



## UTAH HEALTH POLICY PROJECT

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### ***Some Assembly Required: Making Health Reform Work for Utah***

**Thursday, October 28, 2010**

#### **BIOGRAPHIES OF PARTICIPANTS *(in order of appearance)***

**Deborah Katz** provides state-level health policy, community education and organizational assistance in her role at Community Catalyst. She is the developer of Walk in My Shoes, a complex simulation focusing on the experience of low income and underserved consumers in the health care system, which has been presented to dozens of organizations throughout the country. Previously Deborah was the Training and Education Director at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Division of Food and Drugs. She played a key role in planning and implementing the Well Women Program, a program that provides chronic disease screening, diagnosis, and treatment to uninsured women. Deborah holds a bachelor's degree in American studies and a master's degree in environmental policy from the University of Michigan.

**Judi Hilman** is Executive Director and co-founder of the Utah Health Policy Project. Prior to starting the UHPP, Judi served as Health Policy Director and Research Director for Utah Issues, Center for Poverty Research and Action. In 2008 Judi was selected as 1 of 10 Community Health Leaders by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Judi was born in Los Angeles and raised there and in Israel. She has her MA from Cornell University in History and BA (magna cum laude) from the University of California, Berkeley. Before coming to Utah in '99 she oversaw development and strategic communications at a community rehabilitation agency serving people with disabilities in upstate New York. Before that she served as director of programs for the Community School of Music and Arts. Judi's work covers a broad range of policy issues impacting the uninsured, low-income medically underserved, people with disabilities, and ethnic minorities.

**Michael Miller** is a Policy Director at Community Catalyst. He focuses on providing policy and strategy support to state-based consumer health advocacy groups. Over the course of his career, Michael has developed expertise in the areas of Medicaid, SCHIP, Medicare, and developing state-level options to expand coverage for the uninsured, small group and non-group insurance reform, long term care financing and delivery, managed care reform, and hospital community benefits and uncompensated care. Prior to joining Community Catalyst, Michael was the policy director for Health Care for All. He also worked for the City of Boston Elderly Commission as a Policy Analyst and for the Alzheimer's Association of eastern Massachusetts as Director of the Community Partnership Project. Michael holds a bachelor's degree from Brown University and a master's degree in public policy from Tufts University.

**Sheila Walsh-McDonald, MSW**, has spent most of her professional career working on behalf of low-income populations, to improve and strengthen public and private programs that are intended to make a difference in their well being. She has worked on and off for the last 32 years for the Salt Lake Community Action Program in a variety of capacities: organizing low-income residents to remove the sales tax on food, as State Director of the Community Food and Nutrition program, and currently for the last 12 years as a health care, welfare reform, and homeless advocate. She chaired the Salt Lake County Homeless Coordinating Council from 2000- 2002. From 1981 to 1986, Sheila worked for the Utah Department of Health as the State Director of the Utah WIC Program. Sheila also worked for two years (1993-1995) as a Constituent Services Case Manager in the district office of Congresswoman Karen Shepherd. In this role, she helped constituents link with public and private resources for health and human services and represented the district office on issues of welfare reform. Her civic involvement has included being a member of the Children's Center Board, United Way allocation panels, Title XX Advisory Council Member and currently a member of the Bennion Center Advisory Board. She is married with two children.

**Matt Spencer** is the Program Manager for the Utah Health Exchange in the Office of Consumer Health Services, Governor's Office of Economic Development. The Utah Health Exchange provides an electronic enrollment and eligibility platform where consumers can purchase health insurance under traditional and defined contribution markets. Matt brings with him experience in both insurance and exchange technology. Prior to working for the Exchange, Matt worked for Ceridian Corporation, a privately-owned global business services company, in their Benefit Services Division as an Account Executive over relations with 54 enterprise-level clients in 14 states. Preceding Ceridian, Matt worked as a health insurance broker.

**Kirsten Stewart** has been writing for the Salt Lake Tribune for nearly 11 years, covering education, state government, social services, and health. She is currently assigned to the health reform beat, covering state, federal and industry efforts to improve health care. A native of Utah Kirsten received her B.A. and M.A. in English literature from the University of Utah.

