

Medicare, Health Reform and the Challenges For People with Disabilities

Speaker Biographies Wednesday, September 8, 2010

Joe Baker

Joe Baker is President of the Medicare Rights Center. He was most recently the deputy secretary for health and human services in New York State under Governor David A. Paterson, where he was instrumental in developing Medicaid reforms and in developing a proposal to extend health coverage to younger New Yorkers. Mr. Baker served as assistant deputy secretary for health and human services under Governor Eliot Spitzer after directing the Health Care Bureau under Spitzer when he was attorney general of New York. Mr. Baker is not new to Medicare Rights; he was executive vice president from 1994 to 2001, and prior to that, he was associate director of legal services for Gay Men's Health Crisis. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law.

Jeffrey S. Crowley

Jeffrey S. Crowley is the Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy and Senior Advisor on Disability Policy at the White House. In these roles, he is the President's lead advisor on HIV/AIDS policy and he is responsible for coordinating disability and health policy issues for the Domestic Policy Council. From 2000-2009, Mr. Crowley was a Senior Research Scholar at Georgetown University's Health Policy Institute and a Senior Scholar at the University's O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law. His primary areas of focus involved Medicaid and Medicare policy issues as they impact people with disabilities and chronic conditions (including people with HIV/AIDS). Prior to this, he served as the Deputy Executive Director for Programs at the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA), overseeing the organization's public education, community development, and training activities. He is a returned Peace Corps Volunteer, having served Swaziland from 1989-1991. Mr. Crowley is a member of the National Academy for Social Insurance (NASI).

Juliette Cubanski

Juliette Cubanski is the Associate Director of the Medicare Policy Project at the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation in Washington, D.C. As a senior member of the Foundation's Medicare policy team, Dr. Cubanski has been extensively involved in the Foundation's efforts to analyze the Medicare provisions in the Affordable Care Act of 2010, monitor their implementation, and assess the implications for people on Medicare. In addition, Dr. Cubanski has helped lead the Foundation's analytic efforts related to the Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit and how the private drug plan marketplace has evolved since its inception in 2006. She has coauthored several reports on the Part D program, assessing changes in plan participation, enrollment, benefit design, and formulary coverage. Dr. Cubanski also conducts research and analysis related to Medicare's long-term financial condition; the financial burden of health spending among Medicare beneficiaries; Medicare beneficiaries with disabilities; and modeling policy options to reform the Medicare program. Dr. Cubanski has authored numerous policy briefs, reports, and peer-reviewed published articles on Medicare, Medicaid, and the uninsured. She was elected to membership in the National Academy of Social Insurance in 2005 and is also a member of AcademyHealth. Dr. Cubanski earned a Ph.D. in health policy at Harvard University, a Masters of Public Policy and a Masters of Public Health from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California at Los Angeles.

Patricia Neuman

Patricia Neuman is a vice president of the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and is Director of the Foundation's Medicare Policy Project. Dr. Neuman is widely regarded as an expert on Medicare policy issues. She has published numerous articles on topics related to health coverage and financing for the Medicare population, and has been invited several times to present expert testimony before Congressional committees. Before joining the Foundation in 1995, Dr. Neuman served for six years on the professional staff of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health in the U.S. House of Representatives, and for three years on the staff of the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging working on health and long-term care issues. Dr. Neuman received a Doctorate of Science degree in health policy and management and a Masters of Science degree in health finance and management from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in Baltimore, Maryland. She received her Bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut.

Elizabeth Priaulx

Elizabeth Priaulx is the Senior Disability Legal Specialist at the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN), the membership association for the nationwide Protection and Advocacy (P&A) Systems, congressionally-mandated agencies that provide legal advocacy and representation to individuals with disabilities. She provides training and technical assistance to P&As on Medicaid law, with a particular focus on litigation and advocacy to promote home and community-based services and supports in compliance with the *Olmstead v. L.C.* Supreme Court decision. She also specializes in enforcement of psychiatric advance directives; and Medicare Part D for dual eligibles. Additionally, Elizabeth manages a contract with the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, to provide legally based training and assistance related to the Protection and Advocacy Traumatic Brain Injury programs; and served as legal consultant to the New Freedom Initiative: State Coalitions to Promote Community-Based Care, an initiative of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Prior to working at NDRN, Elizabeth worked as a disability specialist at United Cerebral Palsy Associations and as a researcher at the U.S. Government Accountability Office. Elizabeth received a Bachelor of Arts from Emory University and a Juris Doctor from the Washington College of Law at American University in Washington, D.C.

Judy Woodruff

Broadcast journalist Judy Woodruff has covered politics and other news for more than three decades at CNN, NBC and PBS. After returning to the NewsHour in 2007 as a senior correspondent, she now regularly co-anchors the newly redesigned PBS NewsHour. In 2007, Woodruff completed an extensive project on the views of young Americans called "Generation Next: Speak Up. Be Heard." Two hour-long documentaries aired on many PBS stations in January and September, 2007, along with a series of reports on the NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, NPR and in USA Today. For 12 years, Woodruff served as anchor and senior correspondent for CNN, anchoring the weekday political program, Inside Politics. At PBS from 1983 to 1993, she was the chief Washington correspondent for The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour, and from 1984-1990, she anchored PBS' award-winning weekly documentary series, Frontline with Judy Woodruff. At NBC News, Woodruff served as White House correspondent from 1977 to 1982. For one year after that she served as NBC's Today Show Chief Washington correspondent. Woodruff is a founding co-chair of the International Women's Media Foundation, an organization dedicated to promoting and encouraging women in communication industries worldwide.

####