

Kaiser Family Foundation
Kaiser Initiative on Health Reform and Private Insurance
Live Webcast: CMS Estimates of State-by-State Health Expenditures
Speaker Biographies
Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Dan Crippen

Executive Director, National Governors Association

Dan Crippen serves as the executive director of the National Governors Association (NGA). As executive director, he works with governors to identify and prioritize the most pressing issues facing states and oversees the day-to-day operations of the association. Founded in 1908, NGA is the only bipartisan organization of the nation's governors. NGA promotes visionary state leadership, shares best practices and speaks with a unified voice on national policy. Prior to his work at NGA, Crippen served as the director of the Congressional Budget Office from 1999 to 2002, supporting the Congressional budget process and providing expert analysis to guide and inform economic decision making. Since CBO, Crippen has worked in the private and nonprofit sectors primarily on health care – including Medicaid, health IT, and health care for elderly and complex patients. In the early 1980s, during a time of great economic upheaval and uncertainty, Crippen served as the Chief Counsel and Economic Advisor for Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker. This position paved the way for his role as the Deputy Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy under the Reagan administration, from 1987 to 1989. Crippen is a member of the Board of Trustees for the Center for Health Care Strategies, a non-profit health policy center focusing on Medicaid; a member of the board of Father Martin's Ashley, a drug and alcohol rehab center; and a member of the CBO Economic Advisors. He has also served as senior advisor to the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission and as a member of the CEO Health Transformation Community, the NASA Aeronautics and Safety Advisory Panel and the Google Health Advisory Committee. Crippen completed his undergraduate work at The University of South Dakota and earned a Ph.D. and a master's degree in public finance from The Ohio State University.

Gigi Cuckler, M.A., M.B.A.

Economist, National Health Statistics Group in the Office of the Actuary, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

Gigi Cuckler is an Economist in the National Health Statistics Group in the Office of the Actuary (OACT) at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Since her arrival at CMS in 2010, Ms. Cuckler has worked on historical estimates of the State Health Expenditure Accounts. Ms. Cuckler has also worked on the short-run (11 years) projections of the National Health Expenditure Accounts, focusing on the projections of the physician and clinical services sector, published annually in the journal Health Affairs. Prior to coming to CMS, she worked as a supervisor in underwriting research and development at GEICO insurance and as a corporate

associate in business intelligence at Endo Pharmaceuticals. Ms. Cuckler earned a B.A. in Mathematics from Rutgers University of New Jersey. In addition, she holds a M.A. in Economics and a M.B.A. from the University of Delaware.

John Holahan

Director, Health Policy Research Center, Urban Institute

John F. Holahan, Ph.D. is Director of the Health Policy Research Center at The Urban Institute. Much of his research has focused on state health policy, including Medicaid and issues of federalism and health. These include analyses of the recent growth in Medicaid expenditures and the implications of block grants and changes in matching formulas on states. He has also published on strategies for Medicaid reform.

He has developed proposals for health system reform, most recently in Massachusetts. He has also published research on the reasons for the growth in the uninsured over the past decade and on the effects of proposals to expand health insurance coverage on the number of uninsured and the cost to federal and state governments.

Larry Levitt

Senior Vice President for Special Initiatives and Senior Advisor to the President; Executive Director, Kaiser Initiative on Health Reform and Private Insurance, Kaiser Family Foundation

Larry Levitt is the Senior Vice President for Special Initiatives at the Kaiser Family Foundation and Senior Advisor to the President of the Foundation. Among other duties, he is Co-Executive Director of the Kaiser Initiative on Health Reform and Private Insurance.

He previously served as Editor-in-Chief of kaisernetwork.org, the Foundation's online health policy news and information service, and directed Foundation's communications and online activities and its Changing Health Care Marketplace Project.

Before joining the Foundation, Mr. Levitt was a senior manager with The Lewin Group, where he advised public and private sector clients on health policy and financing issues. He previously served as a Senior Health Policy Advisor to the White House and Department of Health and Human Services, working on the development of President Clinton's Health Security Act and other health policy initiatives. He co-chaired the working group on cost containment in conjunction with the President's task force on health reform.

Prior to that, he served as the Special Assistant for Health Policy with California Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi, where he co-authored Commissioner Garamendi's "California Health Care in the 21st Century" proposal. Before joining Insurance Commissioner Garamendi,

Mr. Levitt was a medical economist with Kaiser Permanente, where he worked on insurance reform and other public policy issues.

Levitt previously managed new program development for the Massachusetts Department of Medical Security, the agency charged with implementing the universal health care plan in Massachusetts. He was responsible for the design of new health programs under the plan, and for management of the fund used to reimburse hospitals for uncompensated care. He also served as a senior analyst with the Governor's budget office in Massachusetts, where he helped develop that state's universal health care legislation.

He holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of California at Berkeley, and a master's degree in public policy from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.