



**Monika Vega**

Senior Outreach Coordinator

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**Monika Vega** is a Senior Outreach Coordinator at Harbage Consulting, where she establishes partnerships with key stakeholders of California's Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) in all seven counties where policy implementation is underway. She is responsible for stakeholder engagement and strategic communications including sharing information on the Medicare and Medi-Cal integration program, Cal MediConnect, on behalf of the California Department of Health Care Services.

Monika was a presenter during the 2015 CMS National Training Workshops event in Anaheim, California, where health care and social services program administrators and advocates from across the nation attended. She has delivered program information to hundreds of professionals in medical groups, hospitals, and county and social services agencies. While Monika conducts CCI health policy communications and outreach, she is most enthusiastic about how the program information will ultimately help people in need coordinate their health care benefits and services.

Monika has a background in social services management, public health programs and policy, political organizing, and community empowerment. She previously assisted with organizing large-scale campaigns for health care workers with the largest local union on the East Coast, 1199 SEIU. In this capacity, Monika worked with the state attorney general of Maine, union field workers, and staff from hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and other medical providers to conduct campaign strategic planning.

During the 2008 economic recession, Monika connected hundreds of unemployed and uninsured households in Harlem, New York, to safety net programs including Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, along with an array of other programs and services, to increase economic stability for consumers. Her interest in political engagement and building community capacity has also led to her experience in San Gabriel Valley politics, both in a Congressional district office as an intern and as lead trainer in a state assembly campaign race. She also served as a political organizer for the 2012 presidential campaign.

Monika serves as a board member for her Toastmasters International Club where she loves to compete in public speaking contests. Additionally, she is a board member with Multiracial Americans of Southern California, in celebration of her multiracial and multicultural heritage: She is Filipina, Turkish, Spanish and Mexican American, raised with Japanese traditions. Monika received a master's in social work from Columbia University in New York, specializing in the area of policy practice in the field of health, mental health, and disabilities.