

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Between Two Worlds: Adolescents and our Health Care System

December 15, 2014

GENEVIEVE M. KENNEY is co-director and a senior fellow in the Health Policy Center of the Urban Institute. She received a doctorate in economics and masters in statistics from the University of Michigan and has been conducting policy research for over 25 years. She is a nationally renowned expert on Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the broader health insurance coverage and health issues facing low-income children and families. She has led a number of Medicaid and CHIP evaluations and published over 100 articles and briefs on insurance coverage and access to care for low-income children, pregnant women, and other adults. In her current research, she is examining the implications of the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid coverage of family planning services, and state efforts to enroll more children and adults in Medicaid and CHIP.

TAMARA SMITH is the chief executive officer of the YWCA National Capital Area. She has led an organizational turnaround starting in 2008 and is responsible for the development of their programs focusing on the empowerment of women and elimination of racism. Under her leadership the YW has developed youth mentoring and academic prep programs, violence against women prevention and awareness programs, adult literacy and workforce training programs and social justice and women's economic empowerment initiatives. Over the last 30 years, Tamara has served in leadership positions in the health care sector including: commercial managed care, Medicaid managed care, and hospital systems. She has held positions at Kaiser Permanente, United Healthcare, Medstar Health, Chartered Health Plan and Greater Southeast Community Hospital. Tamara has served on numerous boards including Lake Forest College, the DC Primary Care Association and National Association of Health Services Executives. She has also volunteered her time with many professional and civic organizations, including the Whitman Walker Clinic, Providence Health Foundation, Medicaid Health Plans of America, and others. In 2014, she was recognized as an Outstanding Healthcare Leader by the National Association of Health Care Executives. Ms. Smith earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Biology from Lake Forest College and a Master of Science degree in Health Systems Management from Rush University.

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LESLIE WALKER is chief of the Division of Adolescent Medicine and professor and vice chair of Faculty Affairs in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Washington and Seattle Children's Hospital. At Seattle Children's Hospital, she also co-directs the Adolescent Substance Abuse Program (ASAP). She received her undergraduate degree at Stanford University and medical degree from the University of Illinois. After finishing her Pediatric Residency at the University of Chicago she went back to her home state of California to complete her adolescent medicine fellowship at the University of California, San Francisco. She has worked nationally and locally to improve the health and well-being of adolescents and young adults, focusing her research on health risk behaviors like substance abuse, early teen pregnancy and parent interventions to improve adolescent health. She serves on many national boards and committees and recently served as the president of the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine (SAHM). She directs the University of Washington Leadership Education in Adolescent Health, Maternal and Child Health funded multidisciplinary training program (UW LEAH). She has also had the privilege of serving on multiple committees at the National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine, focused on improving the missed opportunities for adolescent health, and young adult well-being. She has authored many chapters and research articles most recently focusing on adolescent and young adult substance abuse and workforce diversity. She was a frequent guest on NPR's Tell Me More with Host Michele Martin as well as other national and local media sites.

VICTORIA WARD is the Bronx regional director of Psychosocial Services at the Institute for Family Health where she has been employed since 2010. Ms. Ward is responsible for the administration and delivery of behavioral health services in six federally qualified health centers in the Bronx, New York. Ms. Ward received her M.S.W. from the Fordham University Graduate School of Social Services, though her interest in the fields of social work and mental health began during her undergraduate studies at Georgetown University, where she majored in Psychology. Ms. Ward provides motivational interviewing trainings to staff and students of the Institute, as well as to multi-disciplinary behavioral health and primary care providers of partnering and contracting agencies. Ms. Ward is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, the National Association of Social Workers, and the Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care (SSWLHC). Most recently, Ms. Ward presented at the SSWLHC's annual conference on the implementation of integrated behavioral health and primary care. During her career, Ms. Ward has practiced at hospitals, homeless shelters, residential treatment facilities, and outpatient mental health centers where she has provided outpatient mental health treatment to children and adolescents in the foster care system, home-based psychotherapy to adolescents and adults, and case management and mental health services to homeless clients of all ages.