

**“MATCHING HEALTH BENEFIT PACKAGES TO HEALTH NEEDS: KEY ISSUES  
TO CONSIDER IN HEALTH REFORM”**  
**Wednesday, September 9, 2009**

**PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES**

**Chris Jennings, President, Jennings Policy Strategies, former Senior Health Care Advisor to President Clinton**

Chris Jennings is a more than two decade-long health policy veteran of the White House, Congress and the private sector. He currently serves as president of Jennings Policy Strategies (JPS), Inc., a nationally-respected health policy and advocacy consulting firm in Washington, D.C

Prior to founding JPS, Inc., Mr. Jennings served in the White House as the Senior Health Care Advisor to President William Jefferson Clinton at the Domestic Policy and National Economic Councils. During his tenure there, Mr. Jennings made significant contributions toward the enactment of major, bipartisan health legislation including the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, the Mental Health Parity Act, the Food and Drug Administration Modernization Act, the Work Incentives Improvement Act, and the tripling of funding for international AIDS programs for prevention, care, treatment and health infrastructure. Recognizing his work at the White House, the National Journal designated Mr. Jennings as one of Washington’s 100 most influential individuals throughout the entire Federal government.

As the President’s Senior Health Policy Advisor, he was charged with developing and implementing the Administration’s health care policy. In this capacity, Mr. Jennings coordinated and oversaw the health policy work of numerous Federal agencies, including the Office of Management and Budget and the Departments of Health and Human Services, Treasury, and Labor. He also had lead responsibility for communicating and advocating Administration health policy to the Congress, state and local governments, health care interest groups, and the media.

In 1993 and 1994, he served as the Senior Advisor to Administrator of the then Health Care Financing Administration. In this capacity, he served concurrently as the congressional liaison for First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton providing assistance for her testimony before five committees and staffing her for hundreds of meetings with members of Congress as she advocated for affordable, quality health insurance for all Americans.

Prior to joining the Clinton Administration, Mr. Jennings served as Committee staff for three United States Senators (Glenn, Melcher, and Pryor) over the course of almost ten years on Capitol Hill. As Deputy Staff Director of the Senate Aging Committee for Chairman David Pryor (D-AR), he staffed the Senator before the Finance Committee and the “Pepper Commission.” He also coordinated Senator Pryor’s legislative initiatives on health insurance affordability and access, long-term care, rural health, and prescription drug coverage and cost containment.

**Meg Murray, CEO, Association for Community Affiliated Plans (ACAP)**

As the founding CEO of the Association for Community Affiliated Plans (ACAP), Ms. Murray has led the organization since its inception in 2001, steering it through tremendous growth from its origins as an Association of 14 community health center-owned plans to 42 safety net plans, covering over 6 million people on Medicaid and Medicare. ACAP’s mission is to represent and strengthen not-for-profit, safety net health plans as they work in their communities to improve the health and well being of vulnerable populations.

Ms. Murray is a national expert on health care policy for low income people and is a frequent speaker on these issues at national conferences and in the media. She has also published several articles on the German health care system as a result of an Alexander von Humboldt fellowship in Berlin.

Ms. Murray received her MPA from the Woodrow Wilson School of Princeton University and her B.A., cum laude, in Economics and Classical Civilization, from Wellesley College.

Prior to leading ACAP, Ms. Murray was the Medicaid Director for the State of New Jersey and oversaw the expansion of the FamilyCare program to cover all children under 350% of poverty. She was also a senior budget analyst for the U. S. Office of Management and Budget, with responsibility for negotiating the budget neutrality agreements for Medicaid managed care waivers. She currently serves on the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission and has served on the board a Community Health Center in Southern Maryland.

**Judith Palfrey, M.D., President-elect, American Academy of Pediatrics**

Judith S. Palfrey, MD, FAAP, is the 2008-2009 President-elect of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), based in Elk Grove Village, Illinois. The AAP is the nation's largest pediatric organization, with a membership of 60,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists.

Dr. Palfrey took office as President-Elect at the October 2008 AAP National Conference and Exhibition (NCE) in Boston, Mass., and will serve as the 2009-2010 AAP President.

Dr. Palfrey is a general pediatrician and child advocate. After receiving her undergraduate degree from Harvard University and medical degree from Columbia University, she trained at Jacobi Hospital in New York. She then joined Children's Hospital, Boston, holding the position of General Pediatrics Division Chief from 1986-2008. Under her leadership, the Division grew to one of the largest and most productive General Pediatrics programs in the country. Dr. Palfrey has served as Chair of the AAP Section on Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, President of the Academic Pediatric Association, Director of Building Bright Futures, and National Program Director of the Dyson Community Pediatrics Initiative.

