

How Will Consumers Navigate New Health Care Options?

Thursday, April 18, 2013

Speaker Biographies

ELISABETH R. BENJAMIN

Elisabeth Benjamin is the Vice President of Health Initiatives at the Community Service Society, where she supervises health policy, health advocacy, Community Health Advocates (CHA) and Small Business Assistance Program (SBAP). Together, CHA and SBAP serve over 60,000 health care consumers and small businesses annually through a toll-free helpline and network of 30 Community Based Organizations and 34 small business-serving groups. She is a co-founder of Health Care for All New York Campaign (HCFANY), a statewide coalition of over 150 organizations devoted to securing affordable, quality health care for all New Yorkers, (HCFANY blog and website can be viewed at: www.hcfany.org). She has published extensively about various health policy issues. She has received a number of honors, including: the 2012 Progressive Leadership Award (Citizen Action of New York), 2011 Consumer Health Advocate Award (Families USA), the 2009 Special Merit Award (Public Health Association of NYC), and “Health Care Hero” label in New York’s *Westsider* community newspaper. Ms. Benjamin also worked overseas in various community health and humanitarian projects in India, Iraq, the Philippines, Morocco, and Tunisia. Ms. Benjamin received a Master of Science degree in Health Policy and Management from Harvard School of Public Health in 1988 and a Juris Doctor degree from Columbia University School of Law in 1992. She clerked for the Honorable Robert Sweet, a federal District Court Judge for the Southern District of New York.

KATHLEEN GMEINER

Kathleen Gmeiner has worked in the field of health care advocacy, planning and policy analysis for 25 years. She has a masters degree in Health Services Administration from the University Of Michigan School Of Public Health, as well as a Juris Doctor from the University of Cincinnati. Kathleen presently is employed by UHCAN Ohio where she directs the Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage, a coalition of consumer organizations building the voice of consumers in Ohio. She has staffed the Coalition through its successful efforts to secure federal health care reform in 2010 and implementation efforts in Ohio. She is a consumer representative to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

LORI K. GRUBSTEIN

Lori K. Grubstein, MPH, MSW, MPA, program officer, helps to develop and manage programs to expand health coverage and maximize enrollment in existing coverage programs as well as to

improve the quality of health care Americans receive. Working in both the Foundation's coverage and quality/equality program areas, she enjoys the "opportunity to work with some of the best people in the field to tackle some of the most difficult health care problems our nation faces today." She also values the chance to "give people and communities an authentic, strong consumer voice in health care policy and systems change efforts and in the changes that can affect their lives." After joining the Foundation in 2001, Grubstein initially worked as a program associate in the area of community and family health. As a program officer, she has been responsible for one of the Foundation's largest programs, *Covering Kids & Families*.

Previously, she was a senior research associate at the Crime and Justice Research Institute in Philadelphia, where she worked on an outcome-based information system tracking youth in the juvenile justice system. Prior to that position, she was a research associate at the Michigan Public Health Institute, where she provided technical assistance and training to community-based organizations in their efforts to evaluate their sexual assault, rape crisis and juvenile justice programs. In addition to these areas, she has also addressed the issues of HIV/AIDS, teen pregnancy, domestic violence and pediatric asthma. In 2005, Grubstein completed the executive master of public policy and administration program at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. She received her dual master's degree in public health (health behavior and health education) and social work (community organization) from the University of Michigan in 1997. Her training also includes a BA in psychology from Clark University (1992) and a certificate of study from the London School of Economics and Political Science. She has successfully completed the educational component and skills assessment of Motorola's Six Sigma Green Belt Certification. Born in New York, she now resides in North Brunswick, New Jersey, with her husband Paul Hughes, a computer programmer. They have two children. She enjoys modern and folk art, reading, hiking and "all things to do with kids."

NANCY METCALF

Nancy Metcalf covers health insurance, health reform, and the health system in general for Consumer Reports' media products, including Consumer Reports Magazine and Consumer Reports online, which together reach more than 7 million paid subscribers. Through her "Ask Nancy" blog, which appears regularly on CR's newsfeed, she has received thousands of questions on health insurance.

KAREN POLLITZ

Karen Pollitz is a Senior Fellow at the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation where she directs and sponsors research related to consumer protections and transparency in private health insurance. Prior to joining the Kaiser Family Foundation staff, Ms. Pollitz served as Director of the Office of Consumer Support, Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The new agency was created weeks after enactment of the Affordable Care Act to implement provisions affecting private health insurance. There, Ms. Pollitz directed the launch of initiatives including a network of state consumer

assistance programs and a new consumer health insurance information web site, www.healthcare.gov. From 1997 to 2010, she was a Research Professor at the Health Policy Institute at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Her research focused on the regulation of private health insurance plans and markets, managed care consumer protections, and access to affordable health insurance. She was also an adjunct professor in Georgetown's Graduate Public Policy School. 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.

JANET TRAUTWEIN

Janet Trautwein is the Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of Health Underwriters (NAHU) in Washington, D.C. NAHU represents more than 100,000 employee benefits professionals involved in the design, sale, implementation and management of health plans all over the United States. Her responsibilities include oversight of all NAHU activities and primary representation of the association to the media, government agencies and elected officials at all levels. Prior to becoming the CEO of NAHU in 2005, Janet served for many years as the head of NAHU's government affairs department, working with members of Congress, senior government officials, governors, and state legislators, and directing the government and political affairs of the organization. A frequent speaker on health policy issues, Janet is considered an expert in health insurance markets and health plans of all sizes and frequently testifies before Congress on these issues. Her expertise in issues related to the uninsured, health insurance pools, risk and reinsurance pooling, health related tax issues, and both national and global health reform has been recognized throughout the industry. Janet has been published in major newspapers, including The Wall Street Journal, New York Times and Los Angeles Times and has appeared on hundreds of radio and television programs around the world.