

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in the ACA Era

December 18, 2013

JAMES BART has served as ombudsman of KanCare, the program through which the state of Kansas administers Medicaid, since December 2012. His focus is on home and community-based service waiver programs and other long-term care services in managed care. Mr. Bart served on the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities as a parent representative. He is also a former board member of the Arc of Douglas County, Kansas. He has broad experience in business, advocacy and non-profit work. Mr. Bart also brings his personal experiences to the job. His 20-year-old son, Jacob, has significant developmental disabilities. He knows firsthand what works and has not worked for his family. Mr. Bart is a graduate of Creighton University School of Law and holds a bachelor of business administration degree from the University of Iowa.

DAVID DONOHUE is senior vice president of innovative solutions at LifeShare. He has nearly two decades of experience in health care, disability rights and advocacy, and public policy and communications. Over the past eight years, Mr. Donohue has helped LifeShare expand its mission to create the most empowering home and community-based supports and programming for people with developmental disabilities. As a member of LifeShare's leadership team, Mr. Donohue works closely with Centene's Sunflower State Health Plan in Kansas to develop a person-centered model designed to support individuals with developmental disabilities through a whole-life approach under Medicaid managed care. Over the course of his career, Mr. Donohue has also worked with medical home and rehabilitation organizations focused in the field of developmental and physical disabilities, and traumatic brain injury. For the past four years, Mr. Donohue has served as a member of the board of directors of Families in Transition, a non-profit organization in New Hampshire that is dedicated to building hope and providing a future for homeless families. He has also served on several other non-profit and health care boards.

BARBARA COULTER EDWARDS is director of the Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group in the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services at CMS. Ms. Edwards' focus has been on Medicaid policy, including managed care, cost containment, long-term care and state and federal health care reform. She was a principal with Health Management Associates, Inc. for four years, focusing on Medicaid, national health reform, and service delivery for persons with chronic and disabling conditions. She also spent six months as the interim director of the National Association of State Medicaid Directors and served eight years as the Ohio Medicaid Director. As Ohio's Medicaid Director, she implemented Ohio's comprehensive strategy to promote access to home and community-based long-term services and supports, developed of a preferred drug list for outpatient prescription drugs, expanded managed care to serve Medicaid consumers, and implemented Ohio's Children's Health Insurance Program.

ARI NE'EMAN is president and co-founder of the Autistic Self Advocacy Network, an advocacy organization run by and for autistic adults seeking to increase the representation of autistic people across society. He is an autistic adult and advocate in the neurodiversity and self-advocacy movements. Between 2010 and 2012, Mr. Ne'eman chaired the National Council on Disability (NCD) Policy & Program Evaluation Committee, and currently chairs the Entitlements Committee. In his policy work, Mr. Ne'eman has worked on a wide variety of disability rights

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legislation. From 2010 to 2012, he served as a public member to the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee, a federal advisory committee that coordinates all efforts within the Department of Health and Human Services concerning autism. Mr. Ne'eman also served as vice chair of the New Jersey Adults with Autism Task Force, where he represented autistic adults in reviewing the state's autism services. In 2008, Mr. Ne'eman served as the first Patricia Morrissey Disability policy fellow at the Institute for Educational Leadership. That year, he also received the HSC Foundation "Advocates in Disability" Award, and in 2009, he received the Expanding Horizons Award from United Cerebral Palsy. He is also a board member of TASH, an advocacy organization focused on advancing social justice for people with significant disabilities. He has a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

DEANNA OKRENT has served as senior health policy associate for the Alliance for Health Reform in Washington, DC since spring 2007. In this role, she is responsible for writing issue briefs and organizing Capitol Hill briefings on a wide range of topics pertaining to health care in the U.S. and internationally. Prior to joining the Alliance, Ms. Okrent was a consultant on aging and health policy to private and not-for-profit organizations for seven years. She was also a policy associate for the Alpha Center, now called AcademyHealth. Before that, Ms. Okrent served as an associate director for the 1995 White House Conference on Aging. She holds an M.A. in physiology from the City University of NY at Hunter College and a M.P.A. from the State University of New York at Brockport. Ms. Okrent is also a professional mediator and consultant in Silver Spring, MD.