

PRESS BRIEFING

Medicare Drug Discount Cards: A Work In Progress July 28, 2004

Biography of Speakers

Beth C. Fuchs, Ph.D., Health Policy Alternatives

Dr. Fuchs joined HPA in 1998 after eleven years at the Congressional Research Service (CRS), where she assisted the Congress in developing and analyzing health legislation and wrote numerous reports on major health policy issues. Her areas of specialization included private health insurance, regulation of managed care, employee health benefits (including ERISA), Medicare, and health system reform. She also had extensive involvement in major legislation, including numerous budget reconciliation bills and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. Before going to CRS, Beth served as a professional staff member for the Senate Special Committee on Aging and as a legislative assistant for a member of the House of Representatives. She was awarded an American Political Science Association Congressional Fellowship in 1981-1982. Beth also taught political science and public policy at Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She received her M.Sc. in politics from the London School of Economics and her Ph.D. in political science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Michael M. Hash, Health Policy Alternatives

Mr. Hash returned to HPA in 2001, after three years of service at the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA, now CMS), first as Deputy Administrator from March 1998 through September 2000, then as Acting Administrator October through December 2000. Prior to his federal appointment, Mike was a principal at HPA for thirteen years. Mike also served from 1990 to 1995 as the Senior Staff Associate of the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, with responsibilities for Medicare legislation and health care reform proposals. In addition, he was involved with the development of legislation on quality assurance, health services research, and the health care workforce. From 1973 to 1980, he was employed by the American Hospital Association, with progressive responsibilities that led to his appointment as Deputy Director of the Washington office, overseeing the management of the Association's government relations program. Mike is a graduate of Washington and Lee University, with post-graduate studies in political science at Vanderbilt University. He has held teaching positions at the Johns Hopkins University and Georgetown University.

Julia A. James (Julie), Health Policy Alternatives

Ms. James joined HPA in 1998 with more than 25 years experience in health services research, planning and policy. Before joining HPA, she was the Chief Health Policy Analyst for the Senate Committee on Finance. In this capacity she was responsible for overseeing health policy issues within the jurisdiction of the Committee, including Medicare, Medicaid, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, and health system reform issues. Prior to joining the Finance Committee staff in 1991, Julie was involved with health policy in the state of Oregon, first as the Associate Director of the regional health planning agency, Northwest Oregon Health Systems, and later as a Governor's appointee to the Oregon Health Council, which she chaired for a year. She also served as Vice-Chairman of the Oregon Certificate of Needs

Appeals Board. Other positions in Oregon included being Associate Director of the Oregon Comprehensive Cancer Program and working as an independent consultant on health and other public policy issues. Julie attended Pitzer College and received her B.A. degree from Oregon State University. She has done graduate work in Public Administration at Portland State University and the Lewis and Clark Graduate School of Professional Studies.

Mark B. McClellan, M.D., Ph.D., Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Dr. McClellan was sworn in as Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on March 25, 2004. He previously served as Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration and in the White House as a Member of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, where he advised on domestic economic issues and was a senior policy director for health care and related economic issues. From 1998-99, he was Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Economic Policy, where he supervised economic analysis and policy development on a wide range of domestic policy issues. Dr. McClellan is on leave from Stanford University, where he was Associate Professor of Economics and Associate Professor of Medicine at Stanford Medical School. He is a Member of the Institute of Medicine. He earned his MD degree from the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology and his PhD in Economics from MIT. A board-certified Internal Medicine physician, Dr. McClellan completed his residency training in internal medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts.

Diane Rowland, Sc.D., Executive Vice President, Kaiser Family Foundation

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 School of Hygiene and Public Health of the Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Rowland is a noted authority on health policy, Medicare and Medicaid, and health care for low-income, elderly, and disadvantaged populations and has published widely on these subjects. Her federal health policy experience includes service on the staff of the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment of the Committee on Energy and Commerce in the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress, as well as senior health policy positions in the Department of Health and Human Services in the Office of the Secretary and the Health Care Financing Administration. Dr. Rowland 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.