Speaker Biographies Keeping Coverage Continuous: Smoothing the Path between Medicaid and the Exchange

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Deborah Bachrach is special counsel to the law firm of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips. She has more than 20 years experience in health policy and financing in the public and private sectors. She focuses on developing strategies to respond to the imperatives of federal reform and Medicaid reform, particularly in balancing coverage, quality and cost containment. From 2007 to 2010, Ms. Bachrach served as New York's Medicaid director and deputy commissioner of health for the Office of Health Insurance Programs, where she led the State's efforts to expand eligibility, streamline enrollment, and rationalize New York's payment policies. Working closely with the deputy superintendent of insurance, she oversaw the State's efforts to influence developing federal health reform legislation. She has served as an advisor to the Center for Health Care Strategies, the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC), and the Kaiser Family Foundation as well as state Medicaid agencies, foundations, healthcare providers and other healthcare organizations. Ms. Bachrach is currently a member of the electronic enrollment workgroup at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Value Incentives Learning Collaborative at the Institute of Medicine. Ms. Bachrach is an honors graduate of The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and the NYU School of Law.

Sara Collins is vice president for Affordable Health Insurance 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.

Don Gregory serves as Medicaid director in the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) where he has been a career employee for 35 years. Previously, he was appointed to the position of deputy assistant secretary in the Office of Aging and Adult Services. Prior to this, he served in several positions within Medicaid including deputy Medicaid director, director of field operations, and program integrity section chief. In addition to his duties at DHH, Mr. Gregory served for nine years as chairman to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) Fraud and Abuse Control Technical Advisory Group (TAG), having been appointed to this position by the National Association of State Medicaid Directors. This TAG exists to advise the Medicaid directors and CMS on matters related to fraud and abuse control. Mr. Gregory is the past president of the National Association of Program Integrity Officials. Mr. Gregory is a native of Louisiana and graduated from Louisiana Tech University with B.S. in Management.

Pamela Short is professor of health policy and administration at The Pennsylvania State University, where she is also director of the Center for Health Care and Policy Research. She has written extensively on health insurance dynamics, policy strategies for insuring the uninsured, and public and private insurance. Much of her research is concerned with the connections linking changes in individuals' health, health insurance, income, and employment over time. In 1994, during Congressional consideration of national coverage reform, Dr. Short worked in the White House for the Council of Economic Advisers as the senior staff economist for health care. She received her Ph.D. in economics from Yale University.