



Georgetown University  
Health Policy Institute  
CENTER FOR CHILDREN  
AND FAMILIES

## 2020 Annual Child Health Policy Conference

### Speaker and Moderator Bios

#### **Joan Alker**

*Executive Director, Georgetown University Center for Children and Families*

Joan Alker is the Executive Director and a Co-Founder 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 the role of Medicaid in rural areas and the nation's progress on covering children. She has authored numerous reports and studies on a range of issues including Medicaid waivers, premium assistance, and was the principal investigator of a multi-year study on Florida's Medicaid program. A frequent speaker and commentator, 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.

#### **Jenny Babcock**

*Senior Vice President for Medicaid Policy and Director of Strategic Operations, Association for Community Affiliated Plans*

Jennifer McGuigan Babcock is ACAP's Senior Vice President for Medicaid Policy and Director of Strategic Operations. She also spent over four years as ACAP's Vice President for Exchanges. Previously, she worked on policy related to Medicaid, CHIP, the uninsured, and private health insurance in the Office of Health Policy for the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) at the Department of Health and Human Services, on CHIP at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and as special assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Health Care Financing at the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and as Executive Director of the Lovelight Foundation, an anti-poverty organization in Detroit. She has a Masters of Public Health from the University of Michigan, Department of Health Management and Policy, and a Bachelor of Arts in English from Kalamazoo College in Michigan. Jenny was recently given an award for Excellence in a Federal Issue Campaign by the Professional Women in Advocacy for her work to require states to report on pediatric quality measures in CHIP and Medicaid.

#### **Greg Barabell**

*Founder, Clear Bell Solutions*

Founder of Clear Bell Solutions, Dr. Greg Barabell is a seasoned healthcare executive focused on equity, transparency and advocacy in healthcare. As Chief Medical Officer of the largest Medicaid MCO in South Carolina, Dr. Barabell created the Primary Care Access Program (PCAP), a South Carolina industry-first alternative payment model that catapulted Select Health's traditional Fee-For-Service format to a system of sub-capitation and quality improvement metrics. He directed all clinical operations and applied his skill set to public health policy, quality improvement, clinical coding, and auditing. Concurrent with his pediatric residency, Dr. Barabell served in the South Carolina Department of Health & Human Services, where he clinically interpreted state and federal policy for the SC Medicaid Healthcare network. His outstanding work resulted in an appointment to the Governor's Health Information Technology Governance Committee and board membership on the South Carolina State Health Information Partners, including stints as Chair and Vice Chair.

**Andy Bindman**

*Professor of Medicine, Epidemiology & Biostatistics, University of California, San Francisco*

Dr. Andy Bindman is a professor of medicine, epidemiology & biostatistics, and a core faculty member within the Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies at the University of California, San Francisco. He is a graduate of Harvard College and the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine. He has a long-standing interest in health policy informed by his many years as primary care physician at Zuckerberg San Francisco General and through several roles he has played within the federal government. He was a health policy fellow on the staff of the US House Energy and Commerce Committee where he contributed to the drafting of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). He worked for several years to implement the ACA as a senior adviser within the US Department of Health and Human Services and as the Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. He currently serves as the co-editor in chief of the journal, Health Services Research. Dr. Bindman was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2015.

**Amy Blouin**

*President and CEO, Missouri Budget Project*

Amy Blouin founded the Missouri Budget Project in 2003 and serves as its President & CEO. Amy has a Master of Social Work from St. Louis University (1996), and a BA in Political Science and Religious Studies from Loras College, Dubuque Iowa (1991). Amy previously served as the Director of Advocacy for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of St. Louis and as Government Relations Staff for the United Way of Greater St. Louis. Amy has also served as an Adjunct Professor at Saint Louis University, spent time working in Central America and with the Iowa Department of Economic Development European Office in Frankfurt, Germany. Amy has worked on state tax and fiscal policy issues for more than 15 years and has received regional and statewide recognition for her work. In 2012, the St. Louis Business Journal named Amy "One of the Most Influential St. Louisans." Other awards include a "40 Under 40" award from the St. Louis Business Journal and the Missouri Women's Network 2010 Award for Advancing Women's Equality.

