

Speaker Biographies

“Inside Deficit Reduction: What It Means for Medicaid”

November 10, 2011

Andy Allison is director of the Division of Health Care Finance within the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, which operates the state’s Medicaid program, CHIP, the state employee health plan, and the state’s growing health care and health insurance databases. Dr. Allison served as the Kansas Medicaid director from 2006 to 2009. He is a founding board member of the National Association of Medicaid Directors, and currently serves as its president. Prior to joining the state government in 2005, he spent six years at the Kansas Health Institute as a researcher, focusing on health care and health insurance policy. His work there included an evaluation of Kansas’ CHIP program and a series of projects examining enrollment and retention in Medicaid and CHIP. He worked as a Medicaid budget analyst at the Office of Management and Budget in Washington, D.C., from 1992-95, providing staff analysis of health reform legislation and reviewing statewide Medicaid waiver applications. He has a bachelor’s degree in history from Ouachita Baptist University, a master’s degree in public policy from Duke University, and a doctorate in economics from Vanderbilt University.

Bruce Allen Chernof, MD, FACP, serves as president and CEO of The SCAN Foundation, whose mission is to advance the development of a sustainable continuum of care for seniors. The SCAN Foundation is one of the largest foundations in the United States focused entirely on improving the quality of health and life for seniors. Previously, Dr. Chernof served as director and chief medical officer for the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. He also has served as a regional medical director for Medicaid and SCHIP programs at Health Net, a network model HMO. Dr. Chernof completed his residency and chief residency in internal medicine, as well as a fellowship in medical education, at UCLA. He earned his medical degree from UCLA, where he is now an adjunct professor of medicine. He completed his undergraduate work at Harvard University.

DeAnn Friedholm is the campaign director for health care reform at Consumers Union, leading a team comprised of policy, grassroots advocacy, communications and lobbyist staff at Consumers Union offices in Washington, DC, New York, California and Texas. She has more than three decades of experience in health and human services policy, advocacy and administration at the state, federal, local and international levels of government as well as the non-profit sector. Ms. Friedholm spent her early career in Washington, DC before returning to her native Texas to serve in several high level government positions, including Texas Medicaid director. Gov. Ann Richards appointed Ms. Friedholm commissioner of health and human services and as her representative on the Clinton Health Reform Task Force. After leaving state government she set up her own consulting firm, working with health providers, Medicaid health plans and non-profit organizations advocating for improved health services. Ms. Friedholm led a fifty organization coalition supporting creation and implementation of the Texas CHIP program and established the Children's Defense Fund office in Texas. In 2003, she was recruited to assist with reform of the South African social grant system. Upon her return three years later, she worked as a principal with Health Management Associates in Austin, Texas, before joining Consumers Union in 2008 to work on health reform.

S. Anthony (Tony) McCann serves on the faculty of Georgetown University and the University of Maryland teaching courses in public policy and budgeting. He recently retired from the position of chief financial officer for the Health Resources and Services Administration -- an agency of the federal Department of Health and Human Services (HRSA) -- overseeing the formulation and execution of the agency’s \$7 billion budget. Prior to joining HRSA, Mr. McCann was secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. He oversaw the state’s Medicaid program, its state hospital system and its public health and health care quality assurance functions. He was appointed an assistant

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secretary for management in both the Department of Health and Human Services the Department of Veterans Affairs, directing the budgetary, financial, procurement, IT, grants and general administration and planning functions. His congressional experience includes an appointment as the clerk and staff director of the subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee that funds most of the federal government's discretionary programs in health, education and labor. He also served on the staff of the Senate Budget Committee. In addition, he served as the director of financial affairs for the Smithsonian Institution. He is a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration and was awarded the Frank Greathouse Award by the Association of Government Accountants for sustained outstanding achievement and notable contribution to financial management. Mr. McCann received a bachelor's degree in government from Lake Forest College and a master's degree in political science from Syracuse University.

Diane Rowland is executive vice president of the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and the executive director of the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. She is also an adjunct professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Bloomberg School of Public Health of the Johns Hopkins University. In December 2009, Dr. Rowland was appointed chair of the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC), established to advise Congress on issues affecting the Medicaid and CHIP programs. She has directed the Kaiser Commission since 1991 and has overseen the foundation's health policy work since 1993. She is an authority on health policy, Medicare and Medicaid, and health care for low-income and disadvantaged populations and frequently testifies as an expert witness before Congress on health policy issues. Her interests and research focus on health insurance coverage, access to care and health care financing for low-income, elderly and disabled populations, subjects about which Dr. Rowland has published widely. She is a member of the Institute of Medicine, a founding member of the National Academy for Social Insurance, and past president and fellow of the Association for Health Services Research (now AcademyHealth). She holds a bachelor's degree from Wellesley College, a master's in public administration from the University of California at Los Angeles and a doctor of science in health policy and management from The Johns Hopkins University.

Tim Westmoreland is a visiting professor of law and a senior scholar in health law at Georgetown University Law Center, teaching legislation and statutory interpretation, federal budget policy, and health law. From 1999 until 2001, Mr. Westmoreland was the director of the Medicaid program at the Health Care Financing Administration, now CMS. During that time, he worked on such issues as TANF delinking, enrollment simplification, Medicaid managed care patients' rights, Olmstead/ADA rights in Medicaid, and aggregated upper payment limits. He spent the first 15 years of his career (1979-1995) working for the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment of the House, under the chairmanship of Congressman Henry Waxman. In that job, he staffed hearings and legislation on public health, reproductive health, biomedical research, biomedical ethics, and health regulation. From 1995 to 1999, he was a senior policy fellow at the Georgetown Law Center, teaching in the clinical program on federal legislation. During that same period, he served as a counsel to the Koop-Kessler Advisory Committee on Tobacco Policy and Public Health, as a senior advisor on HIV/AIDS to the Kaiser Family Foundation, and as a lobbyist for the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation. Mr. Westmoreland is the beneficiary of a Robert Wood Johnson Investigator Award in Health Policy Research. From the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, he went to college at Duke and law school at Yale.