



# GRAND OPENING



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
**Aging & Disabilities  
Department**



**"LIVING WITH DIGNITY AND INDEPENDENCE"**





## **VISION**

**“Living with Dignity & Independence”**



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

**Aging & Disabilities  
Department**

## **MISSION**

**“To improve lives and support self-determination for  
older adults, adults with disabilities, and  
communities”**



Supervisor Hahn, Supervisor Solis, Supervisor, Board Chair Mitchell, Supervisor Kuehl, and Supervisor Barger

**THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**CONGRATULATES  
DR. LAURA TREJO, DIRECTOR OF THE NEWLY FORMED  
AGING & DISABILITIES DEPARTMENT**



July 20, 2022

Dear Friends:

Today is a historic day in the County of Los Angeles. Today is the official launch of the Aging & Disabilities Department! A department that will address the needs of older and disabled adults.

Los Angeles is home to over 2 million older adults, and by 2030 the population is expected to double. Also, one in five (22.6%) adults in LA County report having a disability or 1.8 million adults. During the pandemic we saw firsthand the need for services and supports to older and disabled adults and how critical it was to have services centralized for this population.

I could not be happier that this department will address the needs of all older and disabled adults and I have no doubt that with Dr. Trejo's passion and leadership, this department will do great things!

The Aging and Disabilities Department's vision "Living with Dignity and Independence" is what we want for ourselves and our residents!

Congratulations again on this historic day!

Sincerely,



*Holly J. Mitchell*

Supervisor, Second District



## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

822 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
Telephone (213) 974-4444 / FAX (213) 229-3676

**JANICE HAHN**  
Supervisor, Fourth District

July 20, 2022

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the launch of Los Angeles County's first-ever standalone Aging and Disabilities Department. Three years ago, my team and I set out with the task to help elevate and prioritize the needs of the aging community and those with disabilities. Today represents a historic milestone.

This new department will vastly improve our ability to fix Los Angeles County's fragmented delivery system and continue to address the community's needs. We will further build with a centralized approach where residents can receive food assistance, COVID vaccines, LA Found bracelets, and so much more; all in one place.


Thank you to all who were involved in bringing this department to fruition. It will make Los Angeles County more agile, more proactive, more age friendly, and inclusive to all. You have shown great dedication and tenacity by going above and beyond to provide for our most vulnerable residents.

Our new Director, Dr. Laura Trejo brings decades of experience in assisting older adults and those with disabilities at the local, state, and national levels. We couldn't have asked for a better leader.

I want to commend you all for what you do to ensure older adults and those with disabilities can thrive in Los Angeles County. We couldn't have done this without you.

Congratulations and best wishes!

Sincerely,

  
JANICE HAHN  
Supervisor, Fourth District  
County of Los Angeles



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES SUPERVISOR • FOURTH DISTRICT

**JANICE HAHN**



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES SUPERVISOR • FOURTH DISTRICT

**JANICE HAHN**



**Maral Karaccusian**  
**Office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn**  
**Children and Human Service's Deputy**

Maral Karaccusian is a public servant who is deeply committed to the advancement of progressive policies that defend and increase opportunities for marginalized people, children, older adults, and current and former foster youth. She currently serves as the Senior Children and Human Services Deputy for Board Chair Supervisors Janice Hahn where she focuses on developing and implementing policies for early care and education, child welfare, domestic/intimate partner violence, social services, and issues surrounding older adults with the ultimate goal of trying to ensure that the County's safety net and services is reaching those who need it the most.

Prior to joining the Supervisor's office, Maral worked for Congressmember Karen Bass where she served as district director. As a social worker, Maral taught life skills to transitional-age foster and probation youth, worked in a group home, served as an educational advocate for foster and probation youth, and saw firsthand how policies impact the County's youth, families, and communities.

Maral holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and political science from the University of California, Los Angeles and a master's degree in social work from the University of Southern California. At USC, she won the Gladys M. Salit Award, which recognizes students who have demonstrated academic excellence, outstanding field work performance, and exceptional leadership and creativity.



