

Erika Cristo is the Program Policy and Quality Assurance Branch Chief within the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), Mental Health Services Division. The Program Policy and Quality Assurance Branch administers the Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services Program, provides mental health subject matter expertise and technical assistance to county mental health plans and other programs. The Program Policy and Quality Assurance Branch is also charged with program and service implementation, including implementing the Katie A. versus Bonta settlement agreement, and conducting legislative analysis. Prior to working as the Branch Chief, Ms. Cristo worked as a Health Program Specialist II within the Program Policy and Quality Assurance Branch responsible for complex analytical work and project management.

Before transitioning to DHCS in 2012, Ms. Cristo was the manager for the Medi-Cal Policy Unit at the former California Department of Mental Health (DMH), and held various other positions at DMH from 2001 through 2012. In these roles she worked most extensively with the Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services Program.

Prior to working for the State, Ms. Cristo worked as a Program Analyst, also primarily with the Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services Program, at the Yolo County Department of Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Services. She also worked as a Trainer at the Yolo County Department of Employment and Social Services where she trained Eligibility Workers on the Medi-Cal and CalWORKs Programs.

Ms. Cristo received a *Bachelor of Arts Degree* in Sociology, with a special emphasis in social welfare programs, from the University of California at Davis.