

**Kaiser Briefing on Opportunities for Long-Term Services and Supports in the  
Health Reform Law  
Speaker Biographies  
February 7, 2011**

**Barbara Edwards**

Barbara Coulter Edwards currently serves as the Director of the Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group in the Center for Medicaid, CHIP, and Survey & Certification at CMS. Barb has almost 30 years of public and private sector experience in health care financing. She is a nationally recognized expert in Medicaid policy, including managed care, cost containment, long-term care, and State and federal health care reform. She served for eight years as the Ohio State Medicaid Director and was a Principal with Health Management Associates, Inc. for 4 years. Barb's work at HMA focused on Medicaid, national health reform, and service delivery for persons with chronic and disabling conditions. Barb also spent six months as the Interim Director of the National Association of State Medicaid Directors. As many of you know, Barb is a frequent national presenter on Medicaid trends and State health policy challenges. During her time as Ohio's Medicaid Director, Barb led significant program reforms, including implementation of Ohio's comprehensive strategy to promote access to home and community-based long-term services and supports, development of a Preferred Drug List for outpatient prescription drugs, expansion of managed care to serve Medicaid consumers, and implementation of Ohio's State Children's Health Insurance Program. She served on the federal State Pharmacy Assistance Program Transition Commission during implementation of Medicare Part D, served on the National Quality Forum Steering Committee which recommended standards for nursing home care, and served as vice chair of the National Association of State Medicaid Directors.

**Jhamirah Howard**

Jhamirah Howard is a policy analyst with the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, a major initiative of the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. The Commission functions as a policy institute and forum providing information and analysis on health insurance coverage and access to care for low-income people. Ms. Howard writes Commission publications and provides analytic support for the Commission's work. Her work primarily focuses on long-term care and dual eligibles. Ms. Howard also co-authors the Commission's annual Primer on the Uninsured. Ms. Howard has a diverse background in both policy and laboratory science. Prior to joining the Foundation she held a position at the Center for Mental Health Policy and Services Research at the University of Pennsylvania, where her work focused on mental health issues in children. Before that she was a junior fellow at the Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia, where she conducted laboratory research focused on chemosensory development in children. Ms. Howard holds a Masters degree in Public Health from The George Washington University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

**John McCarthy**

John McCarthy joined the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Office of Health Plans as the Medicaid Director in January 2011. The Ohio Medicaid program covers over 2.1 million Ohioans with a total Medicaid budget of approximately \$18 billion. Ohio has an innovative Medicaid Program, with eight home- and community-based waiver programs serving thousands of Ohioans, and an energized MFP program. Recently, the Medicaid program has taken a collaborative approach across agencies to create a robust approach to Unified Long Term Care Budgeting through its ULTCB workgroups. Across agencies and across stakeholder groups of all kinds, Ohio has focused on making sure that people who need long-term care services receive the services they need in the setting that best serves them and is the setting they prefer. Additionally,

the Ohio Money Follows the Person program won national recognition for developing a collaboration with the housing authority in Cuyahoga County breaking down the number one barrier to getting folks back into the community. Previously, Mr. McCarthy was the Deputy Director for the District of Columbia's Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF), and in that role served as the Medicaid Director. DHCF oversees the District's public insurance program which includes the Medicaid program and the locally funded Alliance program. The combined Medicaid and District funded programs cover over 215,000 District residents which is about 1/3 of the population. The result of that investment was the second lowest uninsured rate in the nation of only 6.2%. Before being he accepted the Deputy Director position, Mr. McCarthy was the Senior Policy Director. In that role, he oversaw the development of all policy initiatives including the expansion of SCHIP from 200% to 300% of the federal poverty level, the development and implementation of a new MRDD home- and community based waiver, and development and implementation of new managed care contracts that include pay for performance. Previous to joining DHCF, Mr. McCarthy was a partner with EP&P Consulting, a Medicaid consulting firm, for ten years helping states reform their Medicaid programs developing waiver programs, creating new coverage initiatives, home- and community-based waiver development and rate setting, development of needs assessment tools, and hospital rate setting. Mr. McCarthy was also a budget analyst in the Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting for the State of Arizona. Mr. McCarthy received his Master's degree in Public Affairs from Indiana University, School of Public and Environmental Affairs and a B.A. in chemistry from Indiana University.

### **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. 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. 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.

### **Kathleen Sebelius**

Kathleen Sebelius is the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. She has been a leader on health care, family and seniors issues for over 20 years. Today, as the country's highest-ranking health official, Secretary Sebelius is guiding the implementation of the historic Affordable Care Act. She is also at the forefront of the Obama Administration's efforts to build a 21<sup>st</sup> century health care system, from putting a new focus on prevention to promoting electronic health records to expanding the primary care workforce. Under her leadership, the Department of Health and Human Services has also played a leading

role in meeting some of the country's biggest challenges of the last two years, providing critical support to families during the economic downturn and coordinating the U.S. government response to the H1N1 flu. With partners across the Cabinet, she has launched new efforts to make government work better for the American people, joining with Attorney General Holder to crack down on health care fraud, working with Secretary Vilsack to build a 21<sup>st</sup> century food safety system, and collaborating with Secretary Duncan to raise the quality of early childhood education. Before joining the Obama Administration, Secretary Sebelius served as Governor of Kansas, where she was named one of *Time Magazine's* Top Five Governors, and Kansas Insurance Commissioner, where *Governing Magazine* selected her as their Public Official of the Year.

### **Molly O'Malley Watts**

Molly O'Malley Watts is a Principal Consultant with Watts Health Policy Consulting, LLC. She works on policy and implementation issues related to Medicaid, health reform and long-term care with a focus on individuals with disabilities and dual eligibles. Prior to her consulting work, she was a Principal Policy Analyst at the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, a major initiative of the Kaiser Family Foundation. During her nine year tenure at Kaiser, she authored numerous reports on Medicaid financing, coverage, and access to care for seniors and individuals with disabilities. She also served under the Clinton Administration at the Office of Management and Budget where she worked on a wide variety of policy issues related to the federal health care budget. Ms. Watts received her Master's in Public Policy from Georgetown University and her Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from Princeton University.

### **Mercedes Witowsky**

Mercedes Witowsky is the Associate Executive Director at Community Access Unlimited, Inc. in Elizabeth, New Jersey. She has been with Community Access, a non-profit agency for the past twenty-eight years progressing from a career in special education to specialized and individualized community support services. Mercedes' efforts at Community Access support the mission of the organization to assist over 4,000 people with disabilities and a variety of other needs lead normal and productive lives as citizens integrated in the community. Overseeing a support services budget of over \$30M, Community Access' services support teens and adults with disabilities in order to be appreciated; welcomed and accepted in their communities; taxpaying citizens who are self-sufficient; knowledgeable and demanding in exercising their civil rights toward self determination; and experience personal growth by developing professional and social capacity and a healthy lifestyle. Mercedes serves on the New Jersey Association of Community Providers (NJACP), Legislative and Policy Committee and has been a member of AAIDD since 1985. Community Access Unlimited is a member of the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) for over a decade and Mercedes has served on the ANCOR Board of Representatives for the past 8 years and has been a presenter at numerous national conferences. Mercedes Witowsky never imagined her personal need to access supports for people with disabilities until her daughter suffered a massive stroke at the age of 16. She now faces the same challenges of so many Americans who navigate supports for their loved ones. Mercedes is a parent advocate and has helped hundreds of families develop supports and services.