Lori Block
Principal Engagement Strategist,
Communication and Talent & HR Solutions
Buck Consultants

Lori Buck specializes in strategic planning and innovative solutions to address a wide array of HR, employee benefit and compensation issues and ensures the successful implementation of multifaceted communication engagements — engagements that are often fueled by the application of leading-edge technology.

Block was among the early leaders in the development of paperless alternatives to communication and administrative functions in the areas of employee benefits, compensation and total compensation. Over the course of her 20-year HR consulting career, Block has helped clients implement consumer-driven health care and hybrid retirement plans. She serves as one of Buck’s thought leaders in health, welfare and wellness and retirement education and is also a member of Buck’s Consumerism 360° and innovation task forces.

Hector De La Torre
Executive Director
Transamerica Center for Health Studies

Hector De La Torre is the executive director of the Transamerica Center for Health Studies, a nonprofit focused on empowering consumers and employers so that they can achieve the best value and protection from their health coverage, as well as the best outcomes in their personal health and wellness. Among his accomplishments as an elected official were expanding access to doctors in underserved communities, consumer protections against retroactive cancellation of health insurance, and supporting facilities improvements at Children’s Hospitals.

De La Torre is a member of the Board of Trustees at Occidental College and serves on the California Air Resources Board as a gubernatorial appointee. De La Torre served as a State Assemblymember for California’s 50th District from 2004 to 2010. Prior to that, he was Mayor and Councilmember in his hometown of South Gate. De La Torre was also a manager at the County of Los Angeles Superior Court and served as manager at Southern California Edison. Previous to those positions, he was Assistant/Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary at the U.S. Department of Labor.
Augustavia J. Haydel
General Counsel
L.A. Care Health Plan

Augustavia J. Haydel is the general counsel of L.A. Care Health Plan, an independent local public agency created by the State of California to provide health coverage to low-income Los Angeles County residents. With more than 1 million members, L.A. Care is now considered the largest public health plan in the nation. Haydel has served since 1998.

At L.A. Care, Haydel advises the Board of Governors, the CEO and senior executives and provides guidance to both in-house and outside counsel regarding various legal issues including governance, health care law, Brown Act, and other laws applicable to public entities, labor and employment, real estate, intellectual property and litigation management. In addition, Haydel and the L.A. Care legal and board services teams provide counsel to internal clients regarding business operations, healthcare policy and community concerns.

Haydel graduated from Indiana University Maurer School of Law and is licensed to practice law in California and New York. Currently, Haydel serves as a board member and chair of the Health Care Council of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce.

Kimberly Jinnett, Ph.D
Research Director
Integrated Benefits Institute

Dr. Kimberly Jinnett is research director of the Integrated Benefits Institute (IBI). Jinnett joined IBI in June 2005 and is responsible for overseeing the research function of the Institute. She manages the steady flow of research throughout the year aimed at health and productivity improvement.

Previously, Jinnett was a health policy researcher at RAND and at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Prior to joining IBI, she served as a senior evaluation officer for a national philanthropic organization, developing and managing research investments across a variety of substantive areas including leadership, organizational behavior, use of incentives and social change. She has served in research and development, senior management and strategic planning positions across a variety of organizational settings since 1988.

Jinnett received her bachelor's degree in psychobiology and master's degree in public health from the University of California, Los Angeles. She received her doctorate in sociology and health services organization and policy from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
Terri Lesovsky
Southern California Facilities Manager,
Real Estate and Workplace Services
Google

Terri Lesovsky is a member of Google's Real Estate and Workplace Services team, overseeing the daily office operations in four of Google's field offices in Beverly Hills, Venice Beach, Playa Vista and Irvine. She is responsible for more than 200,000 square feet of creative office space, home to more than 1,000 "Googlers" in Southern California.

In addition to focusing on the daily operations of the space, Lesovsky and her team maintain a vast portfolio of wellness programs and perks for the employees, including a robust transportation program and on-site fitness and wellness facilities. Previous to Google, she managed the Global Real Estate Portfolio for Wasserman Media Group.

Antonio P. Linares, MD, FAAFP
Regional Vice President and Medical Director
Anthem Blue Cross

Dr. Antonio Linares is the regional vice president and medical director for Anthem Blue Cross. He provides medical leadership in care management, wellness strategies and population-based care for national accounts and strategic large group employers.

Prior to joining Anthem Blue Cross, Linares served as the vice president for medical affairs at Lumetra. He led a national effort to accelerate the adoption of electronic health records by physician practices under contract with Medicare, and was recognized by Healthcare Informatics Magazine in 2005 with the Innovator of the Year Award for his efforts to help doctors adopt new technologies.

Over the past 24 years, Linares has served in diverse leadership roles which include serving as founding medical director for California’s Department of Managed Health Care and overseeing quality for all HMO’s in California. Early in his career, he served in the National Health Service Corps of the Public Health Service. Linares is a strong advocate of primary care for underserved populations and improving health disparities.

Linares attended medical school at the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, and completed his residency in the Department of Family Practice at the University of California, Davis. He also worked as adjunct faculty at the Stanford School of Medicine, Center for Health Policy & Primary Care Outcomes Research and the University of California Davis, Primary Care Research Center.
Mitch L. Martens
Employee Wellness Administrator
Cedars-Sinai Health System

Mitch Martens has been working in health care, specifically a hospital setting, since the late 1980's. Prior to his current role, he was the associate director for the Department of Psychiatry at Century City Hospital. Martens was recruited to Cedars-Sinai in 2000 where he pioneered a unique employee engagement program. Because of his success he was the natural candidate to help build and lead the Employee Wellness Program at Cedars-Sinai.

