



# News Release

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## **STATE HEALTH DIRECTOR ANNOUNCES NEW APPOINTMENTS TO CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S HEALTH COUNCIL**

SACRAMENTO – State Health Director Sandra Shewry today announced the appointments of seven new members to the California Women's Health Council, a 31-member group of statewide health policy experts who advise and assist the director and California Department of Health Services' (CDHS) Office of Women's Health (OWH).

"I recognize and celebrate the efforts of all members of the Women's Health Council in improving awareness of key women's health issues," said Shewry. "The council brings insight and helps guide our efforts to improve the health status of all women in California."

Established in 1993, OWH provides policy recommendations and research on women's issues that lead to the improved health and well-being of California women and girls. OWH also supports efforts to eliminate health disparities related to race, ethnicity and disabilities.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is committed to protecting the health and well-being of all Californians, and he has invested significant resources in programs that benefit California women. The Governor has also been a leader in promoting women's health by signing key legislation to advance his goal of a healthier California:

- Senate Bill 1245 (Figueroa), which clarifies existing law by expressly requiring health plan coverage to include the HPV test, which detects cervical cancer.
- Senate Bill 246 (Figueroa), which allows hospitals that collect, process, store or distribute human milk from mothers for their own children to comply with standards set forth by the Human Milk Banking Association of North America.
- Senate Bill 1851 (Senate Committee on Health), which modifies a requirement that patients with breast cancer be provided a written summary of alternative methods of treating breast cancer by requiring that it be furnished after cancer diagnosis, not prior to diagnosis.
- Assembly Bill 2251 (Evans), which protects the personal safety of reproductive health care providers, employees, volunteers and patients by prohibiting the posting of these people's personal information on the Internet.

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- Senate Bill 644 (Ortiz), which protects a woman's access to emergency contraception.
- Senate Bill 484 (Migden), which requires manufacturers of cosmetics to provide CDHS with a list of their products that contain ingredients identified as causing cancer or reproductive toxicity.

"Women are disproportionately affected by several chronic diseases and ailments," said Shewry. "These bills will protect women by providing them with the services and care they need to stay healthy."

The following new members were welcomed by Shewry at the council's meeting last month in Sacramento:

- Karen Dalton, Ph.D., CHES, CJM, Los Angeles: She is currently director of the Bureau of Operations at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and has published articles on the connection between crime and public health. In her current position, Dalton educates the public about the high level of health issues encountered by the jail population, including HIV. She previously held positions with nonprofit and consulting organizations responsible for program planning, implementation and training public health and the corrections industry, focusing on Healthy People 2010 goals.
- Crystal Hayling, San Mateo: She is president and chief executive officer of the Blue Shield of California Foundation, which distributes \$30 million annually to a variety of community programs. With 20 years of experience in health policy and philanthropy, Hayling has advocated for women, minorities, low-income families and children through a variety of leadership positions. While at the California Healthcare Foundation, she ran the Medi-Cal Policy Institute, a public policy think-tank charged with improving care for California's lowest income populations. Prior to that, she worked at the California Wellness Foundation where she launched a \$30 million Violence Prevention Initiative that targeted gang violence as a public health threat to youth, not just a criminal justice problem. Hayling is a member of the Grantmakers in Health Board of Directors and the San Francisco Mayor's Universal Healthcare Council.
- Ruth Holton, Sacramento: She is director of public policy for The California Wellness Foundation. Holton has 14 years of experience as a public interest advocate in the fields of maternal and child health, adult education, government reform and consumer protection. She was formerly director of the Peninsula Partnership for Children, Youth and Families, a project of the Peninsula Community Foundation of San Mateo. Between 1989 and 1997, she served as a lobbyist for and later executive director of California Common Cause, an affiliate of the national government watchdog group. During her tenure at Common Cause, she led two successful statewide initiatives for campaign finance reform and ethics. She served as the health lobbyist for the California Children's Lobby, during which she helped lead a successful effort to increase access to prenatal care for low-income women. She currently serves on the board of the California Association of Nonprofits' Nonprofit Policy Council and is chair of the Northern California Grantmakers' Public Policy Committee.

- Adele James, Sacramento: She serves as a program officer for the North State Region of the California Endowment, a private, statewide health foundation of Blue Cross. As the community health and elimination of disparities goal program officer for the North State Region, James conducts outreach to organizations to increase their awareness of funding opportunities; reviews health-related grant proposals from various Northern California-based community organizations; helps develop programs to improve the health of underserved communities; and monitors foundation grants. James is co-chair of the Endowment's Workgroup for Healthier Black Communities and served as a program officer for The Women's Foundation in San Francisco where she managed three California gender-based funds benefiting low-income women and girls. She co-authored Access to Health Care for Women and Girls, a report for the Women's Leadership Alliance in San Francisco, and served on the Women and Girls Health Advisory Committee of the San Francisco Department of Public Health. She was also a National Working Group delegate to the Women's Institute for Leadership Development at the World Conference on Racism in Durban, South Africa.
- Marty Jessup, Ph.D, RN, CNS, San Francisco: She is associate adjunct professor at the Department of Family Health Care Nursing, University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), School of Nursing. Jessup has 27 years of experience in substance abuse treatment and perinatal women's health, policy development and analysis. She has conducted community-based treatment needs assessments and program development and created professional practice guidelines in the area of perinatal substance abuse treatment. Jessup's current research is focused on health issues among women with alcohol and drug problems and systems change for adoption of evidence-based practice. She also serves as a member of the State Medical Director Team for the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs. Jessup completed her undergraduate education in nursing at Columbia University and earned a Ph.D. in nursing from the UCSF. She is a clinical nurse specialist in maternity.
- Judy Patrick, Alameda: She is vice president of programs for the Women's Foundation of California. She leads the foundation's programmatic efforts, which allocated nearly \$2 million in 2005 to nonprofit organizations serving women and girls in California. She has led the foundation's policy work, including the development of the Women's Policy Institute and the development of measures of social change to help the foundation describe the impact of its work and the work of its grant partners. Prior to coming to the foundation, Patrick directed the work of several nonprofits. She was executive director of the San Francisco-based Women's Philharmonic and directed Girls Count, a Colorado initiative to change systems that affect girls' educational achievement and career planning. She also led Mi Casa Resource Center for Women, a Denver organization that advances self-sufficiency, primarily for low-income Latinas and youth. Patrick has worked as a researcher and program evaluator in both the public and private sectors and continues to serve on numerous boards of directors.

- Alina Salganicoff, Ph.D., Alameda: She is vice president and director of Women's Health Policy for the Kaiser Family Foundation. Her work focuses on health policy issues important to women, with an emphasis on health coverage and access to care for underserved women. She also directs the foundation's Kaiser EDU.org project, an online educational resource on health policy. While working as an associate director of the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, Salganicoff wrote numerous book chapters, journal articles and reports on health care access and financing for low-income women and children. She has also served as a member of many different national, state and federal advisory committees on women's health. Salganicoff was a research associate at Johns Hopkins University, on the health program staff of the Pew Charitable Trusts and a trainer and counselor for CHOICE, a Philadelphia-based reproductive health advocacy organization.

For more information about OWH and the Women's Health Council, log on to <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/director/owh>.