

Forum on the Medicare Drug Benefit's Early Progress  
Thursday, January 26, 2006

Speaker Biographies

**BARBARA COULTER EDWARDS**

Barbara Coulter Edwards has over 25 years of public and private sector experience in health care financing. She is a nationally recognized expert in Medicaid policy, including managed care, cost containment, long term care, and state and federal reform. Ms. Edwards is a frequent national presenter on Medicaid trends, Medicare Part D, and state health policy challenges. She has extensive experience in leading strategic planning and organizational change initiatives in public agencies. Prior to joining HMA, Ms. Edwards served 8 years as director of Ohio's \$12 billion Medicaid program. She served on the federal State Pharmacy Assistance Program Transition Commission regarding implementation of Medicare Part D, served on the National Quality Forum Steering Committee which recommended standards for nursing home care, and was vice chair of the National Association of State Medicaid Directors. Ms. Edwards has testified before both the U.S. Senate Finance Committee and the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee regarding state Medicaid and SCHIP programs.

**DEBRA B. GARZA**

Debra B. Garza, R.Ph., is director of Government and Community Relations for Walgreen Co., where she is responsible for legislative, regulatory, and community affairs at the federal level and in the 45 states where Walgreens operates. She is based in Washington, D.C. Garza joined the company in 1984 and over the years worked as a pharmacy technician, pharmacist and pharmacy manager before being promoted to pharmacy supervisor in 1995. In 2003 she was named director of Healthcare Relations before being promoted to her current position in 2005. Debbie received her pharmacy degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 1992. She also completed a two-year Executive Fellowship at the National Association of Chain Drug Stores, Alexandria, VA, in 2004. Garza is a member of various pharmacy associations, including the American Pharmacists Association and the Texas Pharmacy Association. She serves on the University of Texas College of Pharmacy Pharmaceutical Foundation Advisory Council, is a Board member and past-president of the Texas Federation of Drug Stores and serves on the National Association of Chain Drug Stores Policy Council. Walgreen Co., headquartered in Deerfield, IL, is the nation's largest drugstore chain with fiscal 2005 sales of \$42.2 billion. The company operates 5,080 stores in 45 states and Puerto Rico. Walgreens also provides additional services to pharmacy patients and prescription drug and medical plans through Walgreens Health Initiatives (a pharmacy benefits manager), Walgreens Mail Service, Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy and Walgreens Home Care. The company plans to operate more than 7,000 stores in the year 2010.

## **VICKI GOTTLICH**

Vicki Gottlich is an attorney in the Washington, DC office of the Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc., where she provides legal assistance, research, consultation, and litigation support regarding Medicare and employer-sponsored health benefits. Ms. Gottlich has written extensively on Part D, including issue briefs for the Kaiser Family Foundation on Part D and long-term care residents and the exceptions, appeals and grievance process. Prior to joining the Center for Medicare Advocacy, Ms. Gottlich was a staff attorney for the National Senior Citizens Law Center. She conducts seminars and workshops regarding Medicare and other health-related issues for such organizations as the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA), the National Association of Protection and Advocacy Systems, the national Citizens Coalition for Nursing Home Reform, and the National Legal Aid and Defender Association. Her articles have appeared in such publications as Clearinghouse Review and the NAELA News. Ms. Gottlich is a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance and NAELA. Ms. Gottlich received her J.D. degree from New York University School of Law and her L.L.M. degree from George Washington University.

## **KAREN IGNAGNI**

Karen Ignagni, President and Chief Executive Officer of America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP), is the voice of health insurance plans, representing members that provide health care, long-term care, dental and disability benefits to more than 200 million Americans. AHIP was formed in late 2003 as a result of a merger between the American Association of Health Plans (AAHP) and Health Insurance Association of America (HIAA). Ms. Ignagni led AAHP and, since joining the organization in 1993, she has won many accolades for her leadership. Washingtonian named her one of the Top Three "Top Guns" of all trade association heads. Modern Healthcare magazine routinely ranks her among the 100 Most Powerful People in Healthcare. The New York Times wrote, "In a city teaming with health care lobbyists, Ms. Ignagni is widely considered one of the most effective. She blends a detailed knowledge of health policy with an intuitive feel for politics." Fortune described the political program Ms. Ignagni spearheaded at AAHP as "worthy of a presidential election bid." For the past several years, the Hill Newspaper has consistently ranked Ms. Ignagni among Washington's most effective lobbyists. Ms. Ignagni regularly testifies before Congress on key federal legislation. In recent years, she has appeared before Senate and House committees on matters ranging from health insurance plans' role in homeland security to Medicare reform to patient protection issues and access to health care coverage issues. Ms. Ignagni has authored more than 90 articles on a wide range of health care policy issues, including pieces published in The New York Times, USA Today, New York Daily News, The Washington Times, Institutional Investor, New England Journal of Medicine, Health Affairs, Modern Healthcare and Physician's Weekly. A recognized industry spokesperson, Ms. Ignagni appeared on the national network newscasts on ABC, CBS, NBC, and FOX. Ms. Ignagni has also shared her insights on leading cable shows such as CNN's Inside Politics, MSNBC's Hardball, C-SPAN's Washington Journal, and CNBC's Power Lunch and Capital Report. Most

recently, Ms. Ignagni was honored by the Sons of Italy Foundation with their 2005 Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Association Management. In recognition of her leadership on health care issues, Ms. Ignagni has been invited to serve on several boards, including the Board of Columbia University's School of Nursing and the Advisory Board for The Health Industry Forum – a meeting of thought leaders designed to inform innovative health care policy and practice. Prior to joining AAHP in 1993, Ms. Ignagni directed the AFL-CIO's Department of Employee Benefits. In the 1980s, she was a Professional Staff Member on the U.S. Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, preceded by work at the Committee for National Health Insurance and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

### **BARBARA B. KENNELLY**

Barbara B. Kennelly became President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare in April 2002 after a distinguished 23-year career in elected public office. Mrs. Kennelly was appointed to the Social Security Advisory Board in January 2006 and served on the Policy Committee for the 2005 White House Conference on Aging. The Congresswoman served 17 years in the United States House of Representatives representing the First District of Connecticut, which includes Hartford and surrounding towns. Mrs. Kennelly won her congressional seat in a special election in January 1982. In 1996, she was elected to her eighth full term with over 74 percent of the vote, but did not run for reelection. After serving in Congress, Mrs. Kennelly was appointed to the position of Counselor to the Commissioner at the Social Security Administration (SSA). As Counselor, Mrs. Kennelly worked closely with the Commissioner of Social Security Kenneth S. Apfel, and members of Congress to inform and educate the American people on the choices they face to ensure the future solvency of Social Security. Upon leaving SSA, Mrs. Kennelly joined the law firm of Baker & Hostetler LLP, where she was a lobbyist within the federal policy practice group. During her congressional career, Mrs. Kennelly was the first woman elected to serve as the Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus. In November 1996, Congresswoman Kennelly was reelected by her colleagues to serve a second term as the Vice Chair during the 105th Congress. As Vice Chair, she ranked fourth in the elected party leadership. Mrs. Kennelly was also the first woman to serve on the House Committee on Intelligence and to chair one of its subcommittees. She was the first woman to serve as Chief Majority Whip, and the third woman in history to serve on the 200-year-old Ways and Means Committee. During the 105th Congress, she was the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Social Security, which oversees the largest single government program in the United States. A life-long resident of Hartford, Congresswoman Kennelly received a B.A. in Economics from Trinity College, Washington, D.C. She earned a certificate from the Harvard Business School on completion of the Harvard-Radcliffe Program in Business Administration and a Master's Degree in Government from Trinity College, Hartford. Prior to her election to Congress, Mrs. Kennelly was Secretary of the State of Connecticut and a member of the Hartford Court of Common Council. Her late husband, James, was Speaker of the Connecticut State House. Mrs. Kennelly has three daughters and a son. She also has nine grandchildren. Among her many civic involvements, Mrs. Kennelly serves as Vice Chair

of the Advisory Board of the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, University of Connecticut. Mrs. Kennelly also serves on the Board of Directors of the United States Association of Former Members of Congress; the International Foundation for Election Systems; the Board of Electors, Wadsworth Athenaeum Museum of Art, Hartford, Connecticut; and the Advisory Boards of *BNA's Medicare Report* and the Washington Center.

### **LESLIE V. NORWALK**

*Leslie V. Norwalk, Esq.*, is the Deputy Administrator for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). In this role she directs the complex and demanding task of implementing the hundreds of changes to be made under the Medicare Modernization Act. Ms. Norwalk continues to direct the day-to-day operations of Medicare, Medicaid, Child Health Insurance Programs, Survey and Certification of health care facilities and other federal health care initiatives, such as physician referral regulations, HIPAA and EMTALA. CMS has the second-largest budget outlay of the Federal Government, directly responsible for \$1 out of every \$3 spent on healthcare in the United States. The organization insures approximately 25% of the population of the United States (more than 84 million beneficiaries) including the elderly, disabled, and some of the lowest income individuals in the country. CMS processes over one billion claims each year and it contracts with approximately one million providers. Prior to serving the Bush Administration, she practiced law in the Washington, D.C. office of Epstein Becker & Green, P.C. where she advised clients on a variety of health policy matters. She also served in the first Bush administration in the White House Office of Presidential Personnel. Ms. Norwalk, a native of Dayton, OH, earned a juris doctor degree from the George Mason University School of Law, where she was a Dean's Scholar and an editor of the *George Mason Law Review*. She earned a bachelor's degree, *cum laude*, in economics and international relations from Wellesley College.

### **DIANE ROWLAND**

Diane Rowland is the 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. Dr. Rowland has directed the Kaiser Commission since 1991 and overseen the Foundation's health policy work since 1993. She is a noted authority on health policy, Medicare and Medicaid, and health care for poor and disadvantaged populations and frequently testifies as an expert witness before the United States Congress on health policy issues. Her federal health policy experience includes service on the staff of the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment of the Committee on Energy and Commerce in the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress, 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. Dr. Rowland is a nationally recognized expert with a distinguished career in public policy focusing on health insurance coverage, access to care, and health care financing for low-income, elderly, and disabled populations. She has

published widely on these subjects and is the editor of several books, including *Financing Home Care* and *The Medicaid Financing Crisis: Balancing Responsibilities, Policies, and Dollars*, and is a co-author of *Medicare Policy: New Directions for Health and Long-Term Care of the Elderly* and *Health Care Cost Containment: Lessons from the Past and a Policy Proposal for the Future*. Dr Rowland is a member of the Institute of Medicine, a founding member of the National Academy for Social Insurance, Past President and Fellow of the Association for Health Services Research (now AcademyHealth), and a Brookdale National Fellow. She also serves 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 Masters 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.