Laura Trejo came to Los Angeles from El Salvador with her Cuban mother at age eleven, speaking no English, and immediately set her sights on attending the University of Southern California, a goal she has now achieved in spades. Trejo is a triple Trojan, with a BA and MS in Gerontology and a Master of Public Administration (MPA), and is receiving her fourth degree from USC in 2022, a Doctorate of Social Work (DSW), making her among the elite few to achieve this distinction.

"I was this girl living in the southeast of Los Angeles and I said, 'I'm going to go to that school and if they don't accept me, I'm going to get a job and I'm going to keep applying until they do. I really was not applying anywhere else. That was high-risk behavior for a Latina girl on the Eastside,'" Trejo recalled with a laugh. "I got to USC and I never looked back. It was the best decision I ever made."

Trejo brings over 36 years of experience serving older residents of Los Angeles to her new position. Trejo's capstone project had immediate application: a virtual financial account for seniors experiencing homelessness, which was critical for many to receive government assistance and stimulus, as well as to reduce the safety risk of carrying cash on the streets.

The project brought together Trejo's expertise in gerontology with her interest in finding innovative solutions to address the growing number of older adults experiencing homelessness, the very reason she had chosen to pursue her DSW. Looking back on her decision to go "all in" to attend USC, and then come back again and again to build on what she started, Trejo has no regrets. "I've always made decisions based on my passions, I'm that kind of person. I've always known where I stand very clearly. Being at USC has been inspiring and enlightening," Trejo said. "The DSW provided me the freedom to explore my interest in aging, homelessness and economic insecurity. I would do it over again and twice on Sunday."





LOS ANGELES COUNTY

# Aging & Disabilities Department

**JULY 20, 2022**

**WELCOME TO THE GRAND OPENING**

**OF**

**THE AGING & DISABILITIES DEPARTMENT**

**OPENING REMARKS - DR. LAURA TREJO**

**SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS**

**Supervisor Hahn**

Congratulatory Video

**Maral Karaccusian (representing Supervisor Hahn)**

4<sup>th</sup> District Deputy

**Susan DeMarois,**

Director California Department of Aging

**Dr. Fernando Torres-Gil,**

Professor, Social Welfare and Public Policy. Director, Center for Policy Research on Aging, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs (Former Assistant Secretary on Aging)

**Dr. Laura Mosqueda**

Professor of Family Medicine and Geriatrics, Keck School of Medicine of USC and Director, National Center on Elder Abuse

