

Medicaid HIFA Waivers: Lessons for California

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Panelist Biographies

Angela Gilliard

Angela Gilliard joined the Western Center on Law & Policy in February 2002 as the legislative advocate for health care issues. As the legislative advocate for Western Center, Angela is the voice in Sacramento for low income health consumers statewide and the legislative advocate for over 1,000 health care advocates who represent over 300,000 clients a year. Angela has provided expert analysis of health care issues to the national, state and local media, both houses of the legislature, the Governor's office and the Health Consumer Alliance that provides direct legal services to California's low-income consumers. Angela accumulated decades of experience in health care prior to joining Western Center. She was a senior policy consultant to the California State Assembly where she advised Members on the Health Committee and other Assembly leadership offices on various health care issues. She worked as a policy analyst in the Medi-Cal Managed Care Division of the California State Department of Health Service. In addition, she developed and co-managed a multi-disciplinary and multi-ethnic mental health practice in Los Angeles, California where she procured contracts from managed care companies and city governments in support of the practice. Angela graduated from McGeorge School of Law in 1992.

Cindy Mann

Cindy Mann is a Research Professor at Georgetown University, Health Policy Institute, analyzing health coverage, financing, and access issues affecting low-income populations. She has written extensively on health coverage issues and the Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Programs and has worked closely with state and federal policymakers on the design and implementation of Medicaid and SCHIP.

From 1999 - 2001, Ms. Mann was the Director of the Family and Children's Health Program Group for the Center for Medicaid and State Operations at the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA, now the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services). In that capacity she directed, at the federal level, the implementation and oversight of the Medicaid program with respect to families, children, and pregnant women and oversaw the implementation of the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

After leaving CMS, Ms. Mann worked as a Senior Fellow with the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured and continues to serve as an Associate Commissioner. From 1994 through 1999, she led the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities' federal and state health policy work. She also has extensive state-level experience, having worked in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New York. In the late 1980's Ms. Mann directed the Massachusetts Legislature's Special Commission on Tax Reform. She holds a law degree from New York University School of Law.

Jeanene Smith

Jeanene Smith, MD, MPH, is Deputy Administrator of the Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research (OHPR). This state agency provides oversight and coordination for all elements of the Oregon Health Plan and state health trends, providing technical and policy support to the legislative and executive branch decision-making on health policy. The agency's Administrator reports directly to the Governor and the Legislature, and the Office supports the work of Oregon's Health Policy Commission which is focused on developing a state health plan, the Health Resources Commission which has been doing evidence-based drug class reviews for Oregon's Physicians Managed Preferred Drug List, and the Health Services Commission which oversees the Oregon Health Plan's Prioritized List of Health Services. The office also is statutorily charged with the collection of Oregon's hospitals' financial and discharge data, uninsurance data, and regular surveys of Oregon's hospitals, nursing facilities, and ambulatory surgical centers.

Dr. Smith has an extensive background in health care and insurance coverage. She is a graduate of Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU) School of Medicine, and completed a residency in Family Medicine at Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She graduated with a Masters in Public Health from Portland State University in 2001. Dr. Smith practiced family medicine in both private practice and safety net clinics for over 12 years, including a year in the Alaska Native Health Service overseeing two remote Aleutian Island village clinics, before joining OHPR to work with the Oregon's HRSA State Planning Grant in September 2000. She has been the Project Director for Oregon's State Coverage Initiatives Grant project, which facilitated the final submission and implementation of the Oregon Health Plan 2 Medicaid Waiver. Dr. Smith has overseen the evaluation of the impacts of the Oregon Health Plan policy changes through the development of the Oregon Health Research and Evaluation Collaborative (OHREC).