

**Kaiser Briefing to Release 50-State Survey Data on Medicaid Managed Care Programs**  
**Speaker Biographies**  
**Tuesday, September 13, 2011**

**Craigian L. Gray, M.D.**

Dr. Craigian Gray was appointed Director of the Division of Medical Assistance (North Carolina Medicaid) in May 2009. Dr. Gray is a Stanford University trained OB/GYN who practiced in Asheville for over 20 years. He started Asheville Women's Medical Center which grew to be the premier Women's health care practice in the western part of the state. After a fellowship at the Royal Marsden Hospital in London, England, Dr. Gray focused on the diagnosis and surgical management of breast disorders and breast cancer. He holds a Masters in Business Administration from Western Carolina University and a Juris Doctorate degree from Regent University in Virginia. He is licensed to practice Medicine and Law in North Carolina. His experience includes private practice, hospital and medical society leadership, including a position as Chief Medical Officer at a Bon Secours Hospital in Kentucky.

**Jason A. Helgerson**

Jason Helgerson became New York's Medicaid Director on January 5, 2011. Jason also serves as the Executive Director for New York's Medicaid Redesign Team. In this capacity he leads Governor Cuomo's effort to fundamentally reshape the state's Medicaid program in order to both lower costs and improve health care quality. Previously, Jason was Wisconsin's Medicaid Director. In that capacity, he administered the state's nationally recognized BagerCare Plus program for children and families (Wisconsin's Family Medicaid, SCHIP, and Healthy Start Program); BadgerCare Plus Core Plan; SeniorCare (Pharmacy Plus Waiver); FoodShare (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program); and Wisconsin's Chronic Disease Program. Jason was also the principle project sponsor for BadgerCare Plus, former Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle's signature health care initiative. Jason served as Executive Assistant/Policy Director to the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) from February 2005 to March 2007. Prior to joining DHFS, Jason served as the Executive Assistant for the Wisconsin Department of Revenue. Jason also served as the Senior Education Policy Advisor for Mayor Ron Gonzales of the City of San Jose, CA, worked for the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) where he served as both the chief lobbyist for the district and as a deputy budget director, and worked for Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist where Jason was the Education Policy Advisor and served as a senior official in the Mayor's Budget Office. Jason received his Master of Public Policy degree from the University of Chicago in 1995, and his B.A. in Political Science from American University in Washington, DC in 1993.

**Julia Paradise**

Julia Paradise is an Associate Director with the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured at the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. The Commission, the largest program of the Foundation, provides information and analysis on health care coverage and access for low-income populations. Ms. Paradise leads much of the Commission's work on the role of Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in improving access to care for low-income children and adults. She also studies and writes about effective and promising strategies, including innovative applications of technology, to optimize Medicaid enrollment systems and establish coordination among Medicaid, CHIP, and health insurance Exchanges, as

required by the new health reform law. Prior to joining the Commission, Ms. Paradise served in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the Department of Health and Human Services where she advised the Assistant Secretary on Medicaid and CHIP policy issues, and in the Office of Policy Analysis in CMS (then HCFA). Ms. Paradise holds a Master's degree in Public Health from the University of North Carolina and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Cornell University.

### **Diane Rowland, Sc.D.**

Diane Rowland is the Executive Vice President of the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and the Executive Director of the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. She is also an adjunct Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Bloomberg School of Public Health of the Johns Hopkins University. In December 2009, Dr. Rowland was appointed the Chair of the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC), established to advise Congress on issues affecting the Medicaid and CHIP programs. She has directed the Kaiser Commission since 1991 and overseen the Foundation's health policy work since 1993. She is a noted authority on health policy, Medicare and Medicaid, and health care for low-income and disadvantaged populations and frequently testifies as an expert witness before the United States Congress on health policy issues. A nationally recognized expert with a distinguished career in public policy and research, focusing on health insurance coverage, access to care, and health care financing for low-income, elderly, and disabled populations, Dr. Rowland has published widely on these subjects. Dr. Rowland is a member of the Institute of Medicine, a founding member of the National Academy for Social Insurance, Past President and Fellow of the Association for Health Services Research (now AcademyHealth), and a member of the Board of Grantmakers in Health, and the Board of the Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies at the University of California, San Francisco. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Wellesley College, a Masters in Public Administration from the University of California at Los Angeles and a Doctor of Science in health policy and management from the Johns Hopkins University.

### **Vernon Smith**

Vernon Smith is Managing Principal with Health Management Associates, where he focuses on Medicaid, Medicare, the Children's Health Insurance Program, health reform and trends in the health care market place. He has authored several reports and articles on Medicaid and CHIP policy, spending and enrollment trends and on state and national approaches to health reform. Dr. Smith has spoken on these issues before many national and state audiences, including the National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the National Association of State Medicaid Directors, American Medical Association, American Hospital Association, the National Health Policy Forum, committees of the U.S. Congress, and Medicaid reform groups in several states. He has been a guest on National Public Radio and quoted on these issues in many national publications. Dr. Smith previously served as the Michigan Medicaid director and as the Michigan human services budget director. He holds a Ph.D. degree in economics from Michigan State University. Among other involvements, he serves on the Board of Trustees of Anderson University, his undergraduate alma mater.

**Joe Vesowate**

Joe Vesowate serves the Health and Human Services Commission as the Medicaid and CHIP Deputy Director for Managed Care Operations. He is responsible for managed care contract monitoring and oversight, systems support, financial monitoring, quality assurance programs, and the disease management program for the Primary Care Case Management program. Mr. Vesowate worked for the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) as Assistant Commissioner for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, a position he retired from in April 2008. Prior to his appointment at DSHS, Mr. Vesowate was Deputy Director for Licensing and Enforcement at the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (TCADA). He served as Executive Sponsor for the Management Team that developed and implemented the Behavioral Health Integrated Provider System (BHIPS). Before his appointment as a Deputy at TCADA, Mr. Vesowate was manager of the agency's Analysis and Reporting Division. Prior to joining TCADA, Mr. Vesowate served within the UT System for 15 years in accounting, auditing and business operations. Mr. Vesowate received a Bachelor's of Business Administration with concentrations in Finance and Economics from the University of Texas at Austin in 1982 and degree certification in Accounting in 1987. He is a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Internal Auditor. He is a graduate of the Governor's Executive Development Program.