

Biographies

Donna Cohen Ross

As the Center's Outreach Director, Cohen Ross oversees the Center's highly acclaimed Earned Income Tax Credit outreach campaign. She also developed and directs Start Healthy, Stay Healthy, a national effort to enlist government agencies, health and human services providers, community-based organizations and institutions and others to help families get their children enrolled in free and low-cost health insurance programs.

The project also provides technical assistance to state child health officials, nonprofit groups and others on policies and procedures to simplify children's health coverage enrollment and renewal processes.

Cohen Ross joined the Center's staff after twelve years as a child advocate in New Jersey. A seasoned state EITC campaign organizer, her outreach efforts in New Jersey were recognized as among the best in the country.

As director of Invest in Children, a coalition of New Jersey's business leaders and child advocates working to improve health and education programs for young children, Cohen Ross spearheaded a statewide WIC Quality Enhancement project and co-founded the Early Childhood Facilities Fund. Her early work in New Jersey resulted in the initiation of a successful state School Breakfast Start-Up Fund.

Cathy Kaufmann

Cathy Kaufmann is the manager of the new Oregon State Office of Healthy Kids. Healthy Kids is Oregon's newly expanded children's health coverage program. The program, which was signed into law August 2009, will expand no cost or low cost health coverage to 80,000 more Oregon children through aggressive outreach efforts. The goal of this program is to improve Oregon's child insurance rate to at least 95%. (Currently, about 87% of Oregon's children have health coverage.)

Prior to taking over the Office of Healthy Kids, Ms. Kaufmann served as the Policy & Communications Director at Children First for Oregon, a child advocacy organization dedicated to improving child health and well-being. Ms. Kaufmann also served as the Co-Chair for the Human Services Coalition of Oregon and was the Communications Director for the 2007 Healthy Kids Campaign (Yes on Ballot Measure 50), an effort to expand children's health coverage using revenue from an increased tobacco tax. Ms. Kaufmann has a Masters in Social Work from Portland State University and is the mother to two young children, Ben, age 6, and Nate, age 1.

Diane Rowland

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.

Carol Steckel

Ms. Steckel has held the position of commissioner of the Alabama Medicaid Agency since her appointment by Governor Bob Riley in December 2003. Prior to her appointment as commissioner, she served as director and chief executive officer of Survey Associates, LLC, Birmingham, Alabama. In this capacity, she worked with senior housing market investors regarding regulatory and quality issues within the long-term care market. Additionally, Ms. Steckel has held a variety of posts with various entities, including senior vice president of Northport Health Services, Inc., Tuscaloosa, Alabama; program chief of staff, March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, White Plains, New York; commissioner, Alabama Medicaid Agency (November 1988 through July 1992); deputy director, Office of Prepaid Health Care, Health Care Financing Administration (now the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services), Washington, D.C.; consultant and director, Data and Policy Development, Alabama Hospital Association, Montgomery, Alabama; and assistant to the special assistant on health policy to the President, the White House, Washington, D.C.

Ms. Steckel is the chair of the Executive Committee of the National Association of State Medicaid Directors. Her community activities include memberships on the Dean's Advisory Committee, University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health, and the Norton Board of Advisors for Birmingham-Southern College.

Ms. Steckel has a master's degree in public health from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and a bachelor's degree in sociology from Birmingham-Southern College.