

BIOGRAPHIES

“Nursing Home Reforms: Twenty Years after OBRA ‘87”

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RUTH KATZ is Dean and Walter G. Ross Professor of Health Policy at the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services. As Dean, she has led initiatives to heighten the school’s profile, attract new faculty, raise more research dollars, overhaul the curriculum and strengthen ties with the many agencies and organizations in Washington, DC doing critical public health work. Prior to joining the school in 2003, Professor Katz was Associate Dean for Administration at the Yale University School of Medicine. Responsible for many day-to-day operations, she developed close working relationships with the school’s faculty, university administrators and hospital leadership. For more than a decade before that, from 1982 to 1995, she served as counsel to the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment, chaired by Congressman Henry Waxman (D-CA). Professor Katz received her B.A. at the University of Pennsylvania, J.D. at Emory University, and M.P.H. at Harvard University.

JOHN ROTHER is Director of Policy and Strategy for AARP. He is responsible for federal and state public policy formulation and for policy research and analysis across issues that affect Americans 50 and older. He is an expert on a wide range of issues including Social Security, pensions, Medicare, private health insurance, Medicaid, long-term care, older workers and consumer protection. Mr. Rother came to AARP in 1984 after four years as staff director of the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging under Chairman John Heinz (R-Pa). Prior to that, he was special counsel for health and labor for Senator Jacob Javits (R-NY). In 1996, he took a year-long sabbatical to study the future of the baby boomer generation. Mr. Rother serves on several boards and commissions, including the National Committee for Quality Assurance, the American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation, and The National Coalition on Health Care. He received his J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where he edited the Law Review, after graduating with honors from Oberlin College.

SUSAN WEISS is Senior Vice President for Advocacy at the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA). In that position, she coordinates the association’s public policy development and government relations efforts. She was a consultant to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on health manpower issues before coming to AAHSA 21 years ago. She also practiced law in Colorado and Wisconsin. Prior to assuming the post of Senior Vice President for Advocacy, Ms. Weiss was Vice President and Policy Counsel, where she coordinated the association’s public policy development for housing, continuing care, assisted living, health care, and community-based services. She received her bachelor’s degree from Viterbo College in La Crosse, Wisconsin, a master’s from the Ohio State University and a law degree from Georgetown University.

JANET WELLS is Director of Public Policy for NCCNHR. She first joined the staff in 1986 as director of publications after a 15-year career in civil rights advocacy with the Southern Regional Council, American Friends Service Committee, and Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights under Law. From 1992 until 2000, she was a long-term care specialist with AARP, where she was leader of the Long-Term Care Team; conceived and coordinated national conferences on long-term care as a women's issue and improving the quality of paraprofessional jobs in long-term care; and developed research projects and educational and communications programs on long-term care and health care reform issues. In 2000, Ms. Wells returned to NCCNHR as director of public policy to oversee the organization's legislative and regulatory initiatives.

PAUL WILLGING is Associate Director of the Center on Aging and Health and the Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. His primary responsibilities within the Center and Division are administration (translating research into practice through special projects focused on health policy) and education (with an emphasis on health care delivery and financing). Previously, Dr. Willging served as president of the Assisted Living Federation of America and the American Health Care Association. He also held administrative positions at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Greater New York, and served on the Board of Trustees of Howard County (MD) General Hospital. Dr. Willging received a Master of International Affairs degree and a Ph.D. in Political Science at Columbia University, and a B.A. at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN.

CHRISTINE WILLIAMS is Director for Strategic Partnerships for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), a role she assumed in 2007. In this capacity she works with external stakeholders to develop partnerships consistent with the Agency's role as a science partner and in its effort to translate research into practice. From 1982 -1994, Ms. Williams served as the senior health policy staff to former Senate Majority Leader George J. Mitchell (D-ME). In that capacity she was involved in the development of a number of long-term care initiatives, including the Nursing Home Reform Act in OBRA '87, Medicaid Spousal Impoverishment legislation, and two comprehensive Long- Term Care Reform proposals. In 1992, Ms. Williams received the Distinguished Legislative Service Award from the American Health Care Association. Ms. Williams obtained B.S. and Master of Education degrees at Boston University.

JACK MACDONALD is Senior Vice President for Golden Horizons, since 2006 the holding company for the business entities of Beverly Enterprises, Inc., which operates more than 80 nursing homes and assisted living centers across the United States. Since 1983 he has served in various capacities for Beverly Enterprises, including Senior Vice President of Government Relations and International Development from 2000 to 2006. In the thirteen years prior to joining Beverly, Mr. MacDonald was Executive Vice President of the National Council of Health Centers and Director of Government Relations of the American Health Care Association. He represented the interests of the long-term care industry in Washington, DC during the passage of OBRA '87. During his career Mr. MacDonald has served on numerous

professional and government committees with a broad undergraduate and graduate educational background in political science, international relations, and law.

MARY JANE KOREN is Assistant Vice President of The Commonwealth Fund and leads the Picker/Commonwealth Program on Quality of Care for Frail Elders. Dr. Koren, an internist and geriatrician, began her academic career at Montefiore Medical Center, in the Bronx, where she helped to establish one of the early geriatric fellowship programs in New York. Dr. Koren later joined the faculty of Mt. Sinai's Department of Geriatrics and served as associate chief of staff for extended care at the Bronx V.A. Medical Center. Leaving academic practice, she was appointed as director of the New York State Department of Health's Bureau of Long Term Care Services, where she ran the nursing home survey and certification programs, led the state's implementation of OBRA '87 (the Nursing Home Reform Law) and participated in many of the state's long term care policy initiatives. Dr. Koren then held positions at the New Jersey Peer Review Organization and the Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation before coming to The Commonwealth Fund.

ELMA HOLDER founded the National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform (NCCNHR) in 1975. She served as NCCNHR's Executive Director from its incorporation in 1978 to 1995, working in a staff and advisory capacity until retirement in 2002. Ms. Holder initiated the Campaign for Quality Care while at NCCNHR and was actively involved in shepherding public advocacy to help achieve the 1987 National Nursing Home Reform Law. She has also served as an advisor to the National Council on Aging, Direct Care Alliance, and the Pioneer Network. Ms. Holder received the Esther Peterson Advocacy Award from the Consumer Federation of America in 1997 and in 1999 received the Institute of Medicine's Gustav O. Lienhard Award for outstanding achievement in improving health care in the United States. For her life's work, Ms. Holder was awarded the Chairman's Medal from the Heinz Family Foundation in 2006. In 2007 she completed training in Oklahoma to become a volunteer long term care ombudsman. Ms. Holder received a Master of Science in Public Health from the University of Oklahoma.

JOSHUA WIENER is Senior Fellow and Program Director for Aging, Disability and Long-Term Care at RTI International. He is the author or editor of eight books and over 100 articles on health care for older people, people with disabilities, long-term care, Medicaid, health reform, health care rationing, and maternal and child health. He is currently involved in studies of Medicaid home and community-based services, the long-term care workforce, quality assurance for long-term care, and projection and simulation models for long-term care. He is co-director of the Administration on Aging-funded Alzheimer's Disease Demonstration Grants to States National Resource Center. Prior to coming to RTI International, Dr. Wiener did policy analysis and research for the Urban Institute, the Brookings Institution, the Health Care Financing Administration, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Congressional Budget Office, the New York State Moreland Act Commission on Nursing Homes and Residential Facilities, and the New York City Department of Health. He received his B.A. from the University of Chicago and his Ph.D. in Sociology from Harvard University.