Susan DeMarois joins the California Department of Aging as Director on November 1, 2021. Prior to joining CDA, Susan led public policy and advocacy for the national Alzheimer’s Association in California. As a registered lobbyist in Sacramento, Susan advocated for legislative, budget, and regulatory changes at the state capitol on behalf of the 2.1 million Californians directly impacted by Alzheimer’s disease. The organization led the effort to implement the Healthy Brain Initiative in California, resulting in a $5 million investment in the state’s public health infrastructure. On October 4, 2021, Governor Newsom signed SB 48 (Limón) into law, enacting the first dementia early detection initiative in the nation focused on the Medicaid population.

Susan served as an appointee to Governor Newsom’s Alzheimer’s Prevention and Preparedness Task Force, chaired by former First Lady Maria Shriver, in addition to the Master Plan for Aging Stakeholder Advisory Committee, a workgroup established by Executive Order. In addition, Susan represented the Alzheimer’s Association on the CHHS Agency Secretary’s Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Committee.

Before working for the Alzheimer’s Association, Susan led government and community relations for the UC Davis Health System and its academic medical center, children’s hospital, medical school, nursing school and physician group. Early in her career, she worked for LeadingAge California, the professional trade association representing not-for-profit housing, residential care and skilled nursing providers along with home and community-based services. A graduate of CSU Chico, Susan started her career working for the U.S. Congress and California State Assembly. Susan is a proud mom to two adult daughters. She resides in Sacramento, CA and draws inspiration for her work from her own mom’s experience with dementia.