



*A Collaborative Initiative of the California Catholic Conference
and the Alliance of Catholic Health Care*



Caring for the Whole Person Initiative – Our Team

LORI CAPPELLO DANGBERG



Vice President for the Alliance of Catholic Health Care. The Alliance is the public policy and advocacy organization of California's Catholic-affiliated health systems and hospitals. She has been working in the public policy arena for Catholic health care since 1982 and has worked extensively on health reform, non-profit community benefit, end-of-life and bioethics issues. In addition to her work on policy and legislation, she co-leads the Caring for the Whole Person Initiative, a statewide collaboration of Catholic health systems and California Catholic bishops which seeks to ensure that parishioners and patients are accompanied, loved and supported in their serious illness and end-of-life journey.

Prior to joining the Alliance, Lori served Mercy Healthcare Sacramento (then a regional health system of Dignity Health) for seven years as its Director of Advocacy and Community Partnerships. As one of the main architects of the original Common Values for Community Sponsorship, she developed a significant policy document that played a defining role in most of Dignity Health's early affiliations with non-Catholic hospitals. She also served as the lead resource and facilitator of bioethical issues and implemented the Regional Ethics Advisory Council. Before joining Mercy, Lori served for ten years with the California Association of Catholic Hospitals as the Director of Communications.

During her career in the Catholic health ministry, she has directed policy and advocacy efforts at the federal level, working with members of Congress; at the state Capitol; and worked on local government issues in the Sacramento region.

She has served on several boards, advisory councils and committees, that currently include the Center for Healthcare Policy and Research | UC Davis Health; CSU Shiley Institute for Palliative Care; Coalition for Compassionate Care California (various advisory committees); and Mercy General Hospital (Sacramento) Bioethics Committee.

Lori is very involved in her community of Granite Bay, California. After serving two elected terms, she retired as a Governing Board Member of the Eureka Union School District, which serves grades K through 8 in South Placer County. She help found The Petal Connection, a nonprofit organization that repurposes flowers that are donated to hospice and palliative care patients, and seniors within the Greater Sacramento Region.

STEVE PEHANICH



Director of Communication and Advocacy for the California Catholic Conference. He is responsible for leadership of the Catholic Legislative Network – a partnership of the 12 Catholic arch/dioceses in the state and the California Catholic Conference.

The Network educates and informs Catholic, and other like-minded people, about public policy debates in Sacramento and Washington in order to help members evaluate those debates in the light of Catholic social teaching and the promotion of life and dignity for all people.

Working with the Alliance of Catholic Health Care he has served as the California Bishops' coordinator of the Caring for the Whole Person Initiative aimed at changing the way society cares for the seriously ill and dying.

Pehanich spent many years in public relations for aerospace, engineering and business firms. In the mid-1990s he became executive director of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Santa Clara County. In that role helped the Society in the United States expand its advocacy efforts

He has a BA in Political Science from UCLA and an MBA from Santa Clara University. He and his wife, Loretta, live in Sacramento.

SUZANNE ENGELDER, LCSW



Director of Education, Integration & Program Development, Institute for Human Caring at Providence. Suzanne has been working in health care for over 30 years.

Suzanne has worked in acute care including the emergency department, oncology and critical care. Her primary work has been in hospice and palliative care, with a focus on clinical care, program development and community education. Suzanne developed The St. Joseph Perinatal Palliative Care program and The Center for Advance Care Planning and Advocacy, ministries of Providence St. Joseph Health.

She has presented on the importance of advance care planning at all stages of life at Regional, State, National and International conferences. Her work has been published in *Advances in Neonatal Care* and *Olds' Maternal Newborn Nursing & Women's Health*. She is a certified grief support group facilitator, faculty for ELNEC and IPPC and a POLST trainer. Suzanne was honored to receive the St. Joseph Health, Values in Action award for Justice, St. Joseph Hospital, Friend of Nursing award and The Coalition for Compassionate Care of California, Compassionate Care Leadership award. Suzanne is a strong advocate for improving care for seriously ill patients through advance care planning conversations.

TUE NGUYEN, MPH



Manager of Implementation at Providence St. Joseph Health's Institute for Human Caring. Tue's passion for health care drew him to the intersection of the patient, care delivery, and technology. Across the disciplines, he has relied on his ability to effectively communicate and build relationships to navigate the demands associated with the constantly evolving health care environment. He earned his bachelor's in biochemistry from the University of Oklahoma and master's in public health from UCLA.

EMILY WILLIAMS, MPH



Regional Program Manager for Caring for the Whole Person Initiative. Emily is passionate about creating responsive, cost-effective, compassionate health care. To this end, she has spent much of her public health career implementing innovative domestic and international health research and programming initiatives within public, private, academic and nonprofit domains. She is thrilled to apply her knowledge to ensure the success of the Caring for the Whole Person Initiative. Emily earned her bachelor's degree in developmental psychology from the University of California at Berkeley, and master's degree in public health at Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

JOSEPH DAO



Regional Program Manager for the Caring for the Whole Person Initiative. Joseph has held leadership roles in local and national church ministry and in Catholic health care mission. He now serves the Caring for the Whole Person Initiative to provide education and training around serious illness and care through the end of life to church communities across the state. He is passionate about helping local communities and health-care providers work together to deliver compassionate whole person care.

Joseph completed his undergraduate studies at University of California, Irvine and received his Master of Arts degree in Pastoral Theology at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles.