

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

MACRA: Stakeholder Considerations and Next Steps

Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room G-50

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CYNTHIA BROWN is the vice president of government affairs in the Washington office of the American Medical Association, where she oversees the AMA's advocacy efforts with the U.S. Congress and all the federal agencies. Prior to joining AMA in April 2008, she worked for the American College of Surgeons for 21 years, most recently as director of the College's Division of Advocacy and Health Policy. Her Washington experience also includes positions with the American Tort Reform Association (ATRA), the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, and the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health and the Environment. She received a bachelor's degree in political science from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., and a master's degree in political science from the George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

ANSHU CHOUDHRI is the managing director of value-based policy at the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association (BCBSA), where he is responsible for supporting BCBSA leadership with legislative and regulatory policy analysis and developing strategy around delivery system reform, health care quality, prescription drugs, and network adequacy. Prior to joining BCBSA, his background was in performance measurement and program development with experience working for the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) and the State of Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH). He received a B.S. in mechanical engineering from George Washington University, in Washington, D.C., and an M.H.S. in health finance and management from The Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, Md.

THOMAS EPPES is a family physician at Central Virginia Family Physicians in Lynchburg, Va., and has been president there since 2010. Dr. Eppes is also an assistant professor of family medicine at the University of Virginia Medical School and Lynchburg Family Residency Program. Dr. Eppes is chair of the governing council of the American Medical Association's Integrated Physician Practice Section. He has been a member of the Medical Society of Virginia, the Virginia Academy of Family Practice, and the Lynchburg Academy of Medicine. He received a B.S. in chemistry from the College of William and Mary and his medical degree from the University of Virginia.

DONALD FISCHER is an independent health care consultant who recently retired as the senior vice president and chief medical officer at Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield. Among his responsibilities in that role were clinical strategy, medical management and policy, care management services, quality management, preventive health services, and pharmacy markets. He received his B.S. from the University of Notre Dame and his M.D. from the University of Illinois. He also holds an MBA degree from the University of Pittsburgh Katz Graduate School of Business. Dr. Fischer is board certified in pediatrics and pediatric cardiology and is a fellow in both the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Cardiology. He is a certified physician executive in the American Association for Physician Leadership. He is a member of the boards of directors of the Allegheny Division of the American Heart Association, the Pittsburgh Regional Healthcare Initiative, and the Pittsburgh Opera.

STEPHANIE GLOVER is a health policy analyst at the National Partnership for Women & Families, where she manages a federal health policy portfolio focused on health system transformation. She leads the organization's strategic advocacy and policy analysis of payment and delivery system reform efforts in Medicare, Medicaid, and the private sector. She also directs the National Partnership's Coalition for Better Care, a coalition of consumer organizations with a direct stake in improving health care quality for patients and family caregivers. Before joining the National Partnership, she worked on the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid expansion and health insurance reforms at the National Women's Law Center. She researched and evaluated a federally-funded school-based health program in Texas while at the Child and Family Research Partnership. Prior to that, she managed fundraising and events at the Women's Campaign Fund. Stephanie has a Master of Public Affairs from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas and earned her undergraduate degree at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., where she was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

LEMENEH TEFERA, who goes by "Tef," received his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Southern California School of Medicine and then completed an emergency medicine residency at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn. He continued in academic medicine where he held faculty appointments at Mount Sinai Hospital, Montefiore Hospital, and Beth Israel Medical Center- all in New York City. In addition to his urban ER clinical experience, he worked as a visiting doctor in Australia, England, Saudi Arabia, New Zealand, the United Arab Emirates, and volunteered with *Doctors Without Borders* in Haiti. His work abroad developed into an interest in comparative health delivery systems that inspired him to return to graduate school. At the London School of Economics and Political Science, Dr. Tefera studied both health and behavioral economics with a keen interest in how monetary and non-monetary incentives impact provider behavior. Prior to joining the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Dr. Tefera served as the Health Policy Fellow for Senator Jeanne Shaheen who sits on the Appropriations Subcommittee covering Health and Human Services. His role was as a clinical expert and advisor helping to brief the Senator on a wide range of health policy issues. At CMS, Dr. Tefera serves as a Medical Officer and policy advisor for the group that runs CMS's value-based purchasing programs and the new Merit-Based Incentive Payment Systems (MIPS). He also advises on prescription opioid policy and the new sepsis measure for the Center for Clinical Standards and Quality (CCSQ). In addition to his policy work, Dr. Tefera still practices in the ER and is an Adjunct Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at the George Washington University.

TONYA WELLS is the vice president, public policy and federal advocacy at Trinity Health in Livonia, Mich. In this role since 2010, she directs the development and integration of a comprehensive advocacy program within one of the largest Catholic health care systems in the country. Recently, she worked to organize the Health Care Transformation Task Force, an industry consortium that brings together patients, payers, providers and purchasers to align private and public sector efforts to clear the way for a sweeping transformation of the U.S. health care system. In addition to her traditional advocacy responsibilities, she leads Trinity Health's Socially Responsible Investing program in which shareholder advocacy and community investing are leveraged to advance social justice and human rights issues. Prior to joining the advocacy team, Wells held management positions in the Trinity Health system office finance department. Wells earned a Bachelor's of Business Administration from The University of Michigan, Ross School of Business.