



Biography of Speakers

2004 Employer Health Benefits Survey Briefing

Thursday, September 9, 2004

DREW E. ALTMAN, Ph.D.

Drew Altman is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. The Kaiser Family Foundation is a non-profit, private operating foundation. It develops and runs its own research and communications programs, often in partnership with outside organizations. The Foundation is not associated with Kaiser Permanente or Kaiser Industries. One of the nation's largest private foundations devoted to health, the Foundation is a leading independent voice and source of research and information on health care in the United States. Since 1987, the Foundation has also operated a major program supporting efforts to develop a more equitable health system in South Africa. In 1991, Dr. Altman directed a complete overhaul of the Foundation's mission and operating style, leading to the Foundation's standing today as a leader in health policy and communications. Dr. Altman is a former Commissioner of the Department of Human Services for the state of New Jersey under Governor Tom Kean (1986-1989). Prior to joining the Foundation in 1990, Dr. Altman was director of the Health and Human Services program at the Pew Charitable Trusts. He was a vice president of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation from 1981 to 1986, and served in a senior position in the Health Care Financing Administration in the Carter administration. Dr. Altman received his Ph.D. in political science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he taught graduate courses in public policy. He did his post-doctoral work at the Harvard School of Public Health before moving on to public service. Dr. Altman is a member of the Institute of Medicine and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is a leading expert on national health policy and publishes and speaks widely on health issues.

GARY CLAXTON

Gary Claxton is a Vice President and the Director of the Health Care Marketplace Project at the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. The Project provides information, research, and analysis about trends in the health care market and about policy proposals that relate to health insurance reform and our changing health care system. Prior to joining the Foundation, Mr. Claxton

worked as a senior researcher at the Institute for Health Care Research and Policy at Georgetown University, where his research focused on health insurance and health care financing. From March 1997 until January 2001, Mr. Claxton was the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health Policy at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where he advised the Secretary on health policy issues including: improving access to health insurance, Medicare reform, administration of Medicaid, financing of prescription drugs, expanding patient rights, and health care privacy. Other previous positions include serving as a consultant for the Lewin Group, a special deputy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, an insurance analyst for the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, and a health policy analyst for the American Association of Retired Persons.

JON GABEL

Jon Gabel is the Vice President of Health Systems Studies at the Health Research and Educational Trust (HRET) and a Professional Lecturer at George Washington University. At HRET Mr. Gabel is responsible for conducting studies and surveys that track changes in health benefits and the health care delivery system. His clients include research foundations, government agencies, trade associations, health plans and employers. He formerly was Director of the Center for Survey Research for KPMG Peat Marwick LLP. He has served as Director of Research for the American Association of Health Plans and the Health Insurance Association of America, which are both industry trade associations that represent HMOs and health insurance companies. He was also an economist at the Health Care Financing Administration and the National Center for Health Services Research. Mr. Gabel is the author of more than 105 published articles in scholarly journals and serves on the editorial boards of a number of journals. He is a frequent speaker at business and professional meetings, and has appeared on many major national television news networks. He holds degrees in economics from the College of William and Mary and Arizona State University.

KATE SULLIVAN HARE

Kate Sullivan Hare, Executive Director of Health Care Policy at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, determines the U.S. Chamber's position on health care issues and works with members of Congress in formulating health care policy. Immediately prior to joining the Chamber, she worked with a non-profit multi-provider health system in Chicago, where she served as the Director of Government Programs and was responsible for finance and planning for the system's Medicare and Medicaid clientele. Her public sector experience included service as Senior Health Policy Advisor to U.S. Representative Nancy Johnson, Senior Legislative Assistant to former U.S. Representative Harris Fawell and Illinois Governor Jim Edgar's Washington Representative for health and welfare policy during his first term. She earned her masters degree in Health Services Administration from the George Washington University.

CHRISTINE L. OWENS

Christine L. Owens is Director of the AFL-CIO Public Policy Department. The Department represents the AFL-CIO in analyzing, developing and responding to proposals involving social policy (on such issues as basic workplace standards, employee benefits, and immigration), economic policy (including job creation, wages and taxes), and international trade and development policy. Ms. Owens received her J.D. from the University of Virginia Law School and her B.A. from the College of William and Mary. Before joining the AFL-CIO, she worked as a civil rights and employment discrimination attorney with several public interest groups and law firms and at the EEOC and Labor Department. Ms. Owens was the founder and director of the Worker Options Resource Center, a national non-profit organization engaged in public education and advocacy for low wage workers. As WORC's Director, she coordinated the Citizens Committee for a Fair Minimum Wage, which led the successful 1996 federal minimum wage campaign.

MARY A. PITTMAN, Dr.P.H.

Mary Pittman is President of the Health Research and Educational Trust (HRET) and a member of the executive staff of the American Hospital Association. She oversees a staff of 25 research and education professionals. Prior to assuming the leadership of HRET in 1993, she was President and CEO of the California Association of Public Hospitals. Her areas of interest are community health and access to vulnerable populations and quality and patient safety. She has provided education and training on a range of issues such as program evaluation, substance abuse program development, and community health program implementation and health care leadership. She has over 25 years experience in community-based program planning, design, research, and health policy. She has developed numerous public policy and legislative proposals to expand access and quality of health care to underserved populations. Ms. Pittman has served as principal investigator on a number of research and demonstration grants. She was co-chair and founder of the Coalition for Healthier Cities and Communities. Mary has co-authored two books, *AIDS: Principles, Practices and Politics*, and *Death, Dying, and Bereavement*. She earned her masters degrees from the University of California - Berkeley in Public Health and City and Regional Planning, and her doctorate from UC-Berkeley in Public Health Administration. Mary serves on the boards of a number of organizations as well as on many national advisory committees.

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