



MEDICAID 101

Speakers Biographies

Medicaid 101 Policy Academy
June 28-30, 2017
Washington, D.C.

Julie Rovner, Chief Washington Correspondent, Kaiser Health News

Rovner joined Kaiser Health Network after 16 years as health policy correspondent for NPR where she helped lead the network's coverage of the passage and implementation of the Affordable Care Act. A noted expert on health policy issues, Rovner is the author of the critically praised reference book *Health Care Politics and Policy A-Z*, now in its third edition. In 2005, she was awarded the National Press Foundation's Everett McKinley Dirksen Award for distinguished reporting of Congress. Prior to NPR, Rovner covered health policy for National Journal's Congress Daily and for Congressional Quarterly, among other organizations.

Robin Rudowitz, Associate Director, Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured

Rudowitz is an associate director for the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, or KCMU, where she focuses on state and federal Medicaid financing issues and Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act. Prior to joining KCMU in 2004, Rudowitz was a senior manager at The Lewin Group, a health policy and management consulting firm. Rudowitz has worked on budget and health policy issues in different government agencies including the Office of Legislation at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer for the District of Columbia, the Congressional Budget Office and the Ways and Means Committee for the New York State Assembly.

Stacey Mazer, Senior Staff Associate, National Association of State Budget Officers

Mazer is responsible for monitoring and analyzing the impact of federal health and Medicaid decisions on states as well as tracking human and social service developments within states. Mazer also produces a weekly Health Care Issues Update that is distributed to NASBO members and she serves as the staff lead for the association budget and grants. Prior to joining NASBO, she worked for the Congressional Budget Office and the Finance Department for the City of Baltimore.

Joan Alker, Executive Director, Center for Children and Families and Research Professor, Georgetown University

Alker's work focuses on health coverage for low-income children and families, with an emphasis on Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP, and the Affordable Care Act. Two of her most recent reports examine premium assistance in Medicaid and CHIP and the nation's progress on covering children. She has authored numerous reports and studies on a range of issues including Medicaid waivers, child and family coverage and was the principal investigator of a multi-year study on Florida's Medicaid program. A frequent speaker and commentator, Alker has 25 years of experience working on issues affecting low-income families.

Brent McGinty, CEO, Missouri Coalition for Community Behavioral Health

McGinty became the chief executive officer of Missouri Coalition for Community Behavioral Healthcare, or MO Coalition, in January 2013. In this role, McGinty continues to push for policies and funding priorities that recognize the value of MO Coalition provider services—health care home, disease management, outreach, wellness, integrated care, recovery and data/outcomes. From 2007 until his appointment as Coalition CEO, McGinty was a senior staff member at the Missouri Department of Mental Health,

beginning as director of budget and finance, advancing to director of administration of the Division of CPS, and then being promoted to deputy director of administration of the entire department. His accumulated experience of 20+ years includes working during nine legislative sessions on eight state department budgets, as well as having direct responsibility for DMH contracts and budgets.

Matt Salo, Executive Director, National Association of Medicaid Directors

Salo was named executive director of the National Association of Medicaid Directors, or NAMD, in February 2011. The newly formed association represents all 56 of the nation's state and territorial Medicaid directors, and provides them with a strong unified voice in national discussions, as well as a locus for technical assistance and best practices. Salo spent 12 years at the National Governors Association, where he worked on the governors' health care and human services reform agendas, and spent the 5 years prior to that as a health policy analyst working for the state Medicaid directors as part of the American Public Human Services Association.

Barbara Sears, Medicaid Director, Ohio

Sears was appointed Medicaid director in Ohio in 2016 after serving as assistant director for the Governor's office of Health Transformation. In that role, she led high priority projects to modernize Ohio Medicaid and initiative cost containment strategies. Sears was a state legislator in Ohio between 2008 and 2016.

Marilyn Tavenner, CEO, America's Health Insurance Plans

Prior to joining AHIP in the summer of 2015, Tavenner served as administrator/principal deputy administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services from 2010-2015. Tavenner led CMS work to implement the Affordable Care Act including health insurance reforms. She has also served as Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Resources, a hospital administrator and a nurse.

Robert M. Kerr, President of Kerr & Company, Inc.

Kerr is a native of South Carolina and a 1981 graduate of the University of South Carolina. Kerr served in the governor's cabinet as director of the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and has advised national and state policymakers. After 22 years of government service, he founded an independent consulting firm specializing in health policy, with a focus on providing counsel to hospitals and health care providers. Kerr and his team consult for small rural hospitals as well as large multi-state health care systems in more than 20 states.

Lisa Joldersma, Vice President, Policy & Research – Public Programs, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America

Joldersma is vice president for Policy and Research at the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, or PhRMA. She works on behalf of the nation's leading research-based biopharmaceutical companies to sustain and improve access to innovative medicines in government programs and private insurance. Joldersma has nearly 20 years of health law and policy experience that spans both government and private industry. Immediately prior to joining PhRMA, Joldersma worked for the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association and before that, she worked as a senior advisor for legislative policy at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Leighton Ku, Director of the Center for Health Policy Research, George Washington University

Ku is a health policy research and a public policy analyst whose career has been built around an effort to understand and improve access to affordable health care for vulnerable populations. Among his expertise are Medicaid, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, immigrant health, state health reform and health care financing and budgets. He joined George Washington University as a full-time faculty member in 2008. He has also worked for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the Urban Institute and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Women, Infants and Children program.

Rachel Garfield, Senior Researcher and Associate Director at the Kaiser Program on Medicaid and the Uninsured, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation

Garfield is responsible for directing data analysis on insurance coverage and access to care for the low-income population. She also conducts work in public financing for behavioral health services. Her work has appeared in several clinical and policy peer-reviewed journals. Prior to joining the Kaiser Family Foundation, Garfield was an assistant professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health; she has also held positions as a policy analyst in Medicaid/CHIP policy and research consultant for hospital operations and management.

Rodney Whitlock, Vice President, Health Policy, ML Strategies, Washington, D.C.

Whitlock is a veteran health care policy professional with more than 20 years of experience working with the U.S. Congress, where he served as health policy advisor and as acting health policy director for Finance Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley of Iowa and, earlier, on the staff of former U.S. Representative Charlie Norwood of Georgia. During his years with Norwood, Whitlock managed the Patients' Bill of Rights, which passed the House in 1999 and 2001. In February 2005, Whitlock left the office of Congressman Norwood to join the Finance Committee Staff as a health policy advisor to Chairman Grassley. In that capacity, he was lead Senate staffer for the Medicaid provisions of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 and the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006.

Alison Mitchell, Specialist in Health Care Financing, Congressional Research Service

Mitchell's policy areas include Medicaid and CHIP financing, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Medicaid expansion, the Medicaid federal medical assistance percentage, Medicaid provider taxes, and Medicaid disproportionate share hospital payments. Prior to joining CRS, Mitchell was a budget analyst for the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on the Budget, a senior policy analyst for the Maryland Department of Legislative Services, and a legislative deputy for a Los Angeles councilmember.