member in the Community Transportation Association of America, a member of the State Partnerships Committee of the American Public Transportation Association, and a member of the Rural Public Transportation and Intercity Bus Committee of the Transportation Research Board. He is also an active member of the California Society of Association Executives and the American Society of Association Executives. In May, 2000, Pete was designated as a Certified Association Executive by the American Society of Association Executives.

CHARLES DICKSON

Charles Dickson has been active in the in the community transportation field since 1978. He brings to his position of the Community Transportation Association's Associate Director a broad background in transit. In his previous position with the Maryland Mass Transit Administration, Mr. Dickson was responsible for grants management and the provision of technical assistance to community transit systems on Maryland's eastern shore. He also spent eight years in the southern Illinois community transit arena, planning and directing a multi-county rural public transportation system.

For the Community Transportation Association, Mr. Dickson established the Rural Transit Assistance Program -National Resource Center, The TransNet (a national peer-to-peer technical assistance self-help network), and managed the Transit Assistance Hotline. Mr. Dickson also helped create the Community Transportation Association's training programs and the Certified Community Transportation Manager program: the first managerial certification program in the transit industry.

In his current position, as Director of National Programs, Mr. Dickson oversees operations of the FTA and Department of Labor funded "JOBLINKS" project - a nationally recognized program that provides research and technical assistance to ensure that Americans can use public transportation to reach the workplace; the FTA and HHS funded Information Station and the annual Community Transportation EXPO. M.S. Southern Illinois University -

Carbondale, Community Development, 1982. B.A. University of Maryland College Park, Sociology, 1974.

PAULA HAMMOND

Paula J. Hammond is a graduate of Oregon State University, with a BS in Civil Engineering and is a Professional Engineer. In her 25 years with the Washington State Department of Transportation she has worked in all areas of the department's highway and policy programs.

In her current position as Chief of Staff for the Department of Transportation, Paula serves as adjunct to the Secretary; providing day-to-day leadership and oversight of the agency's administration and communications, with major responsibilities in two areas:

- Primary responsibility for external agency relations, which includes the agency's communications efforts with Tribes, state and local agencies, Transportation Commission, Governor's Office, legislative leadership, congressional members and transportation interest groups.
- Assure that modal divisions have the capacity and strategies for advocacy of their modes, delivery of their programs, and close integration throughout the department. Modal divisions are Aviation, Highways & Local Programs, Public Transportation and Rail, and Freight Strategy and Policy.

Boards and Associations:

- Transportation Improvement Board
- American Public Works Association
- National Research Council, Transportation Research Board's Committee on Citizen Involvement in Transportation
- Women's Transportation Seminar
- Soroptimist International of Olympia, Past President

Awards:

- WSDOT 1996 Leadership Award

Paula's husband Alan is a Professional Land Surveyor. They have three children, Greg, Rachel, and Kerry.

LINDA DEAVENS

Linda Deavens is a member of the Sacramento Adult and Aging Commission, and current chair and past Vice Chair and Treasurer of the CalACT Board of Directors, where she has served almost from its inception over eleven years ago. She is a member of the Transportation Task Team developing and implementing California's Long Range Strategic Plan on Aging, and is a peer trainer specializing in paratransit technology for the Community Transportation Association of America. She is a past chair and co-founder of the El Dorado County Commission on the Status of Women and the Women's Action Council. Ms. Deavens has served most of the past 25 years as Paratransit's Associate Director and has been directly responsible for designing, implementing, and managing all consolidation,

coordination, and service expansion activities of the agency. Among her achievements was obtaining a long-term contract with the California Department of Transportation for CalACT to administer California's Rural Training Assistance Program. This effort has brought over \$1 million of training funds to upgrade the management skills of transportation professionals in the transit and paratransit industry. Ms. Deavens has a long history of involvement in the civil rights and disability rights movements, and been a community organizer for low-income and farm worker communities.

LYDIA CALLIS

Lydia Callis is the CTSA Coordinator and project manager for the Coordinated Transportation Service Agency (CTSA), a new program at SANDAG (San Diego Association of Governments) beginning July 1, 2004. The main objective of the CTSA program is to expand the availability of specialized transportation services by improved use of existing resources through coordination and partnerships. Lydia has worked in the field of *Specialized Transportation* since early spring of 1999. Examples of some of her project management include the Coordinated Transportation Service Agency, Ryan White CARE Act transportation, Welfare to Work transportation studies, San Diego's regional social service inventory and the STRIDE, San Diego web site development. She is a graduate of Western Michigan University, completed the Certificate in Transit and Paratransit Management from Pepperdine University and is a board member of the San Diego Chapter of WTS (Women in Transportation Seminar).

ARUN PREM

Arun Prem is Manager for Governmental Services with Access Services in Los Angeles. Access Services is a private non-profit that provides ADA paratransit service for LA County and is the designated CTSA for the County. Arun manages the CTSA program for ASI as well as Grants, Strategic Planning, Legislative and Governmental Services. For the past three years, he has represented Southern California on the Board of CalACT.

Prior to Access, Arun managed New York City Department of Transportation's (NYCDOT) fixed-route transportation contracts and ADA and alt-fuels programs as program manager, and Pre-K special needs school transportation as Deputy Director.