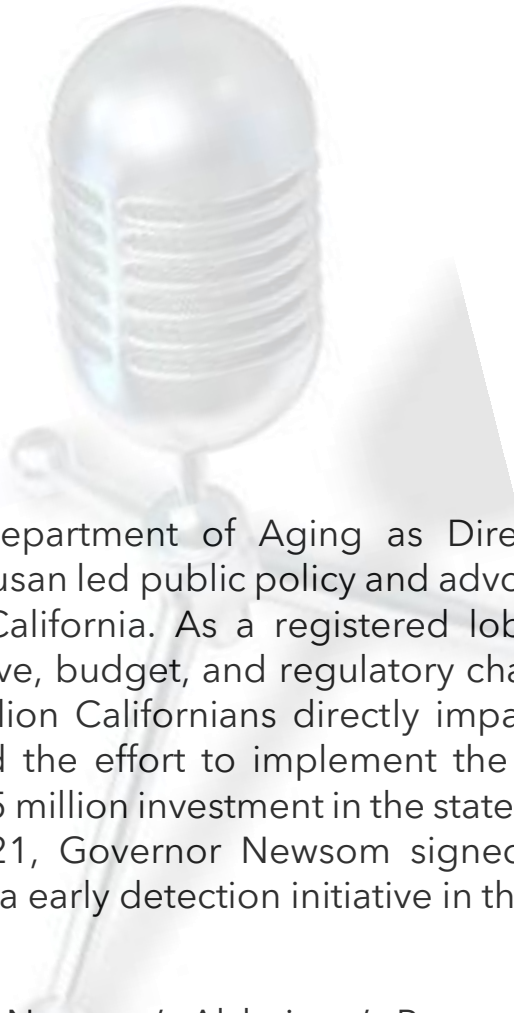
**CLOSING REMARKS**

**DR. LAURA TREJO**



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

## Aging & Disabilities Department



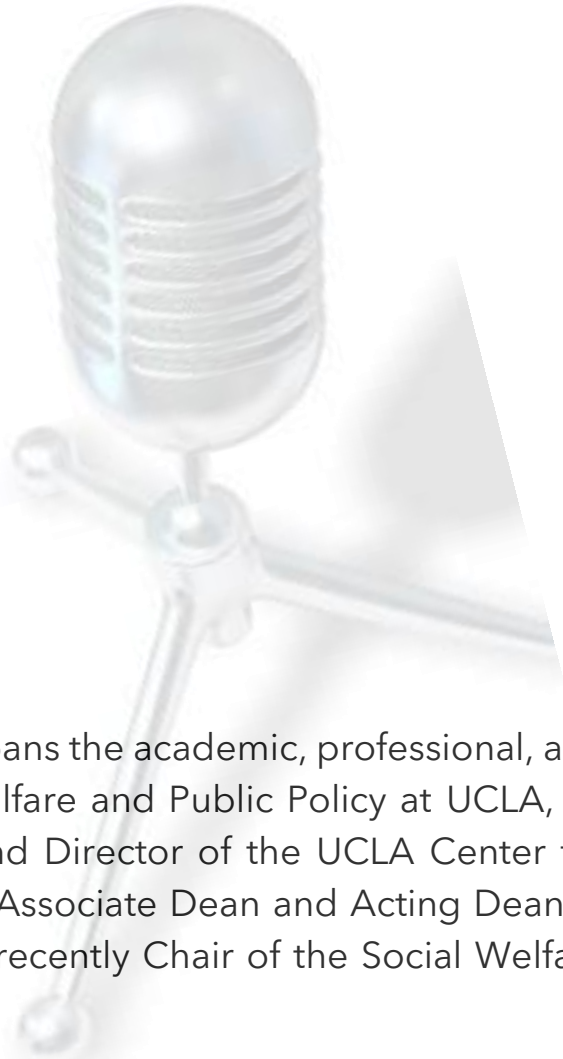
Susan DeMarois joined the California Department of Aging as Director on November 1, 2021. Prior to joining CDA, Susan led public policy and advocacy for the national Alzheimer's Association in California. As a registered lobbyist in Sacramento, Susan advocated for legislative, budget, and regulatory changes at the state capitol on behalf of the 2.1 million Californians directly impacted by Alzheimer's disease. The organization led the effort to implement the Healthy Brain Initiative in California, resulting in a \$5 million investment in the state's public health infrastructure. On October 4, 2021, Governor Newsom signed SB 48 (Limón) into law, enacting the first dementia early detection initiative in the nation focused on the Medicaid population.

Susan served as an appointee to Governor Newsom's Alzheimer's Prevention and Preparedness Task Force, chaired by former First Lady Maria Shriver, in addition to the Master Plan for Aging Stakeholder Advisory Committee, a workgroup established by Executive Order. In addition, Susan represented the Alzheimer's Association on the CHHS Agency Secretary's Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Committee. Before working for the Alzheimer's Association, Susan led government and community relations for the UC Davis Health System and its academic medical center, children's hospital, medical school, nursing school and physician group. Early in her career, she worked for LeadingAge California, the professional trade association representing not-for-profit housing, residential care and skilled nursing providers along with home and community-based services.



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

## Aging & Disabilities Department



Dr. Torres-Gil has a multifaceted career that spans the academic, professional, and policy arenas. He is a Professor of Social Welfare and Public Policy at UCLA, an Adjunct Professor of Gerontology at USC, and Director of the UCLA Center for Policy Research on Aging. He has served as Associate Dean and Acting Dean at the UCLA School of Public Affairs, and most recently Chair of the Social Welfare Department.

