

## **Fifth Meeting of the Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion, and Integrative and Public Health**

### **Panelist Biographies**

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**Wednesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>**

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#### **Presentation from the North Carolina Regional Meeting**

##### ***Ruth Petersen, MD, MPH***

Dr. Petersen serves at the NC Division of Public Health as the Section Chief for the Chronic Disease and Injury Section. In this role Dr. Petersen has oversight for programs in North Carolina related to the prevention of asthma, breast and cervical cancer, comprehensive cancer, diabetes, heart disease and stroke, and injury as well as the physical activity and nutrition branch, tobacco prevention and control branch, forensic test for alcohol branch, and the State Center for Health Statistics. Ruth has built her career as a leader in public health through experience as the Director of Women's Preventive Health Research at the Center for Women's Health Research at UNC and as an Epidemiologist Consultant to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as IBM Global Well-being.

Ruth has worked in a variety of health and public health settings. She has provided medical care in Health Departments in New York and North Carolina, and served as faculty at UNC in both the School of Public Health and in the Ob/Gyn Department at the School of Medicine.

Ruth received her MD and MPH from UNC. After training in Obstetrics and Gynecology in Rochester NY, she returned to NC to complete the UNC Preventive Medicine Residency and a post-doctoral fellowship in health services research.

#### **Presentation on Smoke-Free Housing**

##### ***Joel Africk, JD***

Joel Africk is President and Chief Executive Officer of Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago, the non-profit organization that led the CDC-funded Communities Putting Prevention to Work grant for tobacco control in Chicago. Joel is a principal advocate for the Association's programs and policy agenda, which includes increased tobacco control, expansion of lung health initiatives in Chicago and the Midwest, and improved student health, particularly for children with asthma. Joel is a frequent speaker on lung health topics, including tobacco control, COPD and asthma. In 2010, Joel was appointed to the State of Illinois Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Task Force. Prior to assuming his current position, Joel was a partner in the Chicago law firm of Jenner & Block, LLP, where he represented clients in a broad range of business litigation matters from 1984-2001. Joel also served on the adjunct faculty of Loyola University (Chicago) School of Law. Joel is a cum laude graduate of Harvard Law School and a magna cum laude graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, where he received an A.B. in Political Science and passed the Uniform CPA examination. He is a fellow of the Institute of Medicine of Chicago.

**Health Promotion Working Group Panel: Non-Clinical Prevention Issues**

***Krista Drobac, MPP***

Krista Drobac is Director of the Health Division in the National Governors Association in the Center for Best Practices. As Division Director, Ms. Drobac directs state technical assistance, research, policy analysis and project development for all health issues. The division works with states to share and implement best practices on health care issues facing states including health insurance exchanges, Medicaid, health IT, public health programs, and health system transformation.

Krista joined NGA after serving a Senior Advisor at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, both within the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight and the Center for Medicaid, CHIP and Survey & Certification. Previously, Krista was Deputy Director of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and spent five years as a health advisor in the U.S. Senate. Krista received her M.P.P. from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and her B.A. in political science from the University of Michigan.

***Stephen Cha, MD, MHS***

Dr. Cha is the current Chief Medical Officer for the Center on Medicaid and CHIP Services and provides clinical input and guidance for the health coverage for nearly 60 million people who are served by these programs. Dr. Cha also promotes health transformation and modernization of the Medicaid and CHIP programs through delivery and payment reforms, and quality initiatives.

Previously, he served as senior professional staff for the Committee on Energy and Commerce under Chairman Henry A. Waxman and was responsible for a broad set of health issues including quality, delivery system reform, workforce, comparative effectiveness research, drug and device regulation, and public health. During his tenure with Mr. Waxman he oversaw the drafting of multiple pieces of legislation, including sections of the Affordable Care Act, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007.

He was a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar at the Yale University School of Medicine and earned a masters degree in health sciences research there. During this time he authored papers on quality of care, and the impact of regulatory policies on health care delivery. Dr. Cha earned his medical degree from Brown University and completed his internal medicine residency at the Montefiore Medical Center in New York City, where he also served as chief resident. He is board certified in internal medicine and is a practicing primary care clinician.

## **Resilience Working Group Panel**

### ***Nicole Lurie, MD, MSPH***

Dr. Lurie is the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) at the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response serves as the Secretary's principal advisor on matters related to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies. ASPR also coordinates interagency activities between HHS, other Federal departments, agencies, and offices, and State and local officials responsible for emergency preparedness and the protection of the civilian population from acts of bioterrorism and other public health emergencies. The mission of her office is to lead the nation in preventing, responding to and recovering from the adverse health effects of public health emergencies and disasters.

Dr. Lurie has a long history in the health services research field, primarily in the areas of access to and quality of care, managed care, mental health, prevention, public health infrastructure and preparedness and health disparities. She was Senior Natural Scientist and the Paul O' Neill Alcoa Professor of Health Policy at the RAND Corporation. There she directed RAND's public health and preparedness work as well as RAND's Center for Population Health and Health Disparities. She has previously served in federal government, as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Health in the US Department of Health and Human Services; in state government, as Medical Advisor to the Commissioner at the Minnesota Department of Health; and in academia, as Professor in the University of Minnesota Schools of Medicine and Public Health.

