



THE NELSON A.
ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT



BROOKINGS



Fels Institute
of Government
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

ACA Implementation in New York

Agenda

Welcome: Thomas Gais, *Director, Rockefeller Institute*

The New York Report & Implementation Challenges from the State Perspective

Introduction to the Field Network Study:

- Alice Rivlin, *Senior Fellow, Center for Health Policy, Brookings Institute, and Project Co-Director, ACA Implementation Research Network, Rockefeller Institute of Government*
- Richard Nathan, *Senior Fellow and Project Co-Director, ACA Implementation Research Network, Rockefeller Institute of Government*

Keynote Presentation:

- Sarah F. Liebschutz, *Distinguished Service Professor Emerita, SUNY Brockport*

Discussion of NYS Experience:

- Thomas Gais, *Moderator*
- Donna Frescatore, *Executive Director, NY State of Health, Department of Health*
- Judith Arnold, *Director of Medicaid Eligibility and Marketplace Integration, Department of Health*
- Alice Rivlin
- Richard Nathan

New York's Basic Health Program:

- Richard P. Nathan, *Moderator*
- Danielle Holahan, *Deputy Executive Director, NY State of Health, Department of Health*
- Jennifer Tolbert, *Director of State Health Reform, Kaiser Family Foundation*

Exchange Enrollment Hurdles: Rural and Urban Navigational Assistance at Local Levels:

- Elisabeth Ryden Benjamin, *Moderator, Vice President for Health Initiatives, Community Social Service Society New York*
- Lona Cook, *Navigator, S2AY Rural Health Network*
- Rehan Mehmood, *Director of Health Services, South Asian Council for Social Services*

Wrap-up:

- Donna Frescatore and Thomas Gais

Speaker Biographies

Judith Arnold is the director of the Division of Eligibility and Marketplace Integration within the Office of Health Insurance Programs in the NYS Department of Health. In that capacity, Ms. Arnold is responsible for eligibility policy and operations for Medicaid, Child Health Plus, Essential Plan, and the tax credits available through the Affordable Care Act. She is responsible for integrating and aligning eligibility rules across all programs to streamline enrollment and expand coverage. Ms. Arnold is also leading the transition to more centralized Medicaid eligibility determinations at the state from the local departments of social services.

Elisabeth Ryden Benjamin is the vice president of health initiatives at the Community Service Society, where she supervises health policy, health advocacy, and consumer health assistance programs, including the CSS Navigator Network (CNN), Community Health Advocates (CHA), and the Small Business Assistance Program (SBAP). The programs help over 60,000 health care consumers and small businesses enroll in health insurance or access low-cost health care through a toll-free helpline and network of community-based organizations and small business-serving groups. She is a co-founder of Health Care for All New York Campaign (HCFANY), a statewide coalition of over 150 organizations devoted to securing affordable, quality health care for all New Yorkers.

Lona Cook began her career in the health care arena as a receptionist in a physician's office before becoming employed as a facilitated enroller with the S2AY Rural Health Network in 2001. She transitioned to becoming a navigator with the S2AY Network in 2014, and in 2015 became a part-time navigator, serving NY State of Health as a part-time facilitated enroller serving the aged, blind, and disabled population.

Donna Frescatore is executive director of NY State of Health, the state's Official Health Plan Marketplace created under the Affordable Care Act. She has over twenty-five years of experience designing and administering public and private health insurance programs. Prior to being executive director of NY State of Health, Ms. Frescatore was assistant deputy secretary of health in Governor Cuomo's Office. She has also served as the state's Medicaid director and deputy commissioner of the Office of Health Insurance Programs at the NYS Department of Health. She began her state career in the NYS Department of Civil Service where she was responsible for purchasing benefits for the over one million employees and retirees of state and local governments enrolled in the New York State Employees Health Insurance Program.