Additionally Martens has a personal value and commitment to "Community Wellbeing". For 10 years he volunteered at the LA Free Clinic, but in the last 5 years he decided to go global and now does an annual medical mission in Guatemala.

Martens received his bachelor’s degree from Drake University and obtained his master's degree in clinical psychology from Pepperdine University.

B. Kathlyn Mead
Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer
The California Endowment

B. Kathlyn Mead was named executive vice president and chief operating officer of The California Endowment in May 2007. She is responsible for business operations, impact investing and strategic partnerships.

Mead previously served as president and CEO of the San Diego Council of Community Clinics and, prior to that, vice president of the CalPERS Sector for Blue Shield of California. Mead served as vice president of managed care at Children's Hospital San Diego and, earlier in her career, was affiliated with MetLife Healthcare Networks of Colorado and Blue Cross of California.

She currently serves on the Board of Trustees for the Alliance Healthcare Foundation, as well as Hispanics in Philanthropy Board of Directors. Mead previously served on the boards of the California Association of Health Plans, San Diego's Consumer Center for Health, Education, and Advocacy, San Diego Community Health Improvement Partners, Business Healthcare Connection, San Diego Urban League and Insure the Uninsured Project.

Mead earned an M.B.A. from the University of Southern California. She has a son and two daughters, and her husband is a professor of psychiatry and neuroscientist at the University of California, San Diego.
Elisa Mendel
National Vice President, HealthWorks & Product Innovation
Kaiser Permanente

Elisa Mendel is national vice president of HealthWorks & Product Innovation for Kaiser Permanente. She is responsible for overseeing Kaiser Permanente’s Workforce Health portfolio, which is designed to help employers improve the health and productivity of their employees through worksite programs and interventions. This includes Kaiser On-the-Job, Kaiser Permanente’s occupational health services, multicultural marketing and Kaiser Permanente’s Thriving Schools initiative. She is also responsible for developing and implementing product innovations to leverage Kaiser Permanente’s integrated care delivery system. Mendel joined Kaiser Permanente in 1986.

As the co-director of the Internet Services Groups, Mendel helped lead strategy for kp.org, Kaiser Permanente’s award-winning Web site, and launched the national Internet approach for health plan functions.

Mendel received her bachelor’s degree in industrial and operations engineering from the University of Michigan.

Matthew Miller, MD
Associate Principal
McKinsey & Company

Matt Miller is a leader within McKinsey & Company’s Healthcare Systems and Services practice, and is based in McKinsey’s Southern California office. Miller works closely with payors and other clients to improve health care value for patients and employers, as well as to prepare for impacts of health reform.

Miller’s expertise is in innovating and assessing approaches to align providers and delivery systems for value, and to engage patients and consumers in their health and health care choices. Miller holds an MD and MBA from University of California, Los Angeles and a B.A. from Harvard University. Prior to McKinsey, he worked at a venture capital-supported technology startup and then at Stanford University’s Center for Health Policy.
Aparna Niroola
Assistant Vice President, Health & Benefits Consulting,
Health Transformation Team
Aon Hewitt

Aparna Niroola consults with Aon Hewitt’s National Health Transformation Team. She has 14 years of broad experience in the health care industry, most recently focusing on employer population measurement strategy and wellness program design. Niroola’s strengths reside in her passion to leverage data for driving actionable evidence-based solutions, making people’s lives healthier and delivering measurable impact to the bottom line.

Niroola has had the privilege of working with clients across numerous industries such as Allergan, SpaceX, FICO, Einstein Noah, UTi, Disney and Campbell Soup.

Niroola holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles. She received her master’s degree in health services administration from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor School of Public Health. She is Project Management Professional certified and also holds a Group Benefits designation and Six Sigma Green Belt certification. Niroola is a member of the International Association of Worksite Health Promotion and the American College of Sports Medicine.

David Panush
Director, External Affairs
Covered California

As the director of external affairs, David Panush provides executive leadership for the ongoing legislative and regulatory policy and related activities for the Exchange. Panush previously was the Health Policy Advisor to California Senate President Pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg. He has been a key policy consultant in the Office of the President Pro Tempore since 1986, and has advised the past five State Senate leaders on a variety of policy and fiscal issues.
Herb K. Schultz
Regional Director, Region IX
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Herb K. Schultz was appointed by President Barack Obama in April 2010 to be the regional director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Region IX. He brings a wealth of experience from the public, private and nonprofit sectors.

As regional director, he serves as HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius’ key representative in the region, consisting of Arizona, California, Nevada, Hawaii, the Pacific territories (American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Guam), and the three island nations (Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau) with whom the U.S. Government has formal treaty relationships relating to public health.

Schultz ensures that close contact is maintained by HHS Region IX with federal, state, local, tribal and territorial/Pacific Island governmental officials on a wide range of health and social service issues. He also works extensively with external, non-governmental individuals and organizations.

He served as senior advisor to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and director of the California Recovery Task Force from 2008 to 2010. Prior, he served as the senior health policy advisor to Gov. Schwarzenegger during California’s 2006-2008 state debate on comprehensive health care reform.

Schultz served as a member of former Gov. Gray Davis’ cabinet as head of California’s Labor and Workforce Development Agency in 2003.

Schultz received his bachelor’s degree in political science and international studies from The American University and has a master’s degree in public policy from Georgetown University, both in Washington, D.C.