

Financing HIV/AIDS Care: A Quilt with Many Holes

Speaker Biographies

A. Cornelius Baker

A. Cornelius Baker is the Executive Director of Whitman-Walker Clinic. From 1996-2000, Mr. Baker served as the Executive Director of the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA). Mr. Baker joined NAPWA in 1992 as the first director of public policy.

Mr. Baker's work addressing the HIV epidemic has included serving as a member of the CDC Advisory Committee Subcommittee on Monitoring the Epidemic; member of the Technical Advisory Committee for the Gay and Bisexual Men of Color Prevention Needs Assessment, U.S. Conference of Mayors; and co-chair of the 1994 PHS Minority AIDS Conference. He is currently a member of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services panel on clinical practices in HIV treatment, the U.S. Public Health Service/Infectious Disease Society of America's Working Group on the Prevention of Opportunistic Infections and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS.

He brings additional experience with HIV policy issues from his work as Confidential Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the National AIDS Program Office (NAPO). An appointee of the Bush Administration, Mr. Baker acted as an External Liaison Officer. He was responsible for establishing and maintaining a relationship with state and local government agencies, non-public institutions and advocacy groups.

Mr. Baker served on the Bush Transition Team as staff assistant to Ron Kauffman, the Deputy Assistant to the President for Personnel at the White House. Before joining the administration, he was administrative assistant to District of Columbia council member Carol Schwartz.

As a volunteer community leader, Mr. Baker is a former president and fundraising chairman of the Brother, Help Thyself gay and lesbian community giving campaign of Washington and Baltimore and was vice-chair (1995-96) of the Metropolitan Washington Regional HIV

Health Services Planning Council. In 1993, he received the Courage Award at the Washington AIDS Walk for outstanding leadership in living with HIV disease. In 1998, his accomplishments were honored by the National Lesbian and Gay Health Association, which presented him with the Diego Lopez Award for leadership in HIV/AIDS advocacy.

Mr. Baker is a native of central New York and received his undergraduate degree at Eisenhower College/Rochester Institute of Technology.

Karen Pollitz

Karen Pollitz is Project Director at the Institute for Health Care Research and Policy at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. There she directs research on health insurance reform issues as they affect consumers and patients. Her areas of focus include regulation of private health insurance plans and markets, managed care consumer protections, and access to affordable health insurance. She is also an adjunct professor in Georgetown's Graduate Public Policy School.

Prior to joining the Institute faculty, Ms. Pollitz served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health Legislation at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services from 1993 to 1997. In this capacity she was the Secretary's legislative liaison on all federal health care issues, including national health care reform, Medicare, Medicaid, and U.S. Public Health Service agencies and programs.

From 1984 to 1991, Ms. Pollitz worked as a health policy advisor to Members of Congress. She was legislative assistant to Senator John D. Rockefeller IV (D-WV), Congressman Sander Levin (D-MI), and the Subcommittee on Compensation and Employee Benefits of the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee. After leaving the Hill, Ms. Pollitz worked as the Assistant Director of the Washington Office of the American Academy of Family Physicians, and taught a course on managed health care at the Marymount University School of Business.

Ms. Pollitz holds an M.P.P. from the University of California at Berkeley, and a B.A. with Honors from Oberlin College.

Timothy M. Westmoreland

Timothy M. Westmoreland is the Director of the Center for Medicaid and State Operations (CMSO) for the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA). Westmoreland directs the Medicaid program and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). He also is responsible for leading the agency's commitment to quality nursing home and long-term care, promoting better access to treatment for the disabled and the elderly, and implementing the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Mr. Westmoreland began his tenure at HCFA in October, 1999.

For the last four years, Westmoreland was a senior policy fellow at the Georgetown University Law Center and senior advisor to the Kaiser Family Foundation. He has also served as the Washington representative of the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation. Prior to that, he served as counsel to the House Subcommittee on Health and the Environment. In that capacity, he helped to develop and draft many important pieces of health legislation, including the Breast and Cervical Cancer Detection and Control Act (1991) and the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act (1990). He was principal advisor to the subcommittee on public health, prevention and education, AIDS issues, disability, privacy, and health information systems.

Westmoreland is a graduate of Yale Law School. He received his undergraduate degree from Duke University.