



THE KAISER COMMISSION ON
Medicaid and the Uninsured



**MEDICAID IN A TIME OF GROWTH AND CHANGE:
FINDINGS FROM THE ANNUAL KAISER 50-STATE MEDICAID BUDGET SURVEY
AT A FORUM WITH THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAID DIRECTORS**

October 15, 2015

9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. ET

The Barbara Jordan Conference Center

Panelist Biographies

Thomas J. Betlach, since 2009, Mr. Betlach has served as Director of the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), Arizona's single state Medicaid agency. Mr. Betlach reports to the Governor on the AHCCCS program, which currently provides health care coverage to 1.6 million Arizonans at an annual cost of \$12 billion. Mr. Betlach is widely recognized as a national leader in Medicaid managed care and health care policy. Through his leadership, Arizona: launched the first integrated health plan for persons with serious mental illness by including physical health services into the Regional Behavioral Health Authority; leads the nation in duals alignment; is streamlining justice system transitions to health care; remains one of the lowest cost long term care programs nationally; has maintained high levels of home and community based placement for persons with long term care needs; created an integrated specialty plan for children with special health care needs; and modernized operational processes and systems, including enhancing data analytics in Medicaid. In recognition of his expertise, Mr. Betlach was selected by his peers to serve as President of the National Association of Medicaid Directors. In addition, the Congressional Budget Office named Mr. Betlach to its prestigious Panel of Health Advisers. Prior to becoming AHCCCS Director, Mr. Betlach served as the AHCCCS Deputy Director for nearly eight years. Mr. Betlach served as the state Budget Director for five years before coming to AHCCCS. Mr. Betlach earned his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of Wisconsin and his Master's in Public Administration from the University of Arizona.

Gretchen Hammer, is the Department's Medicaid Director and oversees the Health Programs Office which administers Medicaid and Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) health program benefits, delivery systems and provider relations. Before joining the Department, Hammer was Executive Director of the Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved (CCMU). She served as past Chair and Member of the Connect for Health Colorado Board of Directors, served on the Colorado Children's Healthcare Access Program (CCHAP) Board and HealthONE Board of Trustees. Prior to her work at CCMU, Ms. Hammer was a private consultant focused on leadership development, complex systems change initiatives, strategic planning, program management and constituent engagement for numerous public service organizations. Ms. Hammer received a B.A. from Colorado College and a holds a Master's of Public Health from the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine.

Diane Rowland, Sc.D., is the Executive Vice President of the Kaiser Family Foundation and Executive Director of the Foundation's Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. She is a nationally recognized health policy 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. She has directed the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured since 1991 and overseen the Foundation's health policy work on Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance, global health and HIV, women's health, and disparities since 1993. A noted authority on Medicaid, Medicare and health care policy, Dr. Rowland frequently testifies and has published widely on these issues. Appointed in 2009 as the inaugural chair, Dr. Rowland continues to serve as the Chair of the congressionally-authorized Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC) established to advise Congress on issues related to Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Dr. Rowland is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) formerly known as the Institute of Medicine (IOM) and holds a Bachelor's degree from Wellesley College, a Master's in Public Administration from the University of California at Los Angeles and a Doctor of Science in health policy and management from the Bloomberg School of Public Health at the Johns Hopkins University.

Robin Rudowitz, is an Associate Director for the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, a major initiative of the Kaiser Family Foundation. Ms. Rudowitz, who has been with the Commission since August 2004, focuses on Medicaid financing issues. Prior to coming to the Commission, Ms. Rudowitz was a Senior Manager at The Lewin Group, a health policy and management consulting firm. Ms. Rudowitz has also spent time working on budget and health policy issues at the federal, state and local levels of government. She served as the Medicaid Director in the Office of Legislation at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Prior to that, she worked for the District of Columbia's Chief Financial Officer, overseeing funding for the District's Medicaid, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and public health programs. She also worked at the Congressional Budget Office and the Ways and Means Committee for the New York State Assembly. Ms. Rudowitz was educated at Cornell University where she earned her undergraduate degree and a Master's in Public Administration.

Justin Senior, is the Deputy Secretary for Medicaid at Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration, a position he has held since September, 2011. Prior to that, Mr. Senior served as the Agency's General Counsel from 2008 to 2011. Mr. Senior grew up in Gainesville, Florida. He has a B.A. in history from McGill University and a Juris Doctor with honors from the University of Florida, College of Law. Before joining the Agency for Health Care Administration, Mr. Senior practiced as a litigation attorney for over 11 years. He began his professional career in 1996 in the Fort Lauderdale area, and subsequently worked in his own law office in Gainesville, Florida.

Vernon K. Smith, Ph.D., is the Managing Principal of Health Management Associates. Vernon Smith's entire career has focused on Medicaid, beginning as Michigan's first Medicaid budget analyst in the state budget office, later as department budget director and Medicaid director, appearing before legislative committees for 26 consecutive years. After three decades of public service, Dr. Smith joined Health Management Associates, where his work continues to focus on Medicaid trends in spending, enrollment and the initiatives states undertake to make their programs better. Dr. Smith has a passion for telling Medicaid's story for national and state audiences, in news stories, TV and NPR, testimony before Congressional committees, and in dozens of articles and reports. His PhD is in economics from Michigan State University. He continues to serve on several boards, including the Board of Trustees for his undergraduate alma mater, Anderson University.