Dr. Palfrey is the T. Berry Brazelton Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. She directs the Children's International Pediatric Center, Children's Hospital, Boston. She is also Master of Adams House at Harvard College along with her husband, Dr. Sean Palfrey. She has written five books, including *Community Child Health* and *Child Health in America*, and more than 100 articles dealing with improving child health systems. She has mentored hundreds of medical students, residents, and fellows.

Dr. Palfrey has advocated for fully coordinated primary care services in a "medical home" to address child health inequities, and she has provided guidance for practices and school systems for children with special health care needs. She has advocated for substantial funding of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), improved school health services and payment to pediatricians for developmental screening and coordination of care. "It is time to get health care coverage for children right once and for all," said Dr. Palfrey. "SCHIP has been a modest step in the right direction, but nearly 9 million children remain uninsured. We must assure that all children receive excellent health care through universal insurance and the provision of a full health benefits package consistent with AAP standards – our children are depending on it."

**Julia Paradise, Principal Policy Analyst at the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured**

Julia Paradise is Principal Policy Analyst at the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured a major initiative of the Kaiser Family Foundation. The Commission operates as a policy institute and forum providing information and analysis on health insurance coverage and access to care for low-income

people. Ms. Paradise is an expert on Medicaid. Her work at the Commission is focused primarily on children and families and the impact of coverage on access to care. She develops and oversees research on these issues, writes Commission publications, and identifies policy and analytic opportunities for the organization.

Before joining the Commission in 2002, Ms. Paradise served for 11 years in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). There, she staffed the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health Policy, providing analysis on Medicaid and SCHIP issues and helping to develop policy initiatives aimed at broadening health coverage of low-income people. She coordinated the Department's \$10 million Congressionally mandated evaluation of SCHIP and other major projects, and served on the HHS team that developed the federal regulatory framework for SCHIP.

In 1993, she served on the President's Task Force on National Health Care Reform. Earlier in her career, Ms. Paradise held positions in the Office of Legislation and Policy in the Health Care Financing Administration (now CMS) and on the staff of the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee in the U.S. House of Representatives, as a Presidential Management Intern. Ms. Paradise holds a Master of Science in Public Health from the University of North Carolina and a Bachelor of Arts from Cornell University.

**Karen Pollitz, Research Professor at Georgetown University's Health Policy Institute**

Karen Pollitz is a Research Professor at the Health Policy Institute at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. There she directs research on health insurance reform issues as they affect consumers and patients. Her areas of focus include regulation of private health insurance plans and markets, managed care consumer protections, and access to affordable health insurance. She is also an adjunct professor in Georgetown's Graduate Public Policy School. Her projects include the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Consumer Guides Project and the Consumer Healthcare Education Project.

Prior to joining the Institute faculty, Ms. Pollitz served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health Legislation at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services from 1993 to 1997. In this capacity she was the Secretary's legislative liaison on all federal health care issues, including national health care reform, Medicare, Medicaid, and U.S. Public Health Service agencies and programs.

From 1984 to 1991, Ms. Pollitz worked as a health policy advisor to Members of Congress. She was legislative assistant to Senator John D. Rockefeller IV (D-WV), Congressman Sander Levin (D-MI), and the Subcommittee on Compensation and Employee Benefits of the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee. After leaving the Hill, Ms. Pollitz worked as the Assistant Director of the Washington Office of the American Academy of Family Physicians, and taught at the Marymount University School of Business.

Ms. Pollitz holds an M.P.P. from the University of California at Berkeley, and a B.A. with Honors from Oberlin College.

**Diane Rowland, Executive Vice President of the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and the Executive Director of the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured**

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.

Dr. Rowland 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 poor and disadvantaged populations and frequently testifies as an expert witness before the United States Congress on health policy issues. 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 (now Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services). Dr. Rowland is a nationally recognized expert with a distinguished career in public policy focusing on health insurance coverage, access to care, and health care financing for low-income, elderly, and disabled populations.

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), a Senior Fellow of the Brookdale Foundation and a member of the Board of Grantmakers in Health. She is also co-chair of the Public Policy Advisory Group for the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unwanted Pregnancy, and a member of the Campaign's Board. Dr. Rowland has served as a national expert on the Governor's Health Reform Task Force in Louisiana, the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality, and the Commonwealth Commission on the Future of Health Insurance and Commission on Women's Health.

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.