

Health Care Reform and Children: The Prognosis for Change in 2009

January 15, 2009

Shelley Waters Boots (moderator) is a senior research associate in the Urban Institute's Center on Labor, Human Services, and Population. She specializes in children, work, and family issues. She was the vice president for policy and programs at the nonprofit Parents' Action for Children, acting director for the Work and Family Program at the New America Foundation, and director of the Child Care and Development Division at the Children's Defense Fund. She began her career as a management consultant on training, technology, and organizational development in public social services agencies.

Genevieve Kenney is a principal research associate and health economist at the Urban Institute. An expert on insurance coverage and access issues facing low-income children and families, Kenney was a lead researcher on two major evaluations -- one mandated by Congress and one supported by a group of foundations -- of the State Children's Health Insurance Program. Her research has examined family coverage policies and the structure of SCHIP financing; participation and barriers to enrollment; access and use differentials among low-income children; the effects of premium increases on enrollment; and the effects of SCHIP on insurance coverage, crowd-out, and access to care.

Bruce Lesley is the president of First Focus, a bipartisan advocacy organization committed to making children and families a priority in federal policy and budget decisions. In 12 years on Capitol Hill, Lesley worked on health care, education, human services, and immigration issues, most recently as the senior health policy adviser to Sen. Jeff Bingaman. He also worked for Sen. Bob Graham, served as minority chief of staff for the Senate Special Committee on Aging, and was an aide to Rep. Ronald Coleman and Rep. Diana DeGette. Lesley has also been the director of congressional relations for the National Association of Children's Hospitals.

Wendell Primus is the senior policy adviser on budget and health issues to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Prior to this appointment in 2005, Primus was the minority staff director at the Joint Economic Committee. Earlier positions include director of income security for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, deputy assistant secretary for human services policy at the Department of Health and Human Services during the Clinton administration, chief economist for the House Ways and Means Committee, and staff director for its Subcommittee on Human Resources. During his 15-year tenure at Ways and Means, he was responsible for editing 13 editions of its *Green Book*.

Alan Weil has been the executive director of the National Academy for State Health Policy since 2004. Previously, he served for seven years as the director of the Urban Institute's Assessing the New Federalism project. Earlier posts include executive director of the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, health policy adviser to Colorado Gov. Roy Romer, and assistant general counsel in the Massachusetts Department of Medical Security. He is the coeditor of *Welfare Reform: The Next Act* and *Federalism and Health Policy* (both from the Urban Institute Press). Weil is a member of the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured.