



## Speaker & Panelist Bios

### **Kerry Birnbach**

#### **Nutrition Policy Advocate, California Food Policy Advocates**

Kerry works to develop and implement policies aimed at improving CalFresh access and participation. She previously worked as the Interfaith Voices Against Hunger Coordinator at the NYC Coalition Against Hunger. Originally from Berkeley, California, she received a BA from Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon and a Master of Public Affairs from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, Austin. She also served as an AmeriCorps volunteer in Austin. Kerry joined CFPA in January 2011.

### **Adam Dondro**

#### **Assistant Director for Horizontal Integration, California Department of Social Services**

Adam Dondro is the Assistant Director over the California Department of Social Services' Horizontal Integration efforts. He leads the division in their efforts to integrate Health and Human Service programs across program and department boundaries to provide the best overall experience for the client. Adam previously served as the Assistant Secretary of External Affairs for the California Technology Agency where he handled a range of issues including legislative affairs, communications and strategic planning. Prior to that, Adam served as a Consultant for the California Assembly Budget Committee for 5 years handling issue areas ranging from labor and workforce development to transportation. Adam also spent several years as a Policy Consultant in the California State Assembly. He has Bachelor degrees in Political Science and Psychology from California State University, Chico, and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Southern California.

### **Erin Horgan**

#### **Senior Policy Analyst, California Welfare Director's Association of California**

Erin Horgan is a Senior Policy Analyst at the County Welfare Directors Association of California, where she focuses on Self-Sufficiency, including California's CalFresh, CalWORKs, and state subsidized child care programs. Prior to joining CWDA in 2012, Erin was a research manager in behavioral and environmental epidemiology at the UC Davis School of Medicine, and began her career as a social worker for Yolo County's Department of Employment and Social Services. She obtained her undergraduate degree in Psychology from Simpson University in Redding, CA, and holds a Master of Public Health and a Master of Social Work from Tulane University in New Orleans.

### **Will Lightbourne**

#### **Director, California Department of Social Services**

Will Lightbourne was appointed Director of the California Department of Social Services by Governor Jerry Brown in April of 2011. Having served as the director of three county social services agencies as well as being a member of numerous commissions, councils, boards and nonprofits, over the past three decades, he has been deeply involved in a wide range of social welfare issues in California.

Prior to coming to the California Department of Social Services, Director Lightbourne served as Director of the Social Services Agency of the County of Santa Clara for more than ten years. He also served in the

administration of Mayor Willie Brown as Executive Director of the Human Services Agency of the City and County of San Francisco, and as Director of the Santa Cruz County Human Services Agency.

Before his role in the public human services field, Will served as General Director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, one of the oldest and largest private human services organizations in the Bay Area.

### **Kim McCoy-Wade**

#### **Consultant, Alliance to Transform CalFresh**

Kim McCoy Wade is a public policy and philanthropy consultant focused on creating opportunities for low-income children and families. She currently coordinates a coalition, the Alliance to Transform CalFresh, advocating to increase access to nutrition alongside the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (2011-present) and boost SNAP (formerly food stamps) participation in California. In recent years she has written a guide for California after-school and summer programs on new nutrition education funding; analyzed state child care subsidy programs for opportunities to improve access; developed a philanthropy strategy for a California food business; and advised a research project for USDA on SNAP and healthy food. Kim was a founding consultant for two statewide budget coalitions, the HHS (Health & Human Services) Network (2009 & 2010) and Together for California's Future (2008). She also served as the primary consultant to the Walmart Foundation on their new "Fighting Hunger Together" campaign, a \$2 billion commitment to reduce domestic hunger (2010).

Before becoming a consultant in 2008, Kim served as the Executive Director for the California Association of Food Banks, where she held a series of leadership positions over seven years (2001-2008) and helped launch state programs in fresh produce delivery, food stamp outreach, and nutrition education. Kim also led advocacy campaigns at several national organizations based in Washington DC, including the Children's Defense Fund (juvenile justice), the Alliance for Justice (gun violence), and Bread for the World (food stamps). Kim is an alumna of NYU School of Law, Carleton College, the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, and the Emerge California training program.

### **Linda Patterson**

#### **CalFresh Branch Chief, California Department of Social Services**

Linda Patterson is the Chief of the CalFresh Branch. She has worked for the California Department of Social Services and Department of Child Support Services for over 25 years. Her focus over the years has been improving the lives of children in this state. In her previous positions, she managed legislation for all California Health and Human Services Agency Departments (including the California Department of Social Services). Prior to that, she managed state and federal legislation for the Child Support Program and had responsibility for various policy areas, including implementation of a very successful state program, the Paternity Opportunity Program. In the past, she has managed the corrective action function in CDSS to improve performance in the welfare and food stamp programs. Prior to that, she was a Program Manager in the Placer County Welfare Department where she managed all eligibility programs and two offices. She began her career as an Eligibility Worker in Riverside County. She received her Bachelor of Arts from University of California, Irvine.

### **Elliott Robinson**

#### **Director, Monterey County Department of Social Services**

Elliott Robinson has been the Director of Social Services for Monterey County since 2001. Previously, he was the Finance Director for Alameda County Social Services Agency. Elliott has been a long-time member of CWDA, currently co-chairing the CalFresh Committee and previously serving as CWDA President in 2011. He has also been active in APHSA, where he served on the Board of Directors from 2006 through 2012. Over the years, Elliott has been part of the CWDA team that provided leadership in implementation of the 1991 Realignment legislation, and the CalWORKs Performance Incentives; he chaired the ISAWS Consortium through migration to C-IV; has structured financing models to expand health insurance for IHSS home care providers; and has implemented child welfare wrap-around service models in both Monterey and Alameda Counties. He earned his Master in Social Welfare degree in 1988 from University of California, Berkeley and his Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology in 1986 from Stanford University.

## **Audrey Rowe**

### **Administrator, USDA Food and Nutrition Assistance**

Audrey Rowe is the Administrator for the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in Washington, D.C. FNS provides children and needy families with better access to food and a more healthful diet through its 15 nutrition assistance programs and nutrition education efforts. She brings to the Federal government over 20 years of experience in human services policy development, fiscal management, program design, service delivery and marketing with a particular focus on vulnerable populations, low income women, children and youth.

Most recently, Rowe served as Deputy Administrator for Special Nutrition Programs at FNS, leading the effort to pass the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, the legislative centerpiece of First Lady Michelle Obama's *Let's Move!* initiative to end childhood obesity in a generation. Rowe has extensive experience working on issues related to FNS programs. Her leadership has included roles as Human Resources Administrator in New Haven, Connecticut, and Social Services Commissioner for the State of Connecticut and the District of Columbia. In addition, she served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for the National Urban League.