Thomas L. Gais is director of the Rockefeller Institute of Government of the State University of New York. Before becoming director in 2010, Mr. Gais served as acting director, co-director, senior fellow, and fellow since he came to the Institute in 1994. His research has focused on American federalism, particularly the implementation of national social and health initiatives by state governments; the dynamics of state spending on social programs and relationships to changing needs; the role of analysis and experimentation in the routine operations of government; the comparative effectiveness of faith-based social service organizations;

performance measurement and management; nonprofit social service organizations and their relations with governments; campaign finance reforms and their effects; state constitutional reforms; and interest group formation, maintenance, and strategies.

Danielle Holahan is deputy director of NY State of Health, New York's Health Plan Marketplace. Ms. Holahan joined the Marketplace team in April 2011 during its early planning stages. She plays a lead role in the development and operation of the Marketplace. From 1999 to 2011, Ms. Holahan worked at the United Hospital Fund of New York, where she was co-director of the Fund's Health Insurance Project. Her work at the Fund focused on analysis of health insurance coverage issues, options for coverage expansion, and public program enrollment and retention. From 1994 to 1997, she worked at AARP's Public Policy Institute in Washington, D.C., where her work focused on analysis of state and federal legislation pertaining to the Medicaid program.

Sarah F. Liebschutz is Distinguished Service Professor Emerita of the State University of New York, where she was a member and chair of the political science faculty at SUNY College at Brockport. A former Brookings Institution research associate, she also was an adjunct professor of political science at the University of Rochester. She is a specialist in American federalism and intergovernmental relations, and New York State politics. Her most recent book, *Communities and Health Care: The Rochester, New York, Experiment*, was published in 2011. Other books, journal articles, book chapters and monographs for the New York State and federal governments focus on federalism and various public policies, including Medicaid and welfare reform. She is a past chair of the Section on Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations of the American Political Science Association.

Rehan Mehmood has extensive experience in working with community-based organizations. He started his career with Akhuwat in 2006, a nonprofit organization providing interest-free microloans to small businesses, and in 2012 he joined South Asian Council for Social Services (SACSS), a New York-based non-governmental organization (NGO) where he is working as director of health services. Healthcare access has been one of the major focus areas for Mr. Mehmood. Previously, as a community health advocate (CHA), and now as a navigator, he has been directly engaged in assisting consumers navigate the healthcare system.

Richard Nathan formerly served as director of the Rockefeller Institute and distinguished professor of political science and public policy at the State University of New York at Albany, and is currently a senior fellow and project co-director of the ACA Implementation Research Network at the Institute. Dr. Nathan has written and edited books on the implementation of domestic public programs in the United States and on American federalism. Prior to coming to Albany, he was a professor at Princeton University. He served in the federal government as assistant director of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, deputy undersecretary for welfare reform of the U.S. Department of Health Education and Welfare, and director of domestic policy for the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders (The Kerner Commission).

Alice M. Rivlin is a senior fellow in the Center for Health Policy at the Brookings Institution and project co-director of the ACA Implementation Research Network. She is also a visiting professor at the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University. She was formerly the director of the Health Policy Center (2013-15). Ms. Rivlin served as vice chair of the Federal Reserve Board (1996-99), deputy director and then director of the White House Office of Management and Budget in the first Clinton administration (1993-96), and was the founding director of the Congressional Budget Office (1975-83). Ms. Rivlin was named by President Obama to the Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform and also co-chaired, with former Senator Pete Domenici, the Bipartisan Policy Center's Task Force on Debt Reduction. She has received a MacArthur Foundation Prize Fellowship in 1983 and the Moynihan Prize in 2008. She was named one of the greatest public servants of the last twenty-five years by the Council for Excellence in Government in 2008.

Jennifer Tolbert is director of state health reform at the Kaiser Family Foundation and an associate director for the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. Ms. Tolbert leads an initiative to monitor state implementation of the Affordable Care Act, with a particular focus on state efforts to establish health insurance marketplaces. She also directs research and policy analysis focusing on issues of affordability for low-income populations and areas of intersection between Medicaid and the health insurance marketplaces, such as eligibility and enrollment and consumer assistance. In addition, Ms. Tolbert manages State Health Facts, a source for state-level data on over 600 key health topics. Prior to joining the Foundation, Ms. Tolbert served as the assistant vice president for policy at the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems and before that she worked in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the Department of Health and Human Services.