KATHRYN HEATLEY

Kathryn Heatley is the CEO/President of OUTREACH, one of Santa Clara County's largest non-profit agencies. OUTREACH provides social, financial and transportation services to frail elderly, disabled of all ages, and low-income families and children. The mission is to connect diverse, disabled and disadvantaged persons with the services they need to maintain or improve the independence and dignity. OUTREACH does this with a holistic approach, applying technology and partnerships to achieve the highest benefits its clients and the community. OUTREACH began as a "War on Poverty" program and has been involved in coordinating social and transportation services for over 25 years. Kathryn Heatley has been

associated with OUTREACH since 1977. Her interest in using technology for coordinating resources and for building efficiencies began with her Masters thesis that evaluated and introduced technology and business office automation on campus at Stanford University. She has a Doctorate in Organization and Leadership; a Masters Degree in Public Administration and an undergraduate degrees in Anthropology and Urban Studies/Planning.

LYNN DAUCHER, ASSEMBLYMEMBER

Assemblywoman Lynn Daucher proudly serves the 72nd District, which is located within Orange County and includes the cities of Anaheim, Brea, Fullerton, La Habra, Orange, Placentia and Yorba Linda. Lynn was first elected to the Assembly in 2000 after serving six years on the Brea City Council, including one year as Mayor. She was re-elected by a wide margin to her third term in November 2004.

A teacher by profession as well as a full-time mother of four, Lynn began her career in public service after winning election on the school board for Brea-Olinda Unified School District, where she served for 13 years. A passion for Lynn is ensuring that every child in California has the opportunity to receive a quality education.

Lynn serves as Vice Chair of the Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care and Chairman of the Assembly Select Committee on Olmstead Act Implementation. She is also a member of the Budget Committee, where she is the lead Republican on the Budget Sub-Committee on Education and Finance and a member of the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee. Lynn is happily married to Don, a successful attorney, and they have called Brea home since 1971. They have four children and three grandchildren.

HOWARD POSNER

Howard has a BA in Economics from Brandeis University and an MA in Political Science from Whittier College. He has been in public service for over 30 years, 20 of which were with Caltrans, primarily as the department's Legislative Coordinator. He's worked in several capacities with the State Senate and Assembly and is currently on his second tour of duty with the Assembly Transportation Committee as Principal Consultant. Howard's primary areas of responsibility with the committee are air quality, driver licensing, and vehicle registration.

ALLISON I. RUFF

Allison Ruff received her Bachelor's degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology from Western Washington University. Following the completion of her undergraduate work, she received her Master's degree in Gerontology from the University of Southern California with an emphasis in policy, administration, and program evaluation. Upon graduation, she returned to Washington State to work as a Planning and Development Specialist for Aging and Disability Services, the Area Agency on Aging serving Seattle and King County. Her

primary duties included legislative and policy analysis, grant writing, and program development for housing, long-term care, caregiving, and disease prevention programs.

In 2003, Allison moved once again to California and accepted a position as the Planner for the Area 4 Agency on Aging serving Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sierra, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba Counties. As the Planner, she developed the seven-county needs assessment and Area Plan, and provided legislative analysis to both the organization and the Advisory Council and Governing Board.

In May of 2004, Assemblymember Patty Berg hired Allison as the Principal Consultant to the Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care. Her primary duties center around the development and staffing of legislation for Assemblymember Berg regarding aging and long-term care issues, bill analysis and tracking for the Committee, and the development of the Master Plan on Aging. In addition, Allison serves as a resource for Assemblymembers, advocacy organizations, and community members on aging and long-term care issues.

CHRIS HERRE

Mr. Chris Herre is with Caltrans, Division of Mass Transportation Office of Specialized Federal Transit. Mr. Herre has been Chief of this Office of Specialized Federal Transit for the past 4 years. He oversees the Federal 5310 Program, providing transit funding for organizations serving the elderly and people with disabilities.

JAKE SMITH

Mr. Jake Smith, Caltrans, Division of Transportation Planning, Chief, California Transportation Plan Action Element and Planning/Policy Research. Mr. Smith has over 26 years with Caltrans, including assignments in the Division of Transportation Planning and Division of Mass Transportation. In Mass Transportation, Mr. Smith has worked with the Federal 5310 Program, providing transit funding for the elderly and disabled, and recently as the Branch Chief for the administration of the Transportation Development Act (TDA), a State transit-funding program.

NINA WEILER-HARWELL, M.A.

Nina is a Program Coordinator for AARP California, where she manages a wide variety of special projects for the State Director that range from data collection to Nursing Home Residents Rights. Nina is the AARP California issue lead on Liveable Communities and Older Drivers. A previous member of the Plan Development Task Team, Nina is presently a member of the Older Californian Traffic Safety Task Force and the Transportation Task Team of the Long Range Strategic Plan on Aging. Nina holds a Masters Degree in Political Science from the University of Southern California and is working on her dissertation.

ROBIN PELLETIER, MPH

Robin L. Pelletier currently is serving as a program manager for the Active Living Leadership program. Ms. Pelletier has more than ten years experience in nutrition, school administration and community involvement. Ms. Pelletier also directs the Nutrition Network News, a communication project supporting healthy nutrition activities in San Diego Schools. Prior to this job she served as the Director of Nutrition Intervention for a four-year research study titled Middle School Physical Activity and Nutrition (M-SPAN). Ms. Pelletier currently works with multiple local, state and national agencies, which focus on development and evaluation of interventions in the areas of ethnically diverse populations and school programs. Her primary areas of interest are improving nutrition access and physical activities for communities through environmental and behavioral changes. She is the single mother of Jessica (23 years old) and enjoys a variety of outdoor activities – such as hiking and walking. Her favorite fruit is blackberries and favorite vegetable is pumpkin.

Ms. Pelletier received both a BS in nutrition and exercise sciences and an MPH from San Diego State University. She currently resides in La Mesa, California with her dog, Avery.