



National Association of State Medicaid Directors

an affiliate of the American Public Human Services Association

The Honorable Thomas A. Daschle
Special Policy Advisor
Alston & Bird LLP
The Atlantic Building
950 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20004-1404

Dear Senator Daschle:

The National Association of State Medicaid Directors (NASMD) would like to congratulate you on both your appointment as Chairman of President-elect Obama's Health Policy Working Group and your nomination to serve as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. Both positions bring with them incredible opportunities and incredible responsibilities, for which you are uniquely qualified.

NASMD represents the 55 state and territorial Medicaid programs. In that capacity we are responsible for the care of 23.5 million children, 13.5 million aged and disabled (nursing home and community based), and 11.1 million adults; representing \$333.2 billion (FY 2007) of our nation's health care spending. Through the Medicaid program the providers are able to assure access to health care from the inner city to the most remote regions of our country.

State Medicaid programs are challenged to be innovative under immense budgetary constraints. Medicaid programs have been called upon to address critical needs when faced with unanticipated demands arising from natural disasters, economic downturns, and other changes to the program, without the option to cherry pick our clientele. Medicaid programs have managed to provide services while costs have risen and budgets have stagnated. Most of all Medicaid programs have struggled, in a partnership with our providers, to maintain access to quality health care on one hand, while enduring the brutal regulatory assaults of our federal partners.

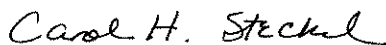
As a result, NASMD believes that we are uniquely qualified to serve as a resource in the health care reform debate and would, therefore, like to offer technical support to both the transition Health Policy Working Group and administration. Our Executive Director, Ann

Kohler, has a record of experience that not only benefits Medicaid Directors throughout the country but would be beneficial to you and the transition team. Additionally, our Senior Health Policy Associate, Ilana Cohen, brings additional expertise with her health and legal background in the state and private sectors. I have attached their resumes for your review.

Needless to say, these are difficult times for Medicaid throughout the country; almost every state is looking at significant reductions in services and eligibility due to the severe economic downturn. It would not surprise you to know that one of our top priorities is passage of a stimulus package that includes an FMAP increase for states. In addition, it is vitally important that the SCHIP program not only be reauthorized but also fully funded prior to March 30, 2008. Other issues of importance to our Association are the elimination of the negative and counter-productive regulations that Congress has placed under moratoria and the recently published Outpatient Services Regulation.

We are eager to work with you and are looking forward to a return to the partnership that existed between the federal government and the states. It is only through that partnership will we be able to accomplish the bold goals set by President-elect Obama. I know your schedule is very hectic, but the Executive Committee of the National Association of State Medicaid Directors would like to meet with you and the members of the President-elect's health policy group to introduce ourselves to you and to begin the important work we have in front of us.

Sincerely,



Carol H. Steckel, MPH
Chair

Ann Clemency Kohler
166 Canterbury Ct.
East Windsor, N. J. 08520
609-443-6332

Director –Health Unit, American Public Human Services Association

- Acts as Executive Director of the National Association of State Medicaid Directors
- Also responsible for the Center for Workers with Disabilities

Deputy Commissioner – Department of Human Services 2006-2008

- Responsible for the oversight of the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, Division of Disability Services, Budget Office and Office of Finance

Director, Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, State of New Jersey – 2003 to 2006

- Responsible for the overall operations and budget for the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services which oversees the Medicaid program in the State of New Jersey.

Manager, Office of Management and Budget, State of New Jersey – 2000

- Responsible for the oversight of the budget and fiscal operations for the Departments of Health and Senior Services and Human Services.
- Contract manager for the Federal maximization and program efficiency contracts that generate in excess of \$250 million in federal revenue.
- Monitor Disproportionate Share Payments for charity care, oversee the Intergovernmental Transfer (IGT) Program and other projects to increase federal funding, such as the Title XIX (Medicaid) 1115 waiver application for the Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled Program and the proposed nursing home provider assessment.

Health Care Facilities Financing Authority - 2000

- Developed strategies to improve the financial viability of distressed hospitals. Assist in the development of the Hospital Asset Transformation Program.

Engquist, Pelrine and Powell – 1999

- Acted as a consultant, bringing expertise in the area of Human Services and Medicaid program operations, especially in quality measurement, value based purchasing, Medicaid Management Information Systems (MMIS) operations, rate setting and reimbursement policies. Also worked on TANF, Child Welfare and Omstead issues.

Office of Medicaid Management, New York Department of Health – 1996 to 1999

- As Deputy Commissioner, served as the Medicaid Director for the State of New York, the largest Medicaid program in the country. As head of the Office of Medicaid Management, managed an annual budget of \$26 billion and coordinated activities of over 900 staff persons. In this position, oversaw the RUGs case mix reimbursement system for nursing homes and the DRG hospital rate setting policy, Disproportionate Share Program for charity care and the State's IGT program for hospitals and nursing homes. Coordinated with other programs within the State to maximize federal funding.
- Developed quality measures for the Medicaid fee for service program and assisted in the development of quality measures for managed long-term care.
- Served in several national leadership capacities including: member of the Executive Committee of the State Medicaid Directors Association, Chairperson of the Maternal and Child Health and State Child Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) Technical Advisory Group, Chairperson of the HEDIS Benchmark Steering Committee and member of the Medicare/Medicaid value based purchasing committee. Also worked with George Washington Law Project on the development of model contract language for Medicaid managed care contracts and with the National Academy of State Health Policy to develop Medicaid managed care requirements for special needs populations.

