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CalPACE Announces New CEO Val Sheehan, MPH

Leadership change occurs during tremendous PACE expansion, as California implements the [Master Plan for Aging](#) to build the elder care infrastructure needed to meet the needs of its 60 and over population that is growing and diversifying faster than all other age groups.

(SACRAMENTO, CA) The [California PACE Association \(CalPACE\)](#) announces Val Sheehan, MPH, as its new CEO. Sheehan takes the helm of CalPACE at the end of the month, following 11 years of service by Peter Hansel who is retiring.

“We wanted a proven leader with a big vision for CalPACE’s future. This is a pivotal moment for PACE and we are excited to see Val take our association to the next level,” said **Eileen Kunz, Chief of Government Affairs and Compliance for [On Lok](#) and chair of CalPACE’s board of directors**. “Our membership may double in just a few years. We want to maintain the high-quality care PACE provides while seeing PACE reach every county in the state.”

Sheehan joins CalPACE with 13 years of health care association experience. Most recently, she served as the Senior Vice President and Chief Program Officer at the [California Primary Care Association](#) (CPCA), an association of over 1,300 nonprofit, community clinics and health centers serving 7.2 million predominantly low-income patients a year. In her role as SVP and CPO, she worked closely with the CEO and other executive leaders to strategically position CPCA as a leading health care association in California. She was responsible for and played a key role in the association’s strategy & fund development, communications, DEI, and internal staffing & operations.

“I have a personal passion for improving the health and well-being of communities. PACE has long captivated me, especially its commitment to keep seniors at home where they feel safe and supported,” said **Sheehan**. “PACE provides great care. I want to see it mainstreamed as an available care choice. Everyone should have health care that’s this good. I’m excited to help PACE grow and meet the unmet care needs many seniors face across California.”

“PACE is all about connecting with people and Val is a natural because she is thoughtful, thorough, and genuine. Having been a caregiver to her mom, she has an intimate knowledge of the challenges and rewards of elder care.” **Maria Zamora, CEO of the [Center for Elders’ Independence](#) and chair of CalPACE’s CEO search committee.** “Val’s commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion impressed us because it’s essential for quality caregiving. We look forward to working with her to ensure PACE growth is harnessed as an opportunity to better represent the communities we serve in all PACE career paths.”

Prior to joining CPCA, Sheehan worked in the health and social sectors to build and strengthen leaders and organizations. She was the founder and principal of a Sacramento-based consulting firm that worked with mission-based clients to promote and advance health, well-being, and social justice. She also worked for the [Center for Civic Partnerships/Public Health Institute](#) where she ran a prominent leadership and capacity-building program for grantees of [The California Wellness Foundation](#).

Val’s career is rooted in her lived experience as a Filipina-American raised by a single immigrant mother. She has leveraged her education, experience, and passion to transform the lives of individuals and communities through her role as program officer at a Bay Area community foundation called the [Asian Pacific Fund](#), her advocacy and education roles at [Futures Without Violence](#), and service on the board of directors of the [Asian Women’s Shelter](#).

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The California PACE Association (CalPACE) is a non-profit association dedicated to the expansion of comprehensive health care services to the frail elderly through the Program of All-inclusive Care for Elderly (PACE), which is an alternative to nursing home care. PACE provides preventive, primary, acute, and long-term care services so that older individuals can continue living in their communities. Follow CalPACE on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).