He has written six books and over 100 publications. He earned his first presidential appointment in 1978 when President Jimmy Carter appointed him to the Federal Council on Aging.

He was appointed (with Senate Confirmation) by President Bill Clinton as the first-ever U.S. Assistant Secretary on Aging in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). In 2010 he received his third presidential appointment (with Senate Confirmation) when President Barack Obama appointed him as Vice Chair of the National Council on Disability, an independent federal agency that reports to the Congress and White House on federal matters related to disability policy.



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

## Aging & Disabilities Department



Laura Mosqueda, MD, FAAFP, AGSF is a professor (with tenure) of Family Medicine and Geriatrics at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. She is a widely respected authority on elder abuse and care of the elderly and underserved. She is also an expert on medical education curriculum design, development, and implementation.

Since joining the Keck School of Medicine of USC, her roles have included: Chair of the Department of Family Medicine, Associate Dean of Primary Care, and Dean. She is the principal investigator of an NIA-funded R01 study to understand the causes of the abuse of people with dementia and is the Director of the National Center on Elder Abuse, a federally funded initiative that serves as the nation's coordinating body and clearinghouse for information on research, training, best practices, news, and resources.

Dr. Mosqueda is also a fellow in the Health and Aging Policy Fellowship Program. As a clinician, researcher, educator, and academic administrator, she has a unique perspective that is informed by her extensive experiences in the community, including her role as a volunteer long-term care ombudsman.

# Sincere appreciation, gratitude, and thanks to the...

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Holly J. Mitchell, Second District,  
Chair of the Board

Hilda L. Solis, First District,  
Sheila Kuehl, Third District  
Janice Hahn, Fourth District  
Kathryn Barger, Fifth District

## SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### Chief Executive Office

Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer  
Joseph Nicchitta, Chief Operating Officer

Mason Matthews  
David Seinfeld  
Aileen Brubaker

Peter Loo  
Greg Melendez

### Dept. of Human Resources

Lisa Garrett, DHR Director

### County Counsel

Lawrence Green, Senior County Counsel  
Alyssa Skolnick, Senior Deputy

### Internal Service Department

Michael Owh, Chief Deputy Director  
Benny Chacko  
Tom Laguna

### ROAD TO REALIGNMENT TEAM

Epifanio Peinado, Supv. Administrator  
Otto Solórzano, Chief Deputy  
Allison Clark  
Daniel Kelleher  
Morteza Mostafavi  
Loreta Zakar

## AGING & DISABILITIES DEPARTMENT

### Executive Office

Lorenza C. Sánchez,  
Chief Deputy Director

Anna Avdalyan, Assistant Director  
Paul Goldman, Assistant Director  
Jose Perez, Admin. Deputy II  
Henry Lopez, ASM I  
Johnson Wang, Executive Assistant

### AD Staff

Derrick Martin, HR Manager  
Carol Domingo, PM  
Guillermo Medina, HSA I  
Miguel Robleto, HSA I  
Anthony Leoni, MA  
Sofia Moreno, Staff Assistant I

## COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Kevin Anderson  
Michael Kapp  
Lara Arsinian

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR OLDER ADULTS

President, Helen Romero-Shaw

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

President, Carlos Benavides



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
**Aging & Disabilities  
Department**

**Visit us at  
AD.lacounty.gov**

**IMPORTANT**

**AGING & DISABILITIES DEPARTMENT RESOURCES**

**INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE SERVICES**

**1-800-510-2020 Monday thru Friday from 8am to 5pm**

**ELDER ABUSE HOTLINE**

**1-877-477-3646 24 hours a day / 7 days a week**

**DISABILITY ACCESS LINE**

**1- 888-677-1199 Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern)**

**NEW FREEDOM TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

**1-888-863-7411 Monday thru Friday 8 am to 5pm**

**If you would like to receive an electronic copy of this  
program, please email Henry Lopez  
at  
[hlopez@ad.lacounty.gov](mailto:hlopez@ad.lacounty.gov)**