Dr. Lurie attended college and medical school at the University of Pennsylvania, and completed her residency and MSPH at UCLA, where she was also a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the AHSR Young Investigator Award, the Nellie Westerman Prize for Research in Ethics, the Heroine in Health Care Award, the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine's Distinguished Alumni Award, and is a member of the Institute of Medicine.

### ***Melinda Morton, MD, MPH***

Dr. Morton is an emergency medicine senior resident at Johns Hopkins and a Captain in the U.S. Army. A West Point graduate, Dr. Morton served in Hawaii, Egypt, and Washington DC in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks as a military police officer prior to attending medical school. While active duty, Dr. Morton led security details and coordinated interagency disaster response planning for VIPs and special events at military bases in the Washington DC area. Dr. Morton was a Sommer Scholar at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, where she earned her MPH, and is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. She holds multiple national board positions in the specialty of emergency medicine, and has been selected as a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar. Dr. Morton is also the author/co-author of official U.S. Government and Institute of Medicine reports on health care reconstruction efforts in Iraq, and over 30 academic publications. She has conducted emergency medicine and disaster research in Iraq, Sudan, Uganda, and Senegal, and was faculty for the 2011 World Health Organization Public Health Pre-Deployment Course in Hammamet, Tunisia.

### ***Gail Christopher, DN***

Dr. Gail Christopher is the Vice President for program strategy at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, Michigan. In this role, she serves on the executive team that provides overall direction and leadership for the Foundation. She also leads the Food, Health & Well-Being, Racial Equity, and Community & Civic Engagement programming. Gail is a nationally recognized leader in health policy, with particular expertise and experience in the issues related to social determinants of health, health disparities and public policy issues of concern to our nation's future. Gail has more than 30 years' experience in designing and managing national initiatives and nonprofit organizations. Her distinguished career and contributions to public service were honored in 1996 when she was elected as a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. In 2007 she received the Leadership Award from the Health Brain Trust of the Congressional Black Caucus for her work in reducing racial and ethnic health disparities. A prolific writer and presenter, Gail is the author or co-author of three books, a monthly column in the Federal Times, and more than 250 articles, presentations, and publications.

### **Health Promotion Working Group Panel: Community Benefit**

#### ***Maureen Byrnes***

For over 25 years Maureen Byrnes has served in leadership positions in the federal government, philanthropy and the non-profit sector. She was Executive Director of Human Rights First, during which time she traveled to Russia and Pakistan and worked to end the use of torture as an interrogation technique. Maureen is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Maureen served as the Director of the Health and Human Services program at The Pew Charitable Trusts, where she designed and implemented a wide variety of strategies and initiatives to address challenges in the fields of public health, foster care and science policy, among others. In the 1980's, Maureen worked with Senator Lowell Weicker as the Staff Director of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies. Later she served as the Executive Director of the National Commission on AIDS, the first Congressionally-mandated independent commission to address the challenges associated with the HIV epidemic. Maureen has also served as Vice President of the Association of American Universities. Currently, Maureen is a Lead Scientist in the Department of Health Policy at George Washington University.

#### ***Paul Stange, MPH***

Paul Stange began his CDC career in 1972 working in the Los Angeles Department of Health Services. He is currently a senior policy advisor in the Office of Prevention through Healthcare in the CDC Office of the Associate Director for Policy. For the last 20 years of his CDC career he has focused on connecting CDC programs with other government and private organizations, with a special emphasis on health insurance. He is currently leading two projects with significant implications for state and local public health practice:

1. Through a cooperative agreement with the National Business Coalition on Health, CDC is working to strengthen the measurement of health insurance plan/provider delivery of preventive services and the links to community organizations to improve such service delivery.

2. CDC is leading the HHS effort to identify a framework for community health assessment and improvement plan development that will stimulate collaborative investments from many sectors, including hospitals, community health centers, governmental public health, planning and social services agencies, and voluntary organizations such as United Way. He is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley and the Emory University School of Public Health.

***Julie Trocchio, MSN***

Julie Trocchio is Senior Director of Community Benefit and Continuing Care for the Catholic Health Association of the United States. She coordinates CHA activities related to planning and reporting community benefits and leads CHA advocacy on the charitable purpose of not –for-profit health care. She also coordinates CHA programs and advocacy related to the well-being of aged and chronically ill persons in need of long term care and home and community-based services.

Prior to joining CHA she was director of standards and quality for the American Health Care Association. She has held nursing positions in acute care, long term care, public health and school health programs. She earned a bachelors degree in nursing from Georgetown University and a masters degree in community health nursing from the University of Maryland.

***Christopher Giosa***

Chris Giosa has been an advisor to the IRS Commissioner of the Tax Exempt and Government Entities division since 2009. His tenure at the IRS included a stint as the Senior Tax Advisor to the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction. Prior to joining IRS, he was the Chief Economist and Tax Advisor for the Committee on Ways and Means. He also served as the Staff Director of the Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee. Prior to joining the Committee on Ways and Means, he was an economist with the Joint Committee on Taxation from 1994 to 2004.