

PARTICIPANTS

Mayra E. Alvarez is president of The Children's Partnership, a nonprofit advocacy organization working to advance child health equity so all children have the resources and opportunities they need to grow up healthy and lead productive lives. She serves on the First 5 California Commission, as well as the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC). Previously, she served as part of the Obama Administration at the US Department of Health and Human Services and as a staff member for a number of elected officials at the US Senate and House of Representatives. She is originally from outside San Diego and is the proud daughter of Mexican immigrants. She received her undergraduate degree at the University of California, Berkeley, and her graduate degree at the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Andrew Cheyne is the director of government affairs at the California Association of Food Banks, where he oversees a state and federal policy agenda to address hunger and poverty. His work includes the CalFresh expansion to SSI recipients, which has led to more than 500,000 Californians receiving CalFresh; record investments in the emergency food network; and influencing key provisions in the farm bill and COVID relief legislation to protect and strengthen the food safety net, including the Pandemic EBT program. Previously, he directed the research program at the Berkeley Media Studies Group, a leading media advocacy organization assisting public health advocates achieve policy victories. He holds a BA *cum laude* in American studies from Northwestern University as well as a candidate in philosophy and a master's degree in sociology from the University of California, San Diego.

Caroline Danielson is a policy director and senior fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California. Her research focuses on multiple dimensions of the social safety net, including its role in mitigating poverty, program access and enrollment, and the integration and governance of programs. Her work has been published in numerous academic journals, including the *Journal of Policy Analysis* and the *Social Service Review*. Before coming to PPIC, she was a principal analyst at the University of California's Welfare Policy Research Project and a faculty member in the Department of Politics at the State University of New York, Potsdam. She holds a PhD in political science from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in policy analysis from the Pardee RAND graduate school.

Kim Johnson is the director of the California Department of Social Services. She had previously been appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to serve as the deputy director of the Family Engagement and Empowerment Division and was responsible for the planning, policy direction, and oversight of services to over 4 million individuals, children, and families living in poverty through safety net resources, employment opportunities, and additional engagement strategies. From 2012 to 2015, she was public policy director for the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network, a membership organization that represents local child care resource and referral agencies across the state. She has over 20 years of experience working in various family support and children's programs focused on social justice, equity, and poverty disruption in both community-based organizations and government. She holds a degree in social welfare from the University of California, Berkeley.