## *Biographies (continued)*

**Tanji Northrup** has 20 years of experience working in the health insurance in both the public and private sector and is currently the Director of the Health Insurance Division at the Utah Insurance Department. As Director, she is responsible for the implementation of state and federal health care insurance reform efforts. She represents the department on legislative issues, task forces, and committees in addition to health insurance committees at the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. Ms. Northrup is a key advisor to the Utah Insurance Commissioner as well as members of the Utah Legislature regarding health insurance related issues. She has served as a director of the Utah Defined Contribution Risk Adjuster Board and continues to assist with the implementation of the Utah Health Exchange. Ms. Northrup received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management with an emphasis in finance at Westminster College. She has been happily married for 18 years and is the proud mother of two daughters. The family enjoys the outdoors and volunteering their time at the Road Home, YWCA, Girl Scouts of Utah, and Redeemer Lutheran Church and School.

**The Honorable Speaker David Clark** represents Utah's 74th District. He is a graduate of Brigham Young University, the National Commercial Lenders Graduate School, and the Pacific Coast School of Banking. Professionally, he now serves as Regional President of Zions Bank. He has served in the legislature since 2001 as House Majority Leader, and currently presides as Speaker of the House. He currently lives in Santa Clara, Utah with his wife, Nan.

**Rod L. Betit** is President and CEO of the Utah Hospitals & Health Systems Association, effective October 11, 2010. Betit brings more than 30 years of health policy experience to UHA, having most recently served for 7 years as President of the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association. Prior to returning to Alaska in 2003 to provide support to his aging father, Betit served as Executive Director for the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) under Governor Michael O. Leavitt. Betit began his service at UDOH in 1987 as the Director of Health Care Financing. In 1992, he was appointed Interim Executive Director of the Department of Health by Governor Bangerter. In 1993 newly elected Governor Leavitt named Betit as the permanent Executive Director of the Department of Health. From 1995 to 1997 Betit also served as Executive Director of the Utah Department Human Services (UDHS) in addition to his duties as Executive Director of UDOH. In 1997, having completed needed restructuring of UDHS, Betit returned to the Utah Department of Health as the full-time Executive Director. Prior to his public service in Utah, Betit directed the medical and public assistance programs in Alaska for 12 years under two Governors. Prior to that Betit was in the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Group and served a tour of duty in Vietnam before leaving military service. Betit has served on numerous state and national healthcare reform committees. He is a nationally recognized Medicaid expert in the field of healthcare financing and is widely viewed as an expert on healthcare reform. "I am excited to return to Utah during this time of great change and challenge for healthcare providers," commented Rod. "Utah has made a good start in addressing healthcare reform, but there is much uncharted territory ahead on both the state and national level. I am looking forward to providing input into the decisions that still lay ahead."

**Laura Polacheck**, associate state director for AARP Utah, coordinates and implements the state's advocacy efforts on consumer, health, and economic issues, and assists in the development and presentation of educational outreach programs. She is currently serving as interim state director in addition to director of advocacy for the office. She also serves on the Utah Securities Commission and is its immediate past chair. She is a consumer representative on the Health Data Committee for the Utah Department of Health and is on the Consumer Committee for the Utah Health Information Network (UHIN), which helps design consumer protection standards concerning electronic health records. Prior to coming to Utah, she was a senior legislative representative for the Department of State Affairs of AARP in Washington DC, where she analyzed legislation and regulatory proposals, drafted legislative testimony and comments, and assisted in the development of the Association's policies on a variety of consumer protection issues. Before joining the AARP, Ms. Polacheck was a staff attorney with the Center for Auto Safety, a consumer protection organization founded by Consumers Union. She has also served as a project attorney for the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund and as an attorney-advisor for the Food and Drug Administration. Ms. Polacheck was a member of the Steering Committee for the Antitrust, Trade Regulation, and Consumer Affairs Section of the District of Columbia Bar, and served as Co-Chair of the Section. Ms. Polacheck received her undergraduate degree with honors from the University of Wisconsin, and a law degree from the George Washington University Law School.

