

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

The Intersection of Health and Housing: Opportunities and Challenges

Senate Russell Office Building, Room 325

Friday, August 7, 2015

BARBARA DIPETRO is the director of policy and advocacy activities for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. She has been working in public policy for 15 years, many of them specifically focused on health care and homelessness. Her dissertation research focused on the impact of homelessness on emergency departments in Baltimore City, and she continues to work to ensure that health care systems can better serve vulnerable populations. For 10 years, Dr. DiPietro worked for the State of Maryland in the Governor's Office as well as the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, helping coordinate health and human services policy and legislation, inter-agency children and family services, and the state's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness. Dr. DiPietro previously served in the U.S. Peace Corps, working to address maternal-child health issues in Malawi, a small country in southeast Africa. At this time, she is senior policy director for two organizations—for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council and for Health Care for the Homeless of Maryland. In these dual roles, she is able to focus on national, state and local health policy, with a specific aim to ensure the implementation of the Affordable Care Act accommodates the unique needs of homeless populations. She holds a Master's Degree in Policy Sciences and a Doctorate in Public Policy, both from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

GRETCHEN HAMMER is the Medicaid director of the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing 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, Ms. 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 serving 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.

JENNIFER HO serves as HUD Secretary Julián Castro's senior advisor for Housing and Services. She manages the Department's relationship with HHS and the intersection of housing and health—ending homelessness, de-institutionalization and the future of senior housing. From February 2010 to February 2013, Ms. Ho was at the United States Interagency Council on

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Homelessness where she shepherded the development of *Opening Doors*, the nation's first-ever comprehensive federal plan to prevent and end homelessness. Before coming to DC, Ms. Ho spent eleven years managing a nonprofit focused on health care financing and outcomes associated with supportive housing. Prior to that, she had ten years in Medicare and Medicaid managed care. A Minnesota native, Ms. Ho received a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Bryn Mawr College.

SISTER ADELE O'SULLIVAN is a board certified family physician who has been providing primary care for an exclusively homeless population in Phoenix Arizona for 20 years. Her work in the homeless community led her to found Circle the City, a 501(c)(3) public charity which brought together the energies of both public and private sectors to address the unmet needs of persons experiencing both homelessness and illness in the Phoenix area. In 2012 the organization opened Arizona's first Medical Respite Center, a state-of-the art 50 bed facility which has played a critical role in local efforts to engage and stabilize medically-vulnerable high utilizers of services. Circle the City has now expanded services across the homeless health care continuum with their new federally-qualified Family Health Center, Mobile Clinic and Assertive Community Treatment Team. Dr. O'Sullivan's work in homeless medicine has been recognized both locally and nationally. She was the Arizona Family Physician of the Year in 2005, and received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Phoenix Business Journal in 2012. She was honored by the American Academy of Family Physicians as the American Family Physician of the Year in 2006.