**Gordon Bonnyman**

*Staff Attorney, Co-founder, Tennessee Justice Center*

Gordon has a BA from Princeton University and a law degree from the University of Tennessee. Since his admission to the bar in 1972, his entire career has been devoted to serving low-income clients. As a Legal Services attorney for 23 years, Gordon represented thousands of low-income

clients in a wide variety of civil matters. He earned a national reputation for his expertise in health policy. His advocacy work in housing, consumer, public benefits, disability rights, nursing home reform, juvenile procedure, civil rights, institutional conditions and health law not only changed the law in significant ways, but also changed lives throughout the nation. In 1996, when Congress restricted the ability of Legal Services to handle class actions and other cases for the poor, Gordon joined Michele Johnson in co-founding TJC. He served as the executive director until 2014, when he stepped down to return to the fulltime practice of law as a TJC staff attorney. At present, his advocacy is focused primarily on achieving access to health care for the poor and uninsured.

### **Tricia Brooks**

*Senior Fellow/Associate Research Professor of the Practice, Georgetown University Center for Children and Families*

Tricia Brooks, MBA, is a Research Professor at the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy's Center for Children and Families (CCF), an independent, nonpartisan policy and research center whose mission is to expand and improve health coverage for children and families. At CCF, Ms. Brooks focuses on policy, program administration, and the quality of health care relating to Medicaid and CHIP coverage for children and families. Prior to joining CCF, she served as the founding chief executive officer of New Hampshire Healthy Kids, a legislatively-created, non-profit corporation that administered the state's CHIP program and managed the Medicaid and CHIP consumer assistance hub. Ms. Brooks was recently appointed by the Comptroller General to the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC), an independent commission that advises Congress on issues affecting Medicaid and CHIP. She has also served as faculty or as a technical advisory group member on a variety of initiatives associated with advancing Medicaid and CHIP coverage for children and low-income families at the national level. Ms. Brooks holds a Master of Business Administration from Suffolk University and is an 11-year veteran at CCF.

### **Anne Dunkelberg**

*Associate Director, Program Director - Health and Wellness Team, Center for Public Policy Priorities*

Anne Dunkelberg oversees health care policy for CPPP. She focuses on policy and budget issues related to health care access and immigrants' access to public benefits. She joined the Center in 1994 from the State Medicaid Director's Office at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Anne is a founding member of the statewide Children's Health Coverage Coalition (formerly the Texas CHIP Coalition) and the Cover Texas Now Coalition. She has been recognized by Families USA as an outstanding Consumer Health Advocate and by the LBJ School of Public Affairs Alumni Association as a Distinguished Public Servant. She was the primary author of the first edition of Texas Medicaid in Perspective ("the Pink Book") and serves on the Texas Medicaid Managed Care Statewide advisory committee and the Texas Healthcare Transformation Waiver Executive Waiver Committee. Anne is a native Texan, and received her B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin, and her M.P.A. from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin.

### **Elizabeth Fowler**

*Executive Vice President for Programs, The Commonwealth Fund*

Elizabeth Fowler, J.D., Ph.D., joined the Commonwealth Fund in 2019 as Executive Vice President for Programs. Before joining the Fund, Dr. Fowler served as Vice President for Global Health Policy at Johnson & Johnson. In that role, she focused on health care delivery system and payment reform in the U.S. and health care systems and reform in emerging markets. Prior to that position, she was

a special assistant to President Barack Obama on health care and economic policy at the National Economic Council, and occupied key positions at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where she assisted with implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Prior to her work in the administration, Dr. Fowler was Chief Health Counsel to former Senate Finance Committee Chair, Senator Max Baucus, served as Vice President of Public Policy and External Affairs for WellPoint, Inc. (now Anthem), and as an attorney with the Washington law firm Hogan & Hartson. She also spent nearly five years as a health services researcher with Park Nicollet Foundation in Minnesota. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania, a Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and a law degree from the University of Minnesota. She is admitted to the bar in Maryland, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

### **Pamela Herd**

*Professor, Georgetown McCourt School of Public Policy*

Pamela Herd's research focuses on inequality and how it intersects with health, aging, and policy. She is also an expert in survey research and biodemographic methods. She is currently the Chair of the Board of Overseers for the General Social Survey, a member of the Board of Overseers for the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, a board member for the Population Association of American, and a standing member of a National Institutes for Health review panel for the Social and Population Sciences. She has received grant awards for her work from the National Institutes for Health, National Institutes on Aging, the Russell Sage Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and AARP. She has a book forthcoming, published by the Russell Sage Foundation: Administrative Burden. Policymaking by other Means <https://www.russellsage.org/publications/administrative-burden>.

