

Speaker Biographies

“Caring for People Covered by Both Medicare and Medicaid: A Primer on Dually Eligible Beneficiaries”

June 3, 2011

MELANIE BELLA is the director of the Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This office, officially the Federal Coordinated Health Care Office, was established by the Affordable Care Act. As director, Ms. Bella leads the work of this office charged with more effectively integrating benefits for individuals eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid and improving coordination between the federal government and states for such beneficiaries. Prior to joining CMS, Ms. Bella was the senior vice president for policy and operations at the Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS). She led the organization’s efforts to integrate care for complex populations, including people with multiple chronic conditions, disabilities, or serious mental illness and dually eligible beneficiaries. In addition, she directed a unique leadership training institute to help Medicaid directors enhance the skills they need to transform their state programs into national models for high-quality, cost-effective care. Prior to CHCS, Ms. Bella served as Medicaid director for the state of Indiana from 2001 through 2005. During her tenure, one of Ms. Bella’s most notable accomplishments was spearheading the creation of the Indiana Chronic Disease Management Program. She earned a master’s in business administration from Harvard University and a bachelor’s degree from DePauw University.

SHAWN BLOOM is the president and CEO of the National PACE Association (NPA), an organization that represents 76 operating PACE sites and approximately 40 additional health care organizations in various stages of PACE site development. Since he joined the NPA in 1999, the number of PACE locations has grown from about twenty to over 76, serving over 22,000 participants in 29 states around the nation. Mr. Bloom frequently speaks on behalf of PACE and on health care policy topics at aging forums and numerous federal, state and local provider conferences. Prior to assuming the role of president and CEO with NPA, he spent 5 years as the executive director of the Missouri Association of Homes for the Aging (MoAHA), which represented over 100 not-for-profit long-term health care and housing facilities in the state of Missouri. Mr. Bloom previously worked in the Policy and Governmental Affairs Division of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA), a Washington, D.C.-based trade association that represents approximately 6000 providers of long-term health and housing services for the aging. Mr. Bloom received his B.S. in biochemistry and gerontology from Kansas State University and completed his M.S. coursework in long term care at the University of North Texas, Center for Studies in Aging. He began his career in the elder care and health care industries early in life, working as a nursing home Certified Nurse Aide in high school and college.

SCOTT LEITZ is assistant commissioner of health care at the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS). Working with a budget of more than \$5 billion, he oversees Minnesota Health Care Programs, which include Medical Assistance, MinnesotaCare and General Assistance Medical Care. DHS is one of the largest health care purchasers in the state, serving more than 700,000 program enrollees. Mr. Leitz is responsible for eligibility and benefit policy, state MinnesotaCare operations, provider contracts and payment systems, and health reform initiatives in publicly funded programs. He was appointed to his post in January 2011. Prior to this position, he was director of public policy for Children’s Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota. Mr. Leitz has also held several positions at the Minnesota Department of Health over the course of his career, most recently serving as assistant commissioner, where he oversaw the development, passage, and implementation of Minnesota’s

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landmark 2008 health reform act. He previously served as health policy division director, health economics program director, federal relations coordinator, and research economist. Mr. Leitz has a bachelor's degree in economics and mathematics from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and a master's in public affairs from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

JACK MEYER is a principal with Health Management Associates (HMA) in HMA's Washington, D.C. office. In this capacity, Dr. Meyer conducts health care research, policy analysis, and strategic planning for grant-making foundations, health industry leaders, and state and federal agencies. Dr. Meyer's current research interests include assisting states in designing and implementing health insurance exchanges, working with the federal government and the states on implementing other aspects of health reform, conducting research on the health status and utilization patterns of poor, childless adults on Medicaid, and determining best practices in care management for people with one or more chronic illnesses. Dr. Meyer is also a professor in the School of Public Policy and the School of Public Health at the University of Maryland and the founder of the Economic and Social Research Institute, a nonprofit research organization.