

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Health Care for Veterans: Where Things Stand & Next Steps

Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room G-50

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CARRIE FARMER is a senior policy researcher and associate director for the Behavioral and Policy Sciences Department at the RAND Corporation. Her areas of research include access to and quality of behavioral health care for military service members and veterans, as well as treatment and recovery from traumatic brain injuries. Over the past several years, she has led several Department of Defense-funded projects to assess and improve care for psychological health and traumatic brain injury among service members. Most recently, she led a large assessment of VA health care, required as part of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014. She has worked on numerous other projects related to the health and well-being of veterans and service members, as well as projects addressing the quality of care for mental health and substance use disorders in a variety of populations. She received a Ph.D. in health policy from Harvard University and a B.A. in psychobiology from Wellesley College.

SHERMAN GILLUMS is executive director of Paralyzed Veterans of America. He began his military career in the U.S. Marine Corps when he enlisted at the age of 17 and quickly ascended into leadership, retiring as a chief warrant officer. Four months after the September 11, 2001, attacks, as he prepared to deploy to Afghanistan with the 1st Marine Division, Mr. Gillums sustained a cervical spine injury that ended his military career at age 29. He has since had a successful and rewarding career in advocacy for veterans with disabilities. Mr. Gillums began his career with Paralyzed Veterans as a national service officer in San Diego, where he developed Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits claims and clinical appeals for veterans and families in the area. He later became involved with the local Paralyzed Veterans' chapter and went on to become chapter president. He also served on Paralyzed Veterans' National Field Advisory Committee. After earning a master's degree in executive management from the University of San Diego, Mr. Gillums returned to the VA benefits claims arena as an appellate representative at the Board of Veterans' Appeals in Washington, D.C. He was promoted to associate executive director of the Veterans Benefits Department in 2011, where for nearly four years he strategically reshaped the veterans benefits department for a 21st century reality, including initiatives to improve veterans' employment. Mr. Gillums was named executive director of the national organization in May 2016.

JOHN KERNDL is senior vice president and operations chief financial officer (CFO) for LifePoint Health. In this role, he oversees various operations support and planning departments that provide direct assistance to the company's hospitals and providers. Prior to his current role, John was the National Division CFO. Before joining LifePoint, John served as CFO for several regional health care facilities in Arizona during his time with Vanguard Health Systems. He previously served in multiple roles at Community Health Systems, Inc., including assistant chief executive officer and vice president/CFO for several of the company's Illinois hospitals. Additionally, he has held various leadership roles at Tenet Healthcare Corporation, including director of regional operations, Tenet Physician Services.

DAVID J. MCINTYRE, JR. is president and chief executive officer of TriWest Healthcare Alliance. In 1996, Mr. McIntyre co-founded TriWest Healthcare Alliance and has since led the corporation, which is working to ensure that veterans in roughly half the nation have access to high-quality health

care when it is unable to be provided directly by the Dept. of Veterans Affairs. Mr. McIntyre has more than 30 years of experience, success and accomplishments in national health care policy development, business development and leadership in both government and the private sector. Mr. McIntyre has a bachelor's degree in political science from Seattle Pacific University, a master's degree in administrative sciences from Johns Hopkins University, and he participated in the Executive Education Program for Senior Government Managers at Harvard University. In addition to leading TriWest Healthcare Alliance, he serves on a number of non-profit boards, including the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation Board of Directors and the Fisher House Foundation Board of Trustees.

BALIGH YEHIA is the deputy under secretary for health for community care at the Veterans Health Administration. He leads VA's network of federal, academic, and community providers who care for 1.5 million veterans at community-based (non-VA) facilities. Prior to his appointment, Dr. Yehia served as senior adviser on health to the secretary of Veterans Affairs, where he provided leadership on strategies related to the health and wellbeing of veterans and improving performance at VA's 1,500+ health care facilities. Prior to joining the VA, he served as a leading expert in HIV medicine at University of Pennsylvania where he published over 150 articles, abstracts, chapters, and white papers. Dr. Yehia is dedicated to improving the quality of health care delivery, and has served in top leadership positions on numerous boards and councils.

MODERATOR

MARILYN SERAFINI is president & co-CEO of the Alliance for Health Reform. Before joining the Alliance in 2012, she was an award-winning journalist covering Congress, the White House and K Street for various publications. She was the Robin Toner Distinguished Fellow and senior correspondent at Kaiser Health News. From 1995 to 2010, Ms. Serafini was the health care and welfare correspondent for National Journal magazine, and before that was a senior reporter for Congress Daily (now National Journal daily). She has a master's degree in journalism and public affairs from American University and a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland.