

CAHPF Speaker Biographies

Foster Gesten, MD

Foster Gesten is the Medical Director for the Office of Managed Care in the New York State Department of Health. Dr. Gesten provides clinical direction and leadership for a team of professionals engaged in quality oversight, performance measurement and clinical improvement within health plans in New York. Major initiatives include the development of statewide public reporting systems for commercial, Medicaid, and Child Health managed care programs on quality, access, and satisfaction.

Dr. Gesten is a Co-Investigator for a CDC grant addressing asthma from a public health perspective and developed a state-initiated program directed at improving the delivery of prevention services to adolescents.

He serves on the Managed Care Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for the Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS), is a member of the National CAHPS Benchmarking Database (NCBD) Advisory Group, the Committee on Performance Measurement (CPM) at the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), and the Ambulatory Care Performance Measures Steering Committee at the National Quality Forum (NQF).

Dr. Gesten was trained in general internal medicine at Brown University.

Steven Hill, MBA

Steve Hill is Administrator of the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA). A cabinet level agency, the HCA administers health-care benefits to more than 400,000 Washington residents through the Basic Health program for low-income residents, and the Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) program for state government workers and retirees. The HCA also administers the Community Health Services program that provides state funding to community clinics; the Prescription Drug Program designed to reduce state spending on drugs; and the Uniform Medical Plan, a preferred provider plan utilized by more than a third of PEBB enrollees.

Governor Christine Gregoire named Hill to lead a team of public and private sector health-care leaders to make specific recommendations to contain health-care costs. The group will investigate effective uses of technology, consumer incentives, wellness promotion, and other avenues to reduce health care's increasing impact on the state's budget.

Hill retired from Weyerhaeuser Co. where, as Senior Vice President Of Human Resources, he led wellness efforts for thousands of employees and worked to contain the company's health-care costs. He served as founding President of the Health Care Purchasers of Puget Sound, a group representing employers who

sponsor health-care insurance. He also has served on the state's Hospital Rate Setting Commission.

A former Regent for Washington State University, Hill received a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of California at Los Angeles.

Cal Ludeman

Cal Ludeman is the Commissioner of the Department of Employee Relations for the State of Minnesota. Since his appointment to the Department of Employee Relations, Commissioner Ludeman has negotiated a salary and benefit package for over 32,000 state employees that balanced the state's desire to remain a competitive employer with the need to control costs in difficult financial times. Ludeman also serves as Chair of Governor Pawlenty's Health Cabinet.

Ludeman has a distinguished public service career serving in the State of Minnesota's House of Representatives from 1979 to 1985, including serving as Minority Whip in 1983 to 1984. In addition, Ludeman served on the Labor-Management Committee and Pension subcommittee, where he dealt with issues ranging from workers' compensation reform to state employee pension funds, with a special interest in the budgeting process, governmental organization and Public Employee Labor Relations Act (PELRA).

Patricia Powers, MPPA

Patricia Powers is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Center for Health Improvement, a non-profit health policy center dedicated to keeping prevention at the forefront of health policy and health care services. She brings to the health care industry more than 20 years of experience as a nationally known dynamic leader in both the private and public sectors, dedicating her talents to improving the quality of health care while moderating costs.

Ms. Powers has previously served in the capacities of President and Chief Executive Officer of the Pacific Business Group on Health (PBGH), Co-Founder of the Leapfrog Group, Director of a Bay Area Robert Wood Johnson Foundation initiative on the working uninsured, and member of the boards of the National Committee on Quality Assurance, the National Business Coalition on Health, the Physician Payment Review Commission, and the National Quality Forum.

Ms. Powers received a MA in Public Policy and Administration from Columbia University in New York. Following her graduate studies, she completed a two-year Federal program as a Presidential Management Intern.

Sandra Shewry, MPH, MSW

Sandra Shewry is Director of the California Department of Health Services. The California Department of Health Services is one of the largest departments within state government with a budget of \$36 billion and 5,800 employees. The programs under Ms. Shewry's leadership include public health, education, disease-prevention, and health protection programs, licensing of health facilities, and the state Medicaid Program (Medi-Cal).

Ms. Shewry has over 20 years experience in California state government. She began her state career with the California Department of Health Services as a health planning analyst and later served as an assistant secretary at the Health and Welfare Agency.

Prior to joining CDHS in 2004, Sandra Shewry was the Director of Health at the National Governor's Association's Center for Best Practices where she worked on a broad range of health financing, service delivery, and policy issues. Ms. Shewry served as the Executive Director of the California Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, and was responsible for development and implementation of California's high risk pool (MRMIB), a subsidized pregnancy coverage program (AIM), a small employer purchasing cooperative (The HIPC), and the state's S-CHIP (Healthy Families).

She currently serves on the Commonwealth Fund's Commission on a High Performance Health System and is a Board Member of the Insure the Uninsured Project. Ms. Shewry formerly served as a Steering Committee Member for the National Academy for State Health Policy. She served as Vice Chair of the National Association of State Comprehensive Health Insurance Plans and a Board Member of the Pacific Business Group on Health.

Ms. Shewry earned graduate degrees in Public Health and Social Welfare from the University of California at Berkeley.