

# How Might States' Responses to the Pandemic Affect Safety Net Programs?

## Speaker Biographies

**Suzanne Bierman** is Administrator of the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy in the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services. Ms. Bierman previously served as Director of Health Policy for The Guinn Center for Policy Priorities. Prior to her work with The Guinn Center in Las Vegas, Ms. Bierman served as Assistant Director, Division of Medical Services (Medicaid) for the Arkansas Department of Human Services. She earned her Juris Doctorate and Master's of Public Health degrees from the University of Arkansas while working in dual roles as a Legislative Analyst and a Law Clerk for the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Office of General Counsel. Ms. Bierman has completed both the Henry Toll Fellowship Program, Council of State Governments and the American Society on Aging's Leadership Academy Program.

**Ann Flagg**, Senior Director of APHSA's Collaborative Centers for Policy and Practice, joined APHSA in October 2017, overseeing APHSA's policy and practice work in child welfare, child care, economic assistance, workforce and family supporting systems. Prior to joining APHSA, Ann served in a variety of leadership positions in the Maryland Department of Human Services, providing leadership and process improvement support to the state's child welfare, economic and emergency assistance, and child support programs, including implementation of high-profile initiatives such as the Affordable Care Act, Title IV-E waiver implementation and Governor Larry Hogan's Commission on Intergenerational Poverty. Ann also brings more than 10 years of management, program design, performance management, and external affairs in the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors, including 3 years of experience implementing performance management systems in community-based homeless services, workforce development, child welfare and behavioral health direct service delivery systems. Ann has an undergraduate degree in sociology from Towson University and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Baltimore.

**Heather Hahn** is a senior fellow in the Center for Labor, Human Services, and Population at the Urban Institute. She is a national expert on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) with two decades of experience conducting nonpartisan research on the well-being of children and families, including TANF, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and other supports for low-income families, as well as education, labor, and other policy issues. She coleads Urban's From Safety Net to Solid Ground initiative, providing timely and rigorous analyses of state and federal policy changes, and the *Kids' Share* project, examining federal spending and tax expenditures on children.

Hahn co-led the Work Support Strategies evaluation of state efforts to modernize families' access to nutrition assistance, child care, and Medicaid. She has extensive experience leading projects and designing and conducting implementation case studies related to supports for low-income families. Hahn has authored dozens of reports and has considerable experience disseminating research to diverse audiences. She has testified before Congress and has been interviewed and quoted by major print and radio media, including NPR, the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, *National Review*, the *Atlantic*, and *USA Today*.

Before joining Urban, Hahn was an assistant director for education, workforce, and income security issues at the US Government Accountability Office. She received an MPP from Duke University and a PhD in political science from Stanford University.

*Hahn is serving as an expert witness in Wright v. Family Support Division, in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, regarding the counterproductivity of using driver's license suspension to coerce child support payments.*

**Ian Hill** is a senior fellow in the Health Policy Center at the Urban Institute. He has more than 25 years of experience directing evaluation and technical assistance projects on health insurance programs for disadvantaged children and families. He is a nationally recognized qualitative researcher with extensive experience developing case studies of health program implementation and conducting focus groups with health care consumers, providers, and administrators. Hill directs the Strong Start for Mothers and Newborns Evaluation, which measures the impact of innovative prenatal care strategies on birth outcomes. He also leads various qualitative assessments of the Affordable Care Act's implementation, focusing on outreach and enrollment strategies and provider access. Hill led the qualitative components of two congressionally mandated evaluations of the Children's Health Insurance Program and directed Urban's work on the *Insuring America's Children* evaluation and *Covering Kids and Families* evaluation.

For 10 years, Hill has worked in his hometown of Los Angeles, initially evaluating First 5 LA's Healthy Kids Program, a universal coverage program targeting Latino immigrant children. He is currently evaluating its Best Start LA initiative to improve the well-being and development of children from birth to age 5.

Before joining Urban, Hill was the associate director of Health Systems Research, Inc., a senior analyst with the National Governors Association, and a presidential management fellow with the Department of Health and Human Services.

Hill did his undergraduate work at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and received MAs in public administration and social work from Syracuse University.

**Stacey Mazer** is a Senior Staff Associate with the National Association of State Budget Officers (NASBO) in Washington, D.C. In this capacity, Stacey is responsible for monitoring and analyzing the impact of federal health and Medicaid decisions on states as well as tracking human and social service developments within states and monitoring overall state fiscal conditions. She also produces a weekly Health Care Issues Update that is distributed to NASBO members and serves as the staff lead for the association budget and grants. Prior to joining NASBO, she worked for the Congressional Budget Office and the Finance Department for the City of Baltimore. Stacey is a graduate of Syracuse University where she also earned a Master's degree in Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Public Affairs and Citizenship.

**Renita Polk** is a Principal Consultant with the Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review and has been with the committee since 2017. Renita handles human services issues in the Committee, which include social services, developmental services, and aging issues. Renita holds a Ph.D. in genetics from Johns Hopkins University. During her graduate studies, she became interested in the intersection between science and policymaking. That interest led her to participate in the California Council on Science and Technology policy fellowship where she worked in the Office of Assemblymember Mike Gipson covering human services issues. It was during that fellowship that Renita realized her interest in and developed a commitment to developing policy to better the lives of California's most vulnerable residents.

**Matt Salo** was named Executive Director of the National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD) in February 2011. The newly formed association represents all 56 of the nation's state and territorial

Medicaid Directors, and provides them with a strong unified voice in national discussions as well as a locus for technical assistance and best practices. Matt formerly spent 12 years at the National Governors Association, where he worked on the Governors' health care and human services reform agendas, and spent the 5 years prior to that as a health policy analyst working for the state Medicaid Directors as part of the American Public Human Services Association. Matt also spent two years as a substitute teacher in the public school system in Alexandria, VA, and holds a BA in Eastern Religious Studies from the University of Virginia.

**Dannette R. Smith** was appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Department of Health and Human Services for the state of Nebraska in February of 2019. She brings more than 25 years of executive leadership experience in large, complex organizations to the State. Smith seeks to be a catalyst for creating innovative programmatic and technological solutions in human service organizations. Prior to joining the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Ms. Smith was the Director of the Virginia Beach Department of Human Services. She has also worked in a leadership capacity in Seattle, WA, Atlanta, GA, Charlotte, NC, and Cook County, IL. A true advocate of public and community service, Smith serves on the boards of the Healing Place of Hampton Roads, Norfolk, VA, and ATTACH (the Association for Training on Trauma and Attachment in Children), Minneapolis, MN. Smith holds a Bachelor's of Science in Psychology from Eastern Michigan University and a Master's of Social Work from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Under the auspices of the Child Welfare League of America, she participated in a child welfare leadership program at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. She also attended the County Administration Program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.