

# Carmela R. Castellano-Garcia, Esq.



Carmela Castellano-Garcia, Esq., is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the California Primary Care Association (CPCA), overseeing a membership association of more than 1,100 nonprofit, community clinics and health centers (CCHCs) which serve nearly 6 million patients a year. Ms. Castellano-Garcia has been committed to advancing multi-cultural health policy issues for 25 years, focusing on areas such as cultural and linguistic competency in health care delivery, ensuring the viability of safety net providers, health care reform, and access to care for vulnerable populations.

During her tenure at CPCA, community health centers have had significant income growth, more than tripling their collective income from \$795 million in 1997 to over \$3.7 billion in 2014. Patients served increased more than 100 percent during this same period from 2,431,446 to nearly 6 million, and total annual encounters grew by more than 8.5 million. Under her leadership, Federal funding to CCHCs has increased 212 percent. The number of health center sites has grown by 233 %.

In addition, Ms. Castellano-Garcia serves as the President of the Board of Trustees of the Castellano Family Foundation. Prior to that she served as the Board's Vice President since 2012. Founded by Alcario and Carmen Castellano in 2001, the Castellano Family Foundation has donated more than \$3.5 million in grants to Santa Clara County nonprofits supporting Latino education, arts and culture, leadership and diversity. The Castellano Family Foundation also continually supports these local organizations guided by the values of community, family, social change, empathy and integrity.

Prior to joining CPCA, Ms. Castellano-Garcia served as the Founder and Executive Director of the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California (LCHC), a health care policy and advocacy organization seeking to improve access to health and human services for California's Latino population. She was the Executive Director in 1992-1997 and she served as the Volunteer Executive Director in 2011, wherein she played a leadership role in ensuring the continued vitality of the organization.

Ms. Castellano-Garcia's legal background includes six years as a Staff Attorney and Managing Attorney with Public Advocates, Inc., a public interest law firm in San Francisco. Ms. Castellano-Garcia has litigated in the areas of employment discrimination, insurance redlining, and ensuring access to the information superhighway for California's minority, low-income populations.

Ms. Castellano-Garcia is a founder and continues to serve on the Board of the **California Health Information Partnership and Services Organization (CalHIPSO)**, the Regional Extension Center for California. She sits on numerous Boards, including the **Latino Coalition for a Healthy California** and the Board of Advisors for the **Insure the Uninsured Project (ITUP)**. Further, she is also a member of several advisory groups and Steering Committees, including: the **Health Initiative of the Americas (HIA)**, which focuses on implementing innovative strategies to address unmet health needs of the Latino-origin population living and working in the United States; the **California Health Workforce Alliance (CHWA)**, which focuses on addressing the health professions shortage; and the **Oral Health Access Council (OHAC)**, directed toward improving the oral health status of the state's traditionally underserved and vulnerable populations.

In the past, Carmela Castellano-Garcia has served as a member of the National Health Service Corp's National Advisory Council, the Board of Directors of the Public Health Institute, Mission Neighborhood Health Center, and the California Adolescent Nutrition and Fitness Program, as well as the Chicana Latina Foundation. Among her recognitions are: the Hispanic Health Leadership Award granted by the National Hispanic Medical Association in 2009, the Public Advocate's Voices of Conscience award in 2005, and the Impact Award by Alta Med Health Services in 2004. She was also a 2007 Finalist for *Hispanic Business Magazine's* Woman of the Year Award, and was listed in the February 1996 issue of the *Medical Herald's* Who's Who Top 20 in Latino Medicine, and the *Hispanic Business* list of the 100 Most Influential Hispanics in the U.S.

Ms. Castellano-Garcia is a graduate of Yale Law School and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of California at Berkeley. While a student, she spent a year at La Universidad Central de Venezuela as a Rotary Foundation International Scholar.

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