



*Project Safety Net (PSN) mobilizes community support and resources in Palo Alto for youth suicide prevention and mental wellness. We are a coalition working on community education, outreach, and training; access to quality youth mental health services; and policy advocacy.*

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## PSN Policy and Advocacy Event

### **The Power of Community: Shaping Youth Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Policies**

September 24, 2021, from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

#### **Meet the Presenters**

**Joe Simitian** is the County Supervisor for the [Fifth District of Santa Clara County](#). His district includes Palo Alto, Mountain View, Cupertino, Stanford, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, and Saratoga, along with portions of Sunnyvale and San Jose. He was elected to the Board of Supervisors in 2012 and was re-elected in 2016 and 2020.

Joe's public service over the years includes stints as a member of the California State Senate, the California State Assembly, Mayor of Palo Alto, President of the Palo Alto School Board, and an earlier term on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

Joe brings to his work a wide-ranging perspective and background -- service at all levels of state and local government, hands-on experience in the private sector, as well as professional education and training particularly applicable to his work in public service.

He had been a long-time advocate of mental health care. He recently urged his colleagues and County staff to move forward with the Assisted Outpatient Therapy program, also known as Laura's Law; opened two [allcove](#) centers to provide integrated mental and physical health to youth and young adults, and to build the first County operated inpatient psychiatric facility for youth in the county, among other initiatives. He currently serves as the Chair of the County's Health and Hospital Committee.

**Marc Berman** was first elected to the California State Assembly in November 2016 to represent the [24th District](#), which includes southern San Mateo County and northern Santa Clara County in the heart of Silicon Valley.

In the Assembly, Marc serves as chair of the Committee on Elections and Redistricting, where he has become a leading voice on protecting voters from deceptive elections practices, making election information more accessible to voters, and improving election cybersecurity and campaign finance disclosure. In addition, for the past two legislative sessions, Marc has chaired two select committees. The Select Committee on the Master Plan for Higher Education in California is taking a methodical review of the 1960 Master Plan to ensure that California's higher education system works for students in the 21st century economy. The Select Committee on the Census leads the Assembly's efforts in preparing California for the 2020 Census, which is used to determine the number of seats each state has in the House of Representatives as well as distribute tens of billions of dollars to state and local governments. Marc also serves on the following Assembly Standing Committees: Business and Professions; Governmental Organization; Insurance; and Transportation.

Marc has had one of the highest rates of success in the Legislature, having sent 50 bills to the Governor in his first four years in office. He has authored legislation related to a number of issues, including elections, the 2020 Census, education, youth mental health, sexual assault, firearm safety, deepfakes, housing, and the environment.

*Thank you to the City of Palo Alto and the San Mateo County Behavioral Health & Recovery Services Office of Diversity & Equity (ODE) for sponsoring PSN's September Suicide Prevention Awareness Month Campaign.*

Marc previously served on the [Palo Alto City Council](#), where he was a leader on issues such as infrastructure improvements and financial transparency. While serving on the Palo Alto City Council, Marc worked for the Silicon Valley Education Foundation, a non-profit focused on increasing access to high quality STEM education and closing the achievement gap in Silicon Valley public schools.

Prior to his work in the non-profit sector, Marc was an attorney with Latham & Watkins LLP and Merino Yebri, LLP. Marc successfully represented pro bono clients seeking protection under the Violence Against Women Act and asylum in the United States due to political persecution in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He also served as pro bono counsel to Spark, a national youth development non-profit.

Marc was born in Dallas, Texas, and raised in Palo Alto, where he graduated from Palo Alto High School. He earned a degree in Political Science from Georgetown University. While in college, Marc began his public service in Palo Alto, working in Congresswoman Anna Eshoo's District Office. He also served as a summer analyst in the Voting Section of the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department. Marc went on to graduate from law school at the University of Southern California, where he was elected president of the Student Bar Association and served for two years on the Southern California Law Review.

**Mary Gloner** (she/her/siya) is the Chief Executive Officer of [Project Safety Net](#). She is a Bay Area native with roots in East Palo Alto and Palo Alto. She is a proud Filipina-American and first-generation college graduate with advanced degrees in public health from San José State University and business from UC Berkley's Haas School of Business. Mary has dedicated her professional path to addressing priorities of vulnerable populations and building community capacity. Serving on several local and regional committees, she works on promoting social justice, human rights, and health parity. Mary exercises self-care by taking walks, reading the next book on her list, and going on foodie adventures with her friends and family.

**Alex Briscoe** is the principal of [The California Children's Trust](#). He was appointed director of the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency in 2009 where he led one of the state's largest public health systems, overseeing health and hospital systems, public health, behavioral health, and environmental health departments with an annual budget of \$700 million and 6,200 FTE contracted and civil service staff. Before joining the county, he was the director of the Chappell Hayes Health Center at McClymonds High School in West Oakland, a satellite outpatient center of Children's Hospital and Research Center. Mr. Briscoe's work has helped design the nexus of public health and public education. He has designed and administered a number of mental health and physical health programs and services in child serving systems, including home visiting programs, programs for medically fragile children, and clinical and development programs in child welfare, juvenile justice, and early childhood settings. Mr. Briscoe has served on the Alameda County First Five Commission, The Alameda Alliance, and The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and The Uninsured, as well as a number of other public and private boards and commissions. Mr. Briscoe is a mental health practitioner specializing in adolescent services and youth development. He has advised or collaborated with a number of local and national foundations including The Atlantic Philanthropies, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, The California Endowment, and most recently with Tipping Point Community. He has specialized in Medicaid policy and administration, emergency medical services, youth voices and crisis counseling, and safety net design and administration.