



***Engaging Medicaid Patients:
Obstacles, Successes & The Impact of Medicaid Waivers***

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

(In order of appearance on the program)

KATHRYN SANTORO, MA is Director of Policy and Development at the National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM) Foundation, a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization whose mission is to promote improvements in health care access, management and quality. Ms. Santoro currently leads NIHCM's *Driving Value* webinar series and directs the organization's maternal and child health programs. Under these projects, she conducts research and analysis on health policy issues in support of improving practices used by health care decision makers and industry leaders.

Ms. Santoro joined NIHCM Foundation in September 2004 after receiving her Master's degree in Public Policy from the George Washington University with a focus on women's health policy. Ms. Santoro previously served as a Project Consultant for Women in Government where she was responsible for compiling a state-by-state report card on access to cervical cancer screening. While pursuing her Master's degree, Ms. Santoro was a Communications Assistant for a health policy consulting firm and a Graduate Intern for a Washington, D.C. based women's and children's policy research organization. Ms. Santoro attended Villanova University in Villanova, PA and graduated with a BA cum laude in Political Science.

PARIE GARG, PhD joined Oliver Wyman in 2007 after obtaining her PhD in Genetics and Biochemistry and working as a Post Doctoral Scientist at Genentech. Ms. Garg specializes in working at the seams between provider and payer organizations, helping them navigate value-based care transition in the turbulent healthcare market. She is particularly passionate about serving vulnerable consumer segments who would benefit most from an improved healthcare system.

RENYA SPAK, MPH is a partner in New York City who works in Mercer's Health & Benefits business and leads Mercer's "Intellectual Capital Accelerator," a function within the newly created North America Health Innovation Team. In this capacity, Ms. Spak is responsible for the cultivation of new thought leadership for the

practice. This role integrates creative new thinking across Mercer's 13 specialty practices to identify early trends and proactive solutions, ensuring that Mercer's clients stay ahead of the dynamic shifts occurring in today's health care ecosystem. Ms. Spak continues to actively participate in and lead consulting engagements that focus on strategic planning and health innovation.

Ms. Spak previously served as the Total Health Management practice leader for the Midwest, where she focused on creating population health management strategies for multinational employers. She led projects such as the design and delivery of custom care management models, development of new advocacy offerings, and the creation of engagement strategies that achieved industry-leading health outcomes and — perhaps more important — supported broader workforce goals, such as optimizing productivity and retaining talent. This work spanned many industries, including pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, technology, and academia.

Ms. Spak graduated from Rutgers College with a bachelor's degree in public health and completed her Master of Public Health at the University of Michigan – School of Public Health.

MERRILL FRIEDMAN is the Senior Director of the Disability Policy Engagement team and stakeholder advocacy strategy for Anthem, a leading health benefits company serving nearly 71 million people nationwide through its affiliates. She works collaboratively with consumers, advocates and stakeholders to ensure the diverse interests and preferences of older adults, individuals with disabilities, and children, adolescents and young adults involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice programs inform Anthem's health benefits approaches and health care programs. Ms. Friedman also advances the integration of the independent living philosophy, principles of self-determination and the National Advisory Board on Improving Health Care Services for Older Adults and People with Disabilities' six foundational principles throughout these programs, as well as Anthem's member interactions and business practices. In addition, she leads strategic partnerships with national and local organizations to advance the development of inclusive public policy. Previously, Ms. Friedman was interim director at a nonprofit foster care agency serving at-risk children and adolescents who experienced severe neglect and physical abuse. She also served as president and chief executive officer of a private organization that owned and operated residential treatment facilities, group homes and home and community based services in several states for adolescents with mental health, substance use disorders and/or intellectual disabilities.

Ms. Friedman is a leader in the child and adolescent services field including foster care, behavioral health, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and justice involvement, and has extensive experience in program development, new business growth and operations management of home and community-based services and programs.

Ms. Friedman was appointed by President Barack Obama to the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities. Currently, Ms. Friedman serves on the board of directors for the Long-Term Quality Alliance (LTQA) and Family Voices. She is a council member for the Americans with Disabilities Act Legacy Project and serves on the Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Secretary's Blueprint for Livable Communities Citizen Advisory Group.

MARYBETH MUSUMECI, JD is an Associate Director at the Program on Medicaid and the Uninsured, where she concentrates on Medicaid for people with disabilities, including issues related to people dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid and long-term services and supports. Prior to joining the KFF, she held a Reuschlein Clinical Teaching Fellowship at Villanova University School of Law and spent eight years as a civil legal aid lawyer, most recently as the Deputy Legal Advocacy Director of the Disabilities Law Program at Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. in Wilmington, Delaware, where her practice focused on Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, other public benefits programs, and civil rights and accessibility issues. Previously, she developed and taught a seminar in Public Benefits Law at Widener University School of Law, clerked in the Delaware Family Court, and held an Independence Foundation Public Interest Law Fellowship representing women transitioning from welfare to work in Chester, Pennsylvania. She received her B.A. with highest honors from Douglass College, Rutgers University and her J.D. from Harvard Law School.

JOAN ALKER, MA is the Executive Director of the Center for Children and Families (CCF) and a Research Professor at the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy. Her work focuses on health coverage for low-income children and families, with an emphasis on Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the Affordable Care Act (ACA). 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, Ms. Alker has twenty-five years of experience working on issues affecting low-income families. She holds a Master of Philosophy in politics from St. Antony's College, Oxford University and a Bachelor of Arts with honors in political science from Bryn Mawr College.