Medical Inter-Insurance Exchange - 1994 to 1996

- As Assistant Vice President of Regulatory Affairs, developed and coordinated health insurance products, including products for health maintenance organizations and small employers.
- Responsible for all licensure and regulatory compliance activities for the Physician Healthcare Plan of New Jersey, a physician owned health maintenance organization.

New Jersey Department of Human Services 1979 - 1994

- As Deputy Director of the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, responsible for program and eligibility development for the Medicaid, Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled, Lifeline and other State funded health care programs. Responsible for rate setting and all budget and

fiscal operations in a Division with 800 employees and a \$5 billion operating budget.

- As the Assistant Director of the Office of Budget, Fiscal Affairs and Information Systems, was responsible for all budget, fiscal, rate setting and claims processing policies for the Division. In this position was the lead staff person for the State's successful defense against a Boren Amendment challenge. Acted as lead staff in the generation of over \$515 million annually in Medicaid Disproportionate Share Payments for New Jersey.
- As Chief of the Bureau of Health Statistics and Economics, was responsible for all fiscal, budgeting and accounting operations for the Division as well as all State and Federal reporting requirements.

Education and Awards

Rutgers, The State University

Masters in City and Regional Policy - 1979

Bachelor of Arts – 1976

1993 Governor's Award

Eagleton Fellow - 1977

Economics Department Award for Outstanding Achievement - 1976

Ilana Cohen

9914 Edward Avenue* Bethesda, Maryland 20814 *240-355-6642

EXPERIENCE:

American Public Human Services Association/National Association of State Medicaid Directors (APHSA/NASMD) Washington, D.C.

Senior Health Policy Associate, February 2006-present

Work collaboratively with federal and state partners on policy initiatives and the implementation of new laws and regulations. Write and edit articles for several weekly and monthly publications to inform members about federal court cases, congressional action, and national health reports. Draft comment letters in response to proposed regulations and advocate on behalf of our members. Author of a publication on the execution of Medicaid long term care provisions in the states and the implementation of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 in state Medicaid programs.

VanGrack, Axelson, Williamowsky, Bender & Fishman, P.C. Rockville, MD

Associate, September 2004-February 2006

Drafted pleadings and appellate briefs, represented clients before courts, and negotiated settlements in workers' compensation & medical malpractice matters; researched legal issues pertaining to employment discrimination cases.

Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Maryland Rockville, MD

Law Clerk to the Honorable John W. Debelius, III, August 2003-August 2004

Reviewed, researched, and advised the judge on criminal and civil matters appearing on the court's docket. Researched and assisted in the preparation of opinions and orders on civil and criminal cases.

Office of the Attorney General, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Baltimore, MD

Law Clerk, September 2002-May 2003

Responsible for reviewing and assessing local and state statutes and regulations with reference to coordinating and implementing Bio-Terrorism response efforts. Drafted a preliminary report for submission to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Professor Lynn McLain, University of Baltimore School of Law, Baltimore, MD

Legislative Advocacy Volunteer, January 2002-April 2003

Provided support, obtained co-sponsors, and drafted written and oral testimony on two successful bills regarding Continuing Sex Offenses and an amendment to the Rape Shield Law. The Continuing Sexual Offenses Bill was passed during the 2002 legislative session and the amendment to the Rape Shield Law was passed during the 2003 legislative session.

Office of the Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division-Health Advocacy Unit, Baltimore, MD

Mediator, Fall 2002

Responsible for mediating conflicts between low income and elderly patients and their health care providers.

Health Education Resource Organization (HERO), Baltimore, MD

Law Clerk, Fall 2001

Assisted clients in obtaining public benefits; drafted powers of attorney, living wills, and testamentary wills; researched and drafted memoranda on a range of issues relating to HIV-positive clients, including employment discrimination, estates and trusts, and guardianships.

Washington Hospital Center General Counsel/Compliance Department, Washington, D.C.

Intern, June 1999- July 1999

Created draft policies for the newly instituted Compliance Department. Devised and improved Legal Department Policies including: "Medical Staff Bylaws," "Patent Policies," "Compliance Policies," and "Employee/Contractor Relationships". Researched and drafted reports used in submitting briefs to courts.

Washington Hospital Center Department of Bio-Ethics, Washington, D.C.

Intern, September 1998-May 1999

Analyzed information dealing with bioethical consultations. Attended committee meetings about Bio-Ethics decisions.

Jackson Memorial Hospital Bio-Ethics Department, Miami, FL

Intern, June 1998- August 1998

Researched Jewish Ethics and Hydration under the direction of Dr. Kenneth Goodman. Interviewed clergy, lay ethicists, doctors, and hospice care providers around the country.

EDUCATION:

University of Baltimore School of Law

Academic: GPA 3.406

*Dean's Citation for Service

*Journal of Environmental Law, Member *Moot Court Board, Member

University of Maryland at College Park

Citation in College Park Scholars: Science, Technology, and Society Program

*Senior Marshall, Campus Wide Commencement class)

J. D. Cum Laude, May 2003

Rank: 39/234 Top 16.6%

*Spirit of Excellence Award

*Honor Court Board, Member

B.A., May, 2000; Major: Psychology

*Senior Council (20 seniors chosen to represent the senior class)