### **Chris Jennings**

*Founder and President, Jennings Policy Strategies*

Chris is an over three decades-long health policy veteran of the White House, the Congress and the private sector. Jennings Policy Strategies is a nationally respected health care consulting firm committed to assisting foundations and other aligned stakeholders develop policies to ensure higher quality, more affordable health care. In 2014, Chris departed from the White House where he served as Senior Advisor to the President for Health Policy. He served in a similar capacity in the Clinton White House for eight years. From these positions, Chris has helped pass, enact, and implement the ACA, CHIP, and numerous other health reforms. In his decade of service in the U.S. Senate, he served as the Deputy Director of the Special Committee on Aging for three Senators (including his home state Senator, John Glenn) and led major reform efforts in the areas of long-term care, prescription drug coverage/cost containment, and rural health care.

### **Steven Lopez**

*Health Policy, UnidosUS*

Steven leads the strategic development and execution of UnidosUS's health policy agenda in order to increase the opportunity and ability of Latino children and families to achieve optimal health and thrive. Steven's work primarily focuses on two priority areas: the intersection of nutrition, hunger, and childhood obesity, and health coverage and care for vulnerable populations including low-income communities, children, and immigrants. Some of Steven's past professional experiences include being a part of the legislative staff of former Congresswoman Hilda Solis; leading public health initiatives in the South Texas border region; and creating healthier school environments as a health policy planner for the San Mateo County Health System in California. Steven is an alum of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute's (CHCI) Policy Fellowship Program.

**Erin Miller**

*Vice President, Children's Health Initiatives, Colorado Children's Campaign*

Erin leads the health policy work of the Colorado Children's Campaign to improve health insurance coverage and quality for Colorado's kids, expand access to health services for Colorado families, and ensure that every child has healthy places to live, learn and play. She has led successful policy initiatives to expand access to health insurance coverage for Coloradans including those without proper documentation, strengthen the state's Maternal Mortality Review Committee, improve access to school lunches, expand access to family planning services and oral health care, and improve pregnancy-related behavioral health. Her professional experiences include service as a WIC Educator and Local Area Retail Coordinator, a Special Assistant in the HHS Office of Planning and Evaluation, a Health Policy Adviser and Budget Analyst for the U.S. House Budget Committee and working with stakeholders in the Colorado Medicaid Program. Erin graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder and earned a Master's in Public Health Policy from Columbia University. Erin serves on the Board Advisory Group for Connect for Health Colorado.

**Don Moynihan**

*McCourt Chair, Georgetown McCourt School of Public Policy*

Donald Moynihan is the inaugural McCourt Chair at the McCourt School of Public Policy. His research examines how to improve how government works. He examines the behavioral effects of efforts to improve public sector outcomes through government reform, as well as the administrative burdens people encounter in their interactions with government. Prior to joining Georgetown University, Professor Moynihan previously served as the Director of the La Follette School of Public Affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and is also a Visiting Professor at the University of Oxford and Aarhus University. He is past president of the Public Management Research Association, and a member of the National Academy of Public Administration. A native of Ireland, Moynihan completed his bachelor of arts degree in public administration at the University of Limerick, and his master's and Ph.D. in public administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University.

**Andrea Palmer**

*Program Manager, Pritzker Children's Initiative, JB & MK Pritzker Family Foundation*

With a public health lens, and over thirty years of experience in Illinois State government, Andrea Palmer has a wealth of expertise in the development, implementation and administration of systems, services and supports for families at risk for poor health, educational and economic outcomes. While with the State, she managed the Teen Parent Services, Healthy Families and Parents Too Soon programs, she also played an integral role in the development and implementation of Illinois' Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visitation program (MIECHV). Prior to leaving State Government, Andrea served as the Chief of the Illinois Department of Public Health's Division of Maternal, Child and Family Health Services, where she oversaw the State's Infant Mortality Reduction initiatives, Regional Perinatal Health services, School-Based Health Centers and adolescent health programs. Andrea was also *the Director of Illinois' Maternal and Child Health Services*, Title V Block Grant, facilitating the ongoing assessment of the State's maternal and child health needs and the establishment of statewide priorities and objectives for the MCH population.

**Edwin Park**

*Research Professor, Georgetown University Center for Children and Families*

Edwin's work primarily focuses on Medicaid, CHIP, and the ACA and he is considered one of the nation's leading health policy experts on issues related to Medicaid and CHIP financing and the ACA's coverage expansions. He also analyzes tax policies related to health care, private health insurance markets, and policies related to prescription drugs. Previously, he worked at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities where he was Vice President for Health Policy. He also served as the health policy advisor for the National Economic Council at the White House during the Clinton Administration and as a Medicaid professional staff member for the U.S. Senate Finance Committee, as part of the minority staff of then-Ranking Member Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan. He also was an attorney at Hogan & Hartson (now Hogan Lovells). He is a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance.

**Stephen Patrick, MD, MPH, MS**

*Director, Center for Child Health Policy/Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Health Policy, Vanderbilt University*

Stephen W. Patrick, MD, MPH, MS, is the Director of the Vanderbilt Center for Child Health Policy, an Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Health Policy at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and an attending neonatologist at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt. He also currently serves as an Adjunct Physician Policy Researcher at RAND Corporation and is a Guest Researcher at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He is a graduate of the University of Florida, Florida State University College of Medicine and Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Patrick completed his training in pediatrics, neonatology and health services research as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar at the University of Michigan. Dr. Patrick's National Institute on Drug Abuse-funded research focuses on improving outcomes for opioid-exposed infants and women with opioid use disorder and evaluating state and federal drug control policies. He previously served as Senior Science Policy Advisor to the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. Dr. Patrick is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Substance Use and Prevention and has been a voting member on several US Food and Drug Administration Advisory Boards focused on opioid use in children.

**Jon Peacock**

*Research Director, Kids Forward*

Jon leads the work on health care policy analysis and advocacy at Kids Forward. He has worked at Kids Forward for 20 years – doing state budget analysis, health care policy work, and tax and revenue analysis. Prior to joining Kids Forward, Jon worked as a legislative aide for the State Assembly, where he worked on the legislation creating the state's BadgerCare and Healthy Start programs. Jon has a law degree and a master's degree (in resource management) from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has served on numerous health care related boards and committees, including the Health Watch Board of Directors, the steering committee for the Covering Kids and Families coalition, and the Implementation Committee for DHS's Medical Home Initiative. When not working, Jon enjoys birding and gardening.

**Siman Qaasim**

*President and CEO, Children's Action Alliance*

Siman is a well-seasoned management professional, with a background in developing and administering community health programs. Prior to arriving at CAA in 2016, Siman worked at

Maricopa County Department of Public Health, where she was an administrator for the Office of School Health and Wellness initiatives. Siman's career has taken her all over the world, from working in international policy analysis in Washington, D.C. to Nassau, Bahamas as a director of health and safety. Siman is an alumnus of Valley Leadership Class 35 and holds a master's degree in business administration from Nova Southeastern University in Florida.

### **Dean Rosen**

*Partner, Mehlman Castagnetti, Rosen, & Thomas*

A partner at Mehlman Castagnetti Rosen & Thomas, Dean Rosen has more than two decades experience developing and advancing health policy initiatives on Capitol Hill and in the private sector. Rosen advises a wide range of health care stakeholders and has represented health systems and hospitals, medical colleges and physician specialty organizations, health insurers, clinical laboratories, biopharmaceutical companies, nonprofit foundations and large national employers. He helps clients impact national policy and navigate the transformational health system changes taking place in the aftermath of the Affordable Care Act, and efforts to reform the ACA. Rosen's policy, legal and management experience ranges beyond Capitol Hill. He served as Senior Vice President of Policy and General Counsel for the Health Insurance Association of America (HIAA), and practiced law at Dow, Lohnes and Albertson in Washington, DC.

### **Andy Schneider**

*Research Professor of the Practice, Georgetown University Center for Children and Families*

Andy Schneider is a Research Professor of the Practice at the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy. Schneider has over 40 years of experience with the Medicaid program as a Congressional staffer, Executive Branch employee, private consultant, and public interest attorney. Most recently, he served under the Obama Administration as a Senior Advisor at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), where he focused on program integrity issues in Medicaid. He joined the Center for Children and Families in March of 2017. Andy has written extensively on Medicaid issues and led the development of the *Medicaid Resource Book* (2002) for the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. He is a graduate of Princeton University and the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

### **Dana Thomas**

*Sr Director of Government Relations, Anthem Inc.*

Dana has more than 15 years of experience in health care law and policy. In her current role, she supports Anthem's Medicaid managed care goals through federal and state advocacy. She previously worked at the National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association (NFPRHA) where she supervised the regulatory affairs staff and was responsible for promoting NFPRHA's ACA implementation and safety-net infrastructure agenda. Dana joined NFPRHA from Capitol Hill where she was Legislative Counsel in the office of Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL). She has a law degree and a certificate in health policy from George Washington University.

### **Kelly Whitener**

*Associate Research Professor of the Practice, Georgetown University Center for Children and Families*

Kelly Whitener is an Associate Professor of the Practice at the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy's Center for Children and Families (CCF) where she focuses on pediatric health benefits and managed care delivery systems as well as promoting state level advocacy to

improve care for children and families. Prior to joining CCF, Kelly served as the Director of State Coverage Programs at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, overseeing the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Basic Health Program. Kelly also worked for the Senate Committee on Finance, managing the Medicaid, CHIP, and prevention and wellness portfolio from October 2008 to April 2014. During her time with the committee, Kelly worked on the CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2009, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, and several year-end bills extending expiring safety net programs. Kelly studied psychology and Spanish at the University of Michigan and earned a Masters of Public Health from UCLA and a Juris Doctorate from Georgetown University.

### **Elizabeth Wright Burak**

*Senior Fellow, Georgetown University Center for Children and Families*

Elisabeth Wright Burak is a Senior Fellow at the Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy's Center for Children and Families (CCF) with two decades of experience in federal and state policies to support low-income children and families. She currently leads CCF's work on Medicaid and young children's healthy development. Since joining CCF in 2011, Elisabeth has worked on a range of health coverage issues, such as state Medicaid expansion and the 2015 CHIP extension in Congress. She previously served as Director of Health Policy and Legislative Affairs with Arkansas Advocates for Children & Families, where she led successful efforts to expand access to ARKids First (Medicaid and CHIP for Arkansas children) and aided other victories for families at the state capitol. Elisabeth first returned to her home state in 2006 to direct the Arkansas Department of Human Services Office of Policy and Planning, where she guided cross-system initiatives such as children's behavioral health reform. She began her career at The Finance Project and the National Governors Association in Washington, D.C. after receiving Master of Public Policy and Master of Social Work degrees from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Arts in social psychology from Smith College.

### **Kinika Young**

*Senior Director of Health Policy and Advocacy, Tennessee Justice Center*

Kinika Young is a lawyer and health policy advocate who frequently speaks on issues concerning access to healthcare, focusing on the role of public benefit programs to help people who lack adequate resources to meet their needs. As the Senior Director of Health Policy and Advocacy at the Tennessee Justice Center, she leads efforts to build a movement across the state to protect and strengthen the safety net for children, families, seniors and people with disabilities and move towards the equitable allocation of resources to all Tennesseans. Kinika began her legal practice in 2006 with Bass, Berry & Sims, PLC and became a Member of the firm in 2015. Her practice focused on healthcare disputes, in which she represented hospitals and healthcare providers facing managed care payment disputes with third-party payors. Kinika is a native of Montgomery, Alabama. She graduated from Florida A&M University with a degree in Political Science and earned her Juris Doctor degree from Tulane University Law School.