

Speaker Biographies

Melinda Abrams, M.S.

Vice President, Delivery System Reform, The Commonwealth Foundation

Melinda K. Abrams, M.S., is Vice President of the Commonwealth Fund's Health Care Delivery System Reform Program. Since joining the Commonwealth Fund in 1997, Ms. Abrams has worked on the Task Force on Academic Health Centers, Commission on Women's Health, and most recently, the Child Development and Preventive Care programs. She played a lead role in conceptualizing and launching the Fund's Assuring Better Child Health and Development (ABCD) initiative, which awarded grants to state Medicaid programs to encourage innovation in the financing and delivery of preventive and developmental services provided to low-income, young children.

Ms. Abrams sits on a number of national committees, including the Board of Managers of TransformMED, the PCMH Advisory Committee for the National Committee for Quality Assurance, and two Medical Home Expert Panels for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). In addition, she is a peer-reviewer for the *Annals of Family Medicine*. Ms. Abrams holds a B.A. in history from Cornell University and an M.S. in health policy and management from the Harvard School of Public Health.

Jonathan Blum, MPP

Executive Vice President, Medical Affairs, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield

Jonathan (Jon) Blum is the Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs at CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, which provides health care coverage in Maryland, the District of Columbia and Northern Virginia. Jon has responsibility for overseeing CareFirst's nationally recognized Patient-Centered Medical Home program. He also oversees CareFirst's medical and care coordination policies, pharmacy policies, and provider networks.

Prior to joining CareFirst, Jon served as the Principal Deputy Administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), leading CMS's payment and delivery reform strategies and overseeing the Medicare program's policy and management. He also served on the professional staff of the Senate Finance Committee and as a Medicare program analyst at the White House Office of Management and Budget. He earned a Master's degree in Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and a Bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

Chet Burrell

President & CEO, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield

Chet Burrell joined CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield in December 2007. He has more than 40 years' experience in the health care industry, including serving as President and Chief Executive Officer of RealMed Corporation, a provider of online claims processing services; and as Chairman and CEO for Novalis Corporation, a managed care technology and consulting company.

He has also served in senior-level positions for Anthem and Empire BlueCross BlueShield plans and Blue Cross of Northeastern New York. In addition to his private sector health care experience, Burrell has also

served in the New York State government in a variety of capacities, including the Offices of Mental Health and Health Systems Management and as a member of the New York Governor's Staff.

Mr. Burrell earned his Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Political Science from Allegheny College and a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Albany. He serves on the Boards of the DC Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Baltimore Committee's Executive and Health Care Committees, the Greater Washington Board of Trade and the Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare (CAQH).

Stephanie Glover, MPAff

Health Policy Analyst, The National Partnership for Women and Families

Stephanie Glover is a Health Policy Analyst for the National Partnership for Women & Families. Stephanie manages the National Partnership's federal health policy portfolio related to health care transformation and comprehensive payment reform. In this role, she advocates for new models of care and payment that provide the comprehensive, coordinated care that patients want and need. Stephanie also directs the National Partnership's Coalition for Better Care, a coalition of consumer organizations with a direct stake in improving health care quality for patients and family caregivers.

Stephanie has a Masters of Public Affairs from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas and earned her undergraduate degree at Trinity College in Hartford, CT. Stephanie has previously worked at the National Women's Law Center, the Child and Family Research Partnership, and the Women's Campaign Fund.

Maria Gomez, RN, MPH

President and CEO, Mary's Center

Maria S. Gomez is the founder of Mary's Center, a community health organization providing health care, education and social services. Under Maria's leadership, Mary's Center has grown from an initial budget of \$250,000 serving 200 participants at a basement in 1988 to an annual budget of \$42 million serving over 36,000 individuals in the District of Columbia and Maryland. Maria has received numerous local and national important recognitions, including the 2012 Presidential Citizens Medal, the nation's second-highest civilian honor. In 2015, Maria also received the Hispanic Heritage Foundation Healthcare Award, the Montgomery County Hispanic Heritage Public Service Award and the Washington Business Journal Women Who Mean Business Award. Originally from Colombia, South America, Maria holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Georgetown University and a Master's degree in Public Health from the University of California at Berkeley. Prior to establishing Mary's Center, Maria was a public health nurse with the D.C. Department of Health. She also worked for the Red Cross and the Visiting Nurses Association.

Nilesh Kalyanaraman, MD

Chief Medical Officer, Health Care for the Homeless

Dr. Nilesh Kalyanaraman is the Chief Medical Officer of Maryland's Health Care for the Homeless, Inc. (HCH). He directs Adult Medicine, Pediatric & Adolescent Services, Dental Services, and Psychiatry. Previously he spent four years at Unity Health Care in Washington, D.C., where he was the Assistant Medical Director for health services at the D.C. Jail. Subsequently, he was an AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow at the National Institute of Health from 2010-2011, where he worked at the

National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine. Nilesch completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Emory University, received an MD from SUNY Brooklyn School of Medicine, and a BS in Chemistry from Yale University.

Vincent Keane

President and CEO, Unity Health Care, Inc.

Vincent A. Keane is currently President/CEO of Unity Health Care, Inc. (Unity), Washington, D.C. Unity, a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and a non-profit organization, provides primary health care, psycho-social services and mental health care to the medically underserved in Washington, D.C. Beginning in 2006, Unity began providing health care services to the inmates in the D.C. Department of Corrections (DOC) and continues to do so to date. Last year, Unity served 93,000 individual patients, and generated over 613,000 patient visits.

As well as his executive responsibilities for Unity, Mr. Keane is actively involved in the development of national health care policy as it addresses the needs of the medically underserved and poverty communities. He is regularly called upon to testify before the City Council of the District of Columbia.

Since 1969, when Mr. Keane came to the United States, he has been involved in the non-profit sector including work in the Catholic Diocese of Arlington providing social services and pastoral care within several parish communities. From 1987 to 1990, he served as Director of Development for the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC). In 1990, he became Executive Director of Health Care for the Homeless Project (HCHP) Washington, D.C., which later became Unity Health Care, Inc.

Kathleen Knolhoff, MPH

CEO and President, CCI Health & Wellness Services

Kathleen Knolhoff, MPH, is the Chief Executive Officer and President of CCI Health & Wellness Services (CCI). She holds a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Dietetics/Nutrition from the University of West Florida, a Masters of Public Health (MPH) from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and Graduate Certificate in Survey Design and Data Analysis from The George Washington University, Washington, DC. She has served as the Health Officer for Talbot County, MD and Director of the Maryland WIC Program. Ms. Knolhoff re-joined CCI in 2009 as the Chief Operating Officer, and in 2011 became the Associate Chief Executive Officer. In 2014, Ms. Knolhoff became the CEO and President.

Len Nichols, Ph.D.

Director of the Center for Health Policy Research and Ethics and Professor of Health Policy, George Mason University

Len M. Nichols is the Director of the Center for Health Policy Research and Ethics (CHPRE) and a Professor of Health Policy at George Mason University (GMU). He has been intimately involved in health reform debates, policy development, and communication with the media and policy makers for 20+ years, after he was Senior Advisor for Health Policy at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in the Clinton Administration. Since that time, he has testified frequently before Congress and state legislatures, published widely and spoken to a tremendous range of hospital associations, physician groups, and health policy forums around the country.

After OMB, Len was a Principle Research Associate at the Urban Institute, Vice President of the Center for Studying Health System Change, and Director of the Health Policy Program at the New America Foundation. In addition to his positions at GMU, Len is on the Board of Directors of the National Committee for Quality Assurance and an advisor to the Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative. Len was an advisor to the Virginia Health Reform Initiative and is now the payment reform advisor to the Virginia Center for Health Innovation as it leads Virginia's State Innovation Model effort.

As he has come to focus his research more on payment and delivery reform, Len was an Innovation Advisor to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation at CMS, and is now the Principal Investigator on PCMH evaluation studies as well as more general ways to use payment and delivery reform to achieve triple aim and health equity goals. Len's first job was teaching economics at Wellesley College from 1980-1991, where he became Associate Professor and Economics Department Chair, after receiving his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Illinois in 1980. Len got his B.A. from Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas, and his M.A. in Economics from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

Marci Nielsen, Ph.D.

President & CEO, Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative

Marci Nielsen, Ph.D., MPH, is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative (PCPCC), a non-profit membership coalition of health care providers, patients & families/caregivers, and payers – with a mission to improve the US system by strengthening advanced primary care (via the patient-centered medical home framework).

Marci is a seasoned health policy executive with nearly three decades of state, federal, international, and academic experience, including the development and implementation of innovative policies in public and private health care programs. Marci held previous positions as: Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs and Associate Professor at the University of Kansas Medical Center; Executive Director of the Kansas Health Policy Authority (KHPA) -- the single state agency managing Medicaid, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, the State Employee Health Plan, health information technology and health policy; the health lobbyist and assistant director of legislation for the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO); and legislative assistant to U.S. Senator Bob Kerrey (D-Nebraska). Early in her career she served as a Peace Corps volunteer and in the U.S. Army Reserves. She holds a Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, an MPH from George Washington University, and a BS in biology and psychology from Briar Cliff College.

Marci serves on the Board of Directors for the American Board of Family Medicine, the National Academy for State Health Policy, and the Collaborative Family Healthcare Association. She is a member of NQF's Measures Application Partnership (Clinical Workgroup), the Eugene Farley Center for Health Policy at the University of Colorado, and a number of other national and state policy committees. She served as a committee member for the Institute of Medicine's Leading Health Indicators for Healthy People 2020 and Living Well with Chronic Illness: A Call for Public Health Action.

John O'Brien, PharmD, MPH

Vice President, Public Policy, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield

John Michael O'Brien is Vice President of Public Policy at CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, and represents CareFirst on state and federal government and regulatory matters – with a particular focus on quality

policy and the role of care coordination in delivery system and payment reform. Dr. O'Brien joined CareFirst from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), where he served as Acting Director of the Strategic Partnerships Division, senior advisor in the CMS Innovation Center, and policy coordinator in the Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs. Before joining CMS, John was a professor of clinical and administrative sciences at the Notre Dame of Maryland University College of Pharmacy, a Health Policy Fellow in the United States Senate, and held a number of medical affairs and government affairs positions in the pharmaceutical industry. He has a master's degree in public health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, a doctor of pharmacy degree from Nova Southeastern University, and also studied pharmacy and public policy at the University of Florida.

Sara Rosenbaum, J. D.

Professor, George Washington University

Sara Rosenbaum is the Harold and Jane Hirsh Professor of Health Law and Policy and Founding Chair of the Department of Health Policy, George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health. She also holds a Professorship by Courtesy in the GW Law School and is a member of the faculty of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

A graduate of Wesleyan University and Boston University Law School, Professor Rosenbaum has devoted her professional career to issues of health justice for populations who are medically underserved as a result of race, poverty, disability, or cultural exclusion. An honored teacher and scholar, a highly popular speaker, and a widely read writer on many aspects of health law and policy, Professor Rosenbaum has emphasized public engagement as a core element of her professional life, providing public service to six Presidential Administrations and fifteen Congresses since 1977. Professor Rosenbaum is best known for her work on the expansion of Medicaid, the expansion of community health centers, patients' rights in managed care, civil rights and health care, and national health reform. Between 1993 and 1994, she worked for President Clinton, directing the drafting of the Health Security Act and designing the Vaccines for Children program, which offers near-universal coverage of vaccines for low income and medically underserved children. Professor Rosenbaum also regularly advises state governments on health policy matters and has served as a testifying expert in legal actions involving the rights of children under Medicaid. Professor Rosenbaum is the leading author of *Law and the American Health Care System*, 2d ed., published by Foundation Press, May, 2012, a landmark textbook that provides an in-depth exploration of the interaction of American law and the U.S. health care system. She has received national awards for her work, serves on governmental advisory committees, private organizational and foundation boards, and is a past Chair of AcademyHealth. She is a member of the CDC Director's Advisory Committee, the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP), and a Commissioner on the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC), which advises Congress on federal Medicaid policy.

Faye Royale-Larkins

CEO, Total Health Care

As CEO at Total Health Care, Inc., Faye Royale-Larkins leads the organization in the implementation of its strategic goals and manages its day-to-day operations as leader of the executive management team. She directs the development, communication, implementation, and evaluation of long and short-term plans and budgets. She reports to the Board of Directors and regulatory agencies having jurisdiction over the corporation. Mrs. Larkins also effectively oversees the provision of healthcare delivery to patients and

the community in accordance with protocols, policies and procedures of the corporation. Mrs. Larkins has more than 30 years of clinical and health executive management experience in community health care, physician group management and hospital operations having served as a senior executive in a variety of settings including community/public health, ambulatory care, and acute care hospitals. Her diverse experiences include working in a senior capacity with government and privately-funded programs, physician practice management, primary and specialty outpatient care in community health centers and hospitals, substance abuse, inpatient and outpatient behavioral health, HIV/AIDS, prevention and wellness, emergency services, community outreach, home health and hospice, community and home dialysis services, clinical research and hospital administration.

Mrs. Larkins grew up in West Baltimore and received her Bachelors of Arts degree in sociology in 1972 from Morgan State University. In 1977, she received her Bachelor of Science of Nursing from State University of New York after earning her Master of Public Health degree in 1974 from the University of Michigan, School of Public Health. She is currently pursuing her doctorate of Health Administration from the University of Michigan.

Her professional affiliations include serving as board secretary for The Sisters Academy School, which provides tuition-free education to girls living mainly in southwest Baltimore; board member and chair of the personnel committee of On Our Own of Howard County, a consumer-run wellness and recovery center, and chair of the Personnel Committee; and board member of Why Murder? , which supports underserved youth in Baltimore at risk of incarceration.

Tiffany Tate, MHS

CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield

Tiffany Tate is a public health and healthcare consultant who has worked on dozens of local and national initiatives to improve the quality and delivery of health services. Her clients have included local and state health departments, state and federal agencies, hospitals, professional associations, health insurers, coalitions, community-based and non-profit organizations, private providers, and private companies.

Through her diverse experiences, she has acquired subject matter expertise in hospital and health system operations, public health, population health, organizational development, and health insurance.

Currently, Ms. Tate oversees CareFirst's Safety Net Health Centers Patient-Centered Medical Homes Initiative, an \$8.5 million grant project to assist safety nets in implementation of patient-centered care. Tiffany holds a Master of Health Science from the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health and undergraduate degrees in Health Care Administration and Business.

Maria Harris Tildon

Senior Vice President, Public Policy and Community Affairs, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield

Maria Harris Tildon is Senior Vice President for Public Policy and Community Affairs for CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, the largest health care insurer in the Mid-Atlantic region, serving nearly 3.2 million members with nearly 5,000 employees in Maryland and the National Capitol Area. As Senior Vice President for Public Policy and Community Affairs, Ms. Tildon is responsible for managing all matters

related to public policy, state and federal government relations, external and internal communications, strategic medical communications and community investments and outreach. Tildon joined CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield in September of 2006.

Prior to joining, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, Ms. Tildon was Senior Vice President for External Affairs for The Century Council, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to fighting underage drinking and drunk driving. As Senior Vice President, Ms. Tildon was responsible for all communications, marketing, federal and state government affairs and national field efforts on behalf of The Council. Ms. Tildon began her tenure at The Council in November of 1999 after serving in several capacities in the Clinton Administration at the U.S. Department of Commerce under Secretaries Ronald H. Brown and William Daley including Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Import Administration and Deputy Director of Public Affairs. As Deputy Director, Ms. Tildon was responsible for oversight of all media relations and outreach efforts for the Department of Commerce's thirteen agencies and 30,000 employees.

Prior to joining the Administration, Ms. Tildon practiced law at Venable, LLP in Washington, D.C. from 1990-1993 focusing on civil and criminal litigation in federal and state courts with a special emphasis on business litigation and environmental criminal defense.