

## **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Assessing Innovations in Medicaid**

Russell Senate Building Room 325

Friday, September 23, 3016

**DEBORAH BACHRACH** is a partner at Manatt Health Solutions. She has more than 25 years of experience in health policy and financing in both the public and private sectors and has an extensive background in Medicaid coverage and payment policies. She works with states, providers, insurers and foundations in analyzing and implementing the Affordable Care Act and payment and delivery system reforms. From 2007 to 2010, Ms. Bachrach was the Medicaid director and deputy commissioner of health for the New York State Department of Health, Office of Health Insurance Programs. In this capacity, she was responsible for coverage, care and payment policies for over 4 million children and adults enrolled in New York's Medicaid and Child Health Insurance Programs. Ms. Bachrach has also served as an advisor to the Center for Health Care Strategies, the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC), the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Kaiser Family Foundation. She has a bachelor of science from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and a law degree from the NYU School of Law.

**GRETCHEN HAMMER** is the Medicaid director at the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing, and she 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 of Health Care Policy & Financing, 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 holds a Master's of Public Health from the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine.

**BENJAMIN SOMMERS** is assistant professor of health policy and economics at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and assistant professor of medicine at Brigham & Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School. He is a health economist and primary care physician whose main research interests are health policy for vulnerable populations, the uninsured, and the health care safety net. He has received numerous awards for his research, including the Outstanding Dissertation Award, Alice Hersh New Investigator Award, the 2015 Article-of-the-Year Award from AcademyHealth, and the Outstanding Junior Investigator Award from the Society of General Internal Medicine. In 2011-2012, he served as a senior adviser in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. His current research projects focus on barriers to health care access among low-income adults, Medicaid policy, and national health reform.

## **MODERATORS**

**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.

**RACHEL NUZUM** is vice president for the Federal and State Health Policy initiative at The Commonwealth Fund, working closely with policymakers at the state and federal level. Ms. Nuzum is responsible for developing and implementing the Fund's national policy strategy for improving health system performance, ensuring that the work of the Fund and its grantees informs the policy process in both the legislative and executive branches of state and federal government. Ms. Nuzum's work also includes fostering public-private collaboration on health system performance improvement with state and federal stakeholders and organizations. Before joining the Fund in January 2007, Ms. Nuzum was a legislative advisor for Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) on health, retirement and tax issues. Prior to joining Sen. Cantwell's office, she served as a David Winston Health Policy Fellow in Sen. Jeff Bingaman's (D-N.M.) office. Before arriving in Washington she served former Gov. Roy Romer of Colorado in the office of Boards and Commissions and worked as a health planner in west central Florida. She holds a B.A. in political science from the University of Colorado and an M.P.H. in Health Policy and Management from the University of South Florida. She is on the faculty of Georgetown University's Graduate School of Nursing and Health Professions and is on the board of the Winston Health Policy Fellowship.