

Speaker Biographies

“Medicaid Innovations: Can Managed Care Cut Costs and Improve Value?”

October 28, 2011

Judy Feder is a professor of public policy and, from 1999 to 2008, served as dean of the Georgetown University Public Policy Institute. A widely published scholar, Dr. Feder has made her mark on the nation’s health insurance system, through both scholarship and public service. Her health policy research began at the Brookings Institution, continued at the Urban Institute, and, since 1984, flourished at Georgetown. In the late 1980s, Dr. Feder moved from policy research to policy leadership, actively promoting effective health reform as staff director of the congressional Pepper Commission (chaired by Sen. John D. Rockefeller IV) in 1989-90; as principal deputy assistant secretary for planning and evaluation at the Department of Health and Human Services in former President Bill Clinton’s first term; as a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress (2008-2011) and, today, as an Institute Fellow at the Urban Institute. She matches her own contributions to policy with her contributions to nurturing emerging policy leaders. As dean from 1999 to 2008, she built the Georgetown Public Policy Institute into one of the nation’s leading public policy schools, whose graduates participate in policymaking, policy research and policy politics, not only throughout Washington but throughout the nation and the world. She is a political scientist, with a B.A. from Brandeis University, and a master's and Ph.D. from Harvard University.

Mary Mason serves as chief medical officer and senior vice president for the Centene Corporation. Centene is a multi-line health care enterprise providing programs and services to under-insured and uninsured individuals, many of whom are covered under the Medicaid program. The company is headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri. At Centene, Dr. Mason has created a number of medical management programs, including “Start Smart for Your Baby,” a multi-faceted pregnancy and newborn program that focuses on early risk screening, case management and member education. Dr. Mason also serves as a clinical associate professor of medicine at Washington University in St. Louis, and holds an adjunct professorship at the Washington University Olin School of Business. In addition, she is a member of the KMOV (Channel 4-CBS affiliate) Health Team where she regularly discusses health topics. She is the lead author on several papers on birth outcomes in managed care. Dr. Mason earned a B.S. degree in bioengineering from the University of Illinois, Urbana and her M.D. and M.B.A. degrees from Washington University in St. Louis. She completed her internal medicine residency and chief residency at Barnes-Jewish Hospital at the Washington University School of Medicine. Dr. Mason is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and a Fellow of the American College of Physicians. She is also a member of Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honorary Society.

Ian McCaslin has served since 2007 as director of MO HealthNet, Missouri’s Medicaid program. In that capacity, he is responsible for administration of an \$8 billion program serving some 900,000 participants. Trained in pediatrics and subsequently in pediatric emergency medicine, Dr. McCaslin was medical director of the pediatric emergency department at Children’s Hospital San Diego and chief of pediatric emergency medicine in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of California San Diego. After relocating to Boston in 2005, he earned an MPH in health policy from Harvard School of Public Health. There he further focused his energies on advocacy for low-income children at the state and federal level through his role as medical director of the New England Alliance for Children’s Health, in partnership with Children’s Hospital Boston. He has held faculty appointments

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at Harvard Medical School, the University of California San Diego School of Medicine and the George Washington University School of Medicine. Dr. McCaslin is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Emergency Physicians. He was awarded the 2010 Missouri Child Advocacy Award by the Missouri Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Matt Salo was named the first executive director, and at the time the only staff member, of the National Association of Medicaid Directors in February 2011. This was a bit of a homecoming, as his first real job out of college was working for the Medicaid directors from 1994 to 1999. Mr. Salo spent 12 years at the National Governors Association, where he worked on the governors' health care and human services reform agendas, helping to modernize the Medicaid program and secure the tobacco settlement for the states, getting more than \$100 billion in state fiscal relief. He taught high school for two years at T.C. Williams High in Alexandria, VA (which, he says, actually bears no resemblance to the school profiled in the Disney movie, *Remember the Titans*). He holds a B.A. in Eastern religious studies from the University of Virginia (and, as his official bio notes, "is still trying to find ways to explain how that got him to where he is today").

Vernon Smith is a principal with Health Management Associates (HMA), where he focuses on Medicaid, Medicare, SCHIP, state budgets and trends in the health care market place. He has written several reports on enrollment, spending and policy trends in Medicaid and SCHIP, on the Medicare prescription drug benefit, and on state directions to address the uninsured. Dr. Smith has spoken on these issues before many national and state audiences, including the National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Council of State Governments, the National Association of State Budget Officers, the National Association of State Medicaid Directors, medical and hospital associations, the National Health Policy Forum, committees of the U.S. Congress, and Medicaid reform groups in several states. He has been a guest on National Public Radio and has been quoted on these issues in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Newsweek* and *USA Today*. Before joining HMA, Dr. Smith served as Michigan Medicaid director and as budget director for the state's human services agency during 30 years of public service. He holds a Ph.D. in economics from Michigan State University. Among other involvements, he serves on the board of trustees of Anderson University, his undergraduate alma mater.