

## NCSL Plenary Biographies

### Prescription Drugs: What Can States Do?

Wednesday, Dec. 11 | 12:00 pm – 1:45 pm

**Summary:** Prescription drugs provide life-saving treatments and help control diseases and debilitating conditions. They also present legislators with challenges, including affording some of the new groundbreaking drugs for Medicaid patients and state employees. Panelists will highlight a range of prescription drug policy issues and share promising initiatives, challenges faced, and lessons learned.

**Moderator:** Rich Ehsen, StateNet Capitol Journal, California

**Panelist:** Rachel Currans-Henry, MPP, Center for Evidence-based Policy, Oregon

**Panelist:** Saumil Pandya, PhRMA, Washington D.C.

**State Respondents:** Representative David Carlucci (D-NY) and Representative Frederick “Eric” Moore (R-MT)

**Track:** Health and Human Services Committee, Health and Human Services

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### Rich Ehsen

#### Managing Editor, State Net Capitol Journal

Rich Ehsen is managing editor of the State Net Capitol Journal, a LexisNexis publication that covers state public policy issues and trends nationwide. Over the last two decades he has covered everything from Major League Baseball to the U.S. Supreme Court. His freelance work has appeared in numerous regional and national publications.



### Rachel Currans-Henry

#### Deputy Director, Center for Evidence-based Policy

Rachel Currans-Henry is deputy director at the Center and is point on integrating the work of SMART-D with other efforts in states and at the Center with the goal of increasing sustainability after the SMART-D initiative ends. Currans-Henry serves as one member of the two-person teams supporting specific states due to her expertise in implementing large scale pharmacy and value-purchasing initiatives at the state level. Ms. Currans-Henry has a master’s in public policy and more than 10 years of state Medicaid experience, including most recently as Director of Medicaid Benefits for the State of Wisconsin. Currans-Henry oversaw the management of a \$1 billion annual pharmacy program during periods necessitating active stakeholder engagement and innovative policy design: federal drug pricing rule implementation, navigating coverage and payment policies for high costs specialty drugs, such as Hepatitis C products and CAR-T therapies, and negotiating Wisconsin’s 1115 demonstration waiver for a state pharmacy assistance program with CMS.



### Saumil J. Pandya

#### Deputy Vice President, Advocacy & Strategic Alliances

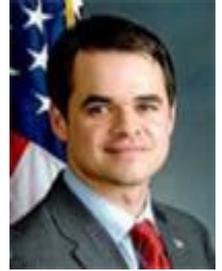
Saumil Pandya is a Deputy Vice President in the Advocacy & Strategic Alliances Department of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) and is focused primarily on outreach to employer groups and academics. Saumil spent most of the last four years in the Policy & Research Department of PhRMA, where he was focused on policy and research related to prescription drug spending and utilization, the pharmaceutical supply chain, and trends in U.S. health care expenditures.



Before his work at PhRMA, Saumil was the Vice President for Medical Economics at Evergreen Health Cooperative. Saumil has over 20 years of health care finance experience including Medical Economics and Finance roles at insurers CIGNA HealthCare and Coventry Health Care of Delaware, along with Pricing and Contracting Strategy experience at AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals. He has extensive experience in managed care, financial analysis/modeling, and pharmaceutical pricing and contracting strategies. Saumil holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from Towson University, and a master's degree in Health Finance and Management from The Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene & Public Health.

### Senator David Carlucci (D-NY)

Senator David Carlucci (D-Rockland/Westchester) represents the 38th District in the New York State Senate and has been in office since 2010. Since taking office, he has passed more than 100 pieces of legislation, including making Naloxone available over the counter to help save lives and fight the Opioid epidemic. Senator Carlucci has worked with the Governor each year to promote fiscal discipline by passing on-time budgets, passing tax breaks for the middle class, implementing a property tax cap, and fighting for millions for public schools. He has pushed legislation to create jobs and grow our economy. This includes Jobs for Heroes, providing tax credits to businesses that hire returning veterans serving overseas, including his work to reduce burdensome regulations and promote entrepreneurship. Senator Carlucci also played an instrumental role in standing up for progressive issues and helped pass: same-sex marriage, the SAFE Act, Raise the Age of criminal responsibility, a \$15 minimum wage plan, and the nation's strongest Paid Family Leave policy. Senator Carlucci currently resides with his wife and two children in New City, New York, which is in Rockland County.



### Representative Frederick (Eric) Moore (R-MT)

Eric is a rancher and farmer from eastern Montana. He served eight years in the Montana state senate. Due to term limits, he is in his first term in the House, where he served as the appropriations subcommittee chair for health and human services. During the interim, he chairs the Children, Families, Health and Human Services committee. Eric also serves on NCSL's Health Innovations Task Force, and as vice chair of the NCSL Health and Human Services committee.



### Delegate Matthew Rohrbach (R-WV)

Dr. Rohrbach graduated from Vinson High School in 1977. He attended Marshall University graduating from the Marshall University School of Medicine in 1984. He had an internship in Internal Medicine at University of Tennessee followed by his residency at University of Kentucky. He went on to complete a fellowship in gastroenterology at East Tennessee State University. Upon returning to Huntington, he joined HIMG in 1990. He was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates in 2014 representing the 17th District. He was re-elected in 2016 and 2018. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Committee for the Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse. He is also serving as the Vice Chairman of the Committee on Senior, Children and Family Issues as well as serving on the Education, Health & Human Resources, and the Technology and Infrastructure Committees. He was selected as a featured speaker for the Council of State Government National Meeting in December 2018. He was chosen in December 2018 to a fellowship on Opioid Abuse from the National Conference of State Legislatures. He was selected in March 2019 to the National Committee for the Healthy States Policy Initiative through the Council of State Governments.

