

Speaker Biographies

“Children’s Health Coverage: A Primer”

February 2, 2009

RUTH KENNEDY is the director of the Louisiana Children’s Health Insurance Program (LaCHIP) and the director of the state’s LaCHIP/Medicaid Eligibility Division. Ms. Kennedy’s responsibilities include all aspects of Medicaid and SCHIP eligibility & enrollment. She has played an integral role in the development and implementation of the Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals nationally recognized retention, outreach, simplification and organization change efforts to increase enrollment in public health coverage programs. Ms. Kennedy has been recognized by the Dallas Regional HRSA (Health Resource Service Administration) Office, and was named “A Voice for Louisiana’s Children” by Agenda for Children. She served as a member of the national Eligibility Policy Group for Covering Kids and Families and is a frequent national speaker, sharing lessons learned that have helped Louisiana improve Medicaid and SCHIP enrollment and retention. Ms. Kennedy began her career as a parish eligibility caseworker as a graduate of Southeastern Louisiana University.

DIANE ROWLAND is executive vice president of the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and 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. Dr. Rowland is an authority on health policy, Medicare and Medicaid, and health care for low-income, elderly, and disadvantaged populations, and has published widely on these subjects. Her federal health policy experience includes service on the staff of the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, as well as senior health policy positions in the Department of Health and Human Services in the Office of the Secretary and the Health Care Financing Administration. Among many affiliations, she is a member of the Institute of Medicine, past president and fellow of the Association for Health Services Research, and has served as a national expert on the Governor’s Health Reform Task Force in Louisiana. Dr. Rowland 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.

TERRI SHAW is deputy director of The Children’s Partnership’s (TCP) and serves on its Executive Team, where she assists in planning, managing and carrying out the organization’s programs and operations. Ms. Shaw also represents TCP on key commissions, such as the California Broadband Task Force Health Work Group. In addition, she leads TCP’s E-Health program and select special projects for the 100% Campaign. Before joining TCP, Ms. Shaw served as director of health policy at the Center for American Progress, developing and executing a health policy agenda and writing original policy analyses and proposals. She also has experience as a health policy analyst, working for the House Ways and Means Committee, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the California Managed Health Care Improvement Task Force, among other groups. Ms. Shaw received her undergraduate degree from Stanford University and her master’s degree in public health from the University of California, Berkeley.