**Bill Rappleye**, CEO, Draper Chamber of Commerce, was born in Twin Falls Idaho. After graduating from Twin Falls High School, Mr. Rappleye went on to attend the College of Southern Idaho majoring in Design and Graphics Arts and completed his design degree at LaSalle University. Later He went on to complete his Business Education at TCI. He married Mary F. Foss and has three children and nine grand children. Mr. Rappleye started his business career in the commercial construction industry and has filled many positions from laborer to Superintendent. After several years in the construction trades decided to make a change because of a downturn in the local economy and started a new career in the then new cable television business where he spent the best part of two decades in roles ranging from contract installer, sales, sales management, area customer service executive and finally state fleet executive. From 2001 to 2002, he worked as a Telecom Manager for the Salt Lake Olympic Organizing Committee. This brings us to his current

### *Biographies (continued)*

role as the Chief Executive for the Draper Utah Chamber of Commerce 2002 to current. Where he has grown and developed the association from a small town organization to a respected business promotion professional organization well known throughout the state. From the time he was old enough to remember Mr. Rappleye has found himself in leadership positions and possesses a unique talent for empowering groups to achieve at a higher level as well as bringing diverse groups together for common goals. His community service includes; 10 years as Draper City Planning Commission member, four years as Chairman. Founding Board Member of the Draper Riverton Rotary Club and fourteen plus years Board Member for Volunteers of America and three years State Director of Public Relations for the Employer support of the Guard and Reserve and now serves as State Employer Outreach Director. His visionary leadership skill is well known and recognized along the Wasatch front. In 2004 he created a new non-profit program from a former Draper Chamber program. This new 501 C3 is the Healthy Draper Corporation. He now leads this group as treasurer of the Board of Directors. Mr. Rappleye seeing a need organized a group of local businesses executives in 2006 the meet monthly to discuss ways to improve their own operations as well a build and support a better, stronger community now in its fourth year. Mr. Rappleye was elected to the Draper City Council in 2010 and has worked hard to solve fiscal and development problems in the city. He is pro business and brings that attitude to his Draper City leadership position. He has championed the Utah Health Policy Project because of his strong business back ground and a solid understanding of the tremendous impact the cost of providing health care coverage to employees is having on business.

**Gregory Poulsen** is senior vice president for Intermountain Healthcare. As a member of Intermountain's four-member management committee, he shares responsibility for the breadth of operational and strategic issues of the organization. Mr. Poulsen has direct responsibility for strategic planning, research and development, marketing, and policy. He joined Intermountain Healthcare in 1982. Mr. Poulsen is a Commissioner for the Commonwealth Fund in Washington DC, assisting in defining a high performance health system for the United States. He has been a consultant to the Swedish Health Minister and the British National Health Service. He is Chair of the Utah Foundation, a nonprofit public policy research organization. He is a frequent participant in national and international health policy development, appearing in before Congressional committees on numerous occasions, and working with the Congressional Budget office, and the Office of Management and Budget. Intermountain Healthcare consists of 23 hospitals and associated delivery services in the Intermountain West, a successful physician group practice, and a health insurance organization, and employs 30,000 dedicated associates.

**Jennifer Cooper** is an enrolled member of the Seneca Nation of Indians. She joined the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) in March 2009 as the Legislative Director advocating for the improvement of health care to all American Indians/Alaska Natives. Her professional background includes working for the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission; serving as summer law clerk for the California Indian Legal Services; working for the law firm of Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth and working for Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc., in Oakland, California. During the 2008 Presidential general election, Jennifer served as a Get-Out-The-Vote Organizer for the Obama campaign in Nevada. Jennifer holds a Juris Doctor from Cornell Law School, a Master of Public Administration from Syracuse University, and a Bachelors of Arts degree from Colgate University.

**Katherine Howitt** is a Policy Analyst at Community Catalyst. She researches health policy developments, and works with state groups to expand health care coverage. Before joining Community Catalyst, she conducted research with the Harvard School of Public Health on health care quality measurement and on disparities of care between racial and ethnic groups. Prior to moving the United States, Katherine worked in Montreal with a community organization to protect welfare, tenant, healthcare and immigration rights by coordinating with local officials to ensure compliance with social rights laws. Katherine holds a bachelor's degree in economics and history from McGill University, and a master's degree in economics from the University of British Columbia.

**Lincoln M. Nehring, JD**, is [was] the public health coverage policy director at UHPP. Basically, if you want to know how Medicaid, CHIP, or the Utah Premium Partnership work, how these programs can be improved, and what role they should play in health reform, he's your guy. Linc was born in Salt Lake City. After leaving to pursue academic, professional and athletic interests in Oregon and Washington, D.C., Linc returned to Utah to help work on finding solutions to the health care crisis. He earned both a BS and JD from the University of Oregon. He is an accomplished distance runner, running varsity cross country and track for the Ducks.