

Supporting APS and Adult Services Leaders: Being Strategic
Virtual Workshop
October 24, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Presenter Biographies

Debra J. Baetz – Interim Director, County of Orange Health Care Agency

Debra Baetz began her career with the County of Orange Social Services Agency (SSA) in 1989 and promoted up through the Agency in various roles across SSA's Assistance Programs, Adult Services & Family Self-Sufficiency and Administrative Services Divisions. She held her latest role with the County as SSA's Director from July of 2018 until her retirement in August of 2022.



As SSA Director, Debra led the largest Orange County agency comprised of approximately 4,400 staff who serve one in four county residents. The Agency administers critical public safety net programs and benefits, including CalFresh, CalWORKs, Medi-Cal and General Relief. In addition, SSA is responsible for Adult Protective Services, In-Home Supportive Services and Child Protective Services.

During her tenure with SSA, Debra was appointed to a variety of committees and commissions including First 5 Orange County, Orange County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, California Welfare Directors Association Board of Directors, CalSAWs Joint Powers Authority Board of Directors, United Way, United for Financial Security and the Orange County Children's Partnership.

In July 2023, Debra assumed her current role as the Interim Director of the County of Orange Health Care Agency (HCA). As the HCA Director, she leads a workforce of approximately 2500 staff responsible for the administration of critical services such as, Behavioral Health, Public Health, Correctional Health, Public Guardian and the County's Indigent Program, MSN.

Additionally, Debra is CEO and Founder of Baetz Strategic Consulting, LLC specializing in Strategic Planning, Program Development and Implementation and Operational Assessments and Reorganization.

Debra earned an Associate of Arts degree from Coastline Community College and a Bachelor of Arts degree in public administration from California State University, Fullerton. Most recently, Debra completed her Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree, as part of an Executive MBA fellowship program at the University of California Irvine Paul Merage School of Business

Jill Nielsen, LCSW is the Deputy Director of Programs for the City and County of San Francisco's Department of Disability and Aging Services (DAS) where Jill serves as San Francisco's Public Guardian, Public Conservator, and Public Administrator. Additionally, Jill oversees the In-Home Supportive Services and Adult Protective Services programs. She has worked in the field of aging and disability services for over 20 years, serving in multiple professional capacities focused on protecting the rights of vulnerable adults. She is a long-time member of the California Elder Justice Coalition's steering committee, and has been on the CAPAPGPC board for five years. Jill obtained her Master's in Social Welfare from the University of California, Berkeley and she is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

Jackie Tompkins, PhD, MPH, CPH, MCHES® has serves as a Senior Strategist for the Master Plan for Aging (MPA) at the California Department of Aging (CDA). In this role, she leads the MPA's local

engagement activities, including the Local Aging & Disability Action Planning grant program, provides support for the MPA's monitoring and reporting efforts, and coordinates California's Disability & Aging Community Living Advisory Committee (DACLAC). Prior to CDA, Jackie worked at the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for over 15 years and held a variety of public health positions in the areas of chronic disease prevention and management, nutrition education, and substance use and addiction. With a background in kinesiology and public health and a commitment to delivering public services through an equity lens, Jackie earned her PhD in Public Administration with a dissertation focused on building a disability-competent public health workforce.