

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

State Medicaid Expansion: The Third Way

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SARA R. COLLINS is vice president for the Health Care Coverage and Access program at the Commonwealth Fund. An economist, Dr. Collins joined the Fund in 2002 and has led the Fund's national program on health insurance since 2005. Since joining the Fund, Dr. Collins has led several national surveys on health insurance and authored numerous reports, issue briefs and journal articles on health insurance coverage and policy. She has provided invited testimony before several congressional committees and subcommittees. Prior to joining the Fund, Dr. Collins was associate director/senior research associate at the New York Academy of Medicine, Division of Health and Science Policy. Earlier in her career, she was an associate editor at U.S. News & World Report, a senior economist at Health Economics Research, and a senior health policy analyst in the New York City Office of the Public Advocate. She holds an A.B. in economics from Washington University and a Ph.D. in economics from George Washington University.

STEVE FITTON has been the director of Michigan's Medicaid and CHIP programs for over five years. These health care programs currently serve 1.9 million Michigan citizens with a budget growing to about \$15 billion with the implementation of the Healthy Michigan program. Prior to becoming the Medicaid director, he directed the Bureau of Medicaid Policy and Actuarial Services—an organization that focused on policy and financing issues for the Michigan Medicaid program. A career public servant, Mr. Fitton has worked in health policy and budget in Michigan state government for over forty years. He spent some of that time in the Children with Special Health Care Needs program, which was then a part of the Department of Public Health. He has extensive experience navigating the health service delivery and financing system, the complexities of federal rules and regulations, and in understanding the needs of special disadvantaged populations and helping to make health programs more responsive to those needs. He holds a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University, where he graduated with high honors.

JOE THOMPSON is surgeon general for the state of Arkansas and director of the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI). He is responsible for developing health policy, research activities and collaborative programs that promote better health and health care in Arkansas. Dr. Thompson works closely with the governor's office, the Arkansas legislature and public and private organizations across the state on relevant health policy topics. He has led efforts in planning and implementing health care financing reform, tobacco- and obesity-related health promotion and disease prevention programs. Additionally, Dr. Thompson was the lead architect of the Tobacco Settlement Act of 2000 and instituted the Arkansas Health Insurance Roundtable. More recently, Dr. Thompson worked with Governor Mike Beebe, Arkansas's legislative leadership, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to develop an alternative to Medicaid expansion under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. He is the former director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Center to Prevent Childhood Obesity. Dr. Thompson currently serves on the Arkansas Board of Health and is past president of the Arkansas chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Nationally, Dr. Thompson serves on the boards of the Campaign to End Obesity and of AcademyHealth, as well as serving on

Institute of Medicine's standing committee on childhood obesity. Dr. Thompson earned his medical degree from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and master of public health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He served as the RWJF clinical scholar at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Luther Terry fellow in preventive medicine, advising the U.S. assistant secretary of health, and the assistant vice president and director of research at the National Committee for Quality Assurance. In 1997, he served as the first child and adolescent health scholar of the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (then the U.S. Agency for Health Care Policy and Research) before returning to Arkansas.

ALAN WEIL has been the executive director of the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) since September 2004. An independent, non-partisan, non-profit research and policy organization, NASHP is dedicated to excellence in state health policy and practice. Prior to joining NASHP, Mr. Weil served as director of the Urban Institute's Assessing the Federalism project, one of the largest privately funded social policy research projects ever undertaken in the United States. He previously held a cabinet position as executive director of the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, was health policy advisor to Colorado Governor Roy Romer, and was assistant general counsel in the Massachusetts Department of Medical Security. Mr. Weil is a frequent speaker on national and state health policy, Medicaid, federalism, and implementation of the Affordable Care Act. He is the co-editor of two books, publishes regularly in peer-reviewed journals, has testified before Congress more than half-a-dozen times, and is called upon by major media outlets for his knowledge and analysis. He is on the editorial board of the journal *Health Affairs*, and is a member of the Institute of Medicine's Board on Health Care Services, and the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. He previously served on the Commonwealth Fund's Commission on a High Performance Health System. He is a member of the board of trustees of the Consumer Health Foundation in Washington, DC, and of the board of directors of the National Public Health and Hospitals Institute. He is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and Harvard Law School.