

**NCSL Task Force on Federal Health Reform Implementation**  
Fall Forum Meeting - November 30, 2011  
**Biographies for NCSL Health Provider Panel**  
(Alphabetical order)

**Dianne L. Bricker, Regional Director, State Affairs, America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP)**

Dianne Bricker's career has focused on health care, most recently with America's Health Insurance Plans, a Washington, DC-based national trade association representing companies that provide health and supplemental benefits to more than 200 million Americans through employer-sponsored coverage, the individual insurance market, and public programs such as Medicare and Medicaid. AHIP advocates for public policies that expand access to affordable health care coverage to all Americans through a competitive marketplace that fosters choice, quality, and innovation.

As a Regional Director of State Affairs for AHIP, Dianne works with member companies, state insurance associations, and others to advance industry goals in the legislative and regulatory arenas. Her region comprises 11 states -- Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and South Dakota.

Prior to joining AHIP, Dianne worked for the Medical Society of the District of Columbia beginning as the communications manager and ultimately becoming Director of Health Policy and Advocacy. Prior to her work with the Medical Society of DC, Dianne served in communications and health policy roles for the Cincinnati Academy of Medicine as well as for acute care hospitals in Cincinnati and Fort Wayne, Indiana. Dianne holds a degree in communications from Purdue University.

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**Roger Schwartz , V-P at the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC)**

Roger Schwartz is the Vice President of Executive Branch Liaison, and Legislative Counsel, to the National Association of Community Health Centers ("NACHC"). His responsibilities include drafting, reviewing, and analyzing federal legislation and reviewing and analyzing federal regulations and policies affecting health centers, and advising NACHC staff, primary care associations, and health centers on these issues.

Prior to joining NACHC, Mr. Schwartz was a partner in the law firm of Feldesman, Tucker, Leifer, Fidell in Washington, DC.

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**Debi H. Tucker, JD, Director, State Issues Forum, American Hospital Association (AHA)**

Ms. Tucker joined the American Hospital Association in September 2005, where she manages the AHA's *State Issues Forum*. The Forum analyzes and studies legislative and regulatory issues at the state and local level. Emerging trends are identified and information is collected on a wide variety of state health care issues. With input from state and metropolitan associations, State Issues Forum identifies priority health care issues and develops educational forums for senior staff members of the associations. Since the enactment of the Affordable Care Act, Ms. Tucker helped staff the AHA's State Health Reform Implementation Advisory Committee.

Prior to joining AHA, Ms. Tucker was Vice President for Government Relations for the District of Columbia Hospital Association (DCHA). In that position, she led DCHA's government relations and advocacy activities, including developing an annual *Advocacy Agenda* that articulated the association's legislative and regulatory priorities. As primary staff to several of DCHA's committees, she drafted legislation and regulations and managed proposals through the legislative and regulatory processes. She was the principal author of DCHA testimonies, position papers, and publications and edited the weekly *DCHA Advocate*. In addition, Ms. Tucker has several years experience as a health policy consultant and attorney. During that time, she served as Counsel and Special Projects Coordinator for the DC Primary Care Association (DCPCA) and led the collaborative efforts of DCPCA with wide range of provider and community based organizations and federal and local government agencies to begin the planning and development for an integrated network services plan for the District, including identifying and assessing needs, trends and developments and determining priorities in relation to primary care models.

Ms. Tucker graduated from George Washington University with a B.A. in Sociology and received a J.D. with Honors from the George Washington University National Law Center in Washington, DC.

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**See Panelists on Exchanges and Qualified Health Plans, second side →**

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**Biographies for NCSL's Panel on Exchanges and Qualified Health Plans**

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**Paul Cotton, Director of Federal Affairs at the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).**

Paul Cotton works on health reform and other initiatives to improve health care quality. Previously he was an AARP Senior Legislative Representative lobbying Congress and the Administration on Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, health reform and quality improvement issues.

He has also worked at the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services as Hearings & Policy Presentation Director in the Office of Legislation, and as a journalist for publications including the Journal of the American Medical Association.

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**Christine Leyden, RN, MSN, Senior Vice President and GM Client Services and Chief Accreditation Officer, URAC**

As Chief Accreditation Officer and Senior Vice President, General Manager of Client Services for URAC, Christine G. Leyden, RN, MSN brings more than twenty years of managed care expertise and a broad view of challenges across the health care continuum. Her experience includes case management, disease management and quality improvement, and directing case management and utilization reviews. She has published numerous articles concerning case management, disease management, and managed care. Ms. Leyden was recently named by *Case in Point Magazine* as a health care leader across the continuum.

In her role at URAC, Ms. Leyden has worked with a wide spectrum of health management organizations including health plans, health networks, utilization review organizations and care management companies to understand and apply URAC's standards across a breadth of organizations and accreditation programs. She also leads customer support and ongoing account management functions and helps organizations to share best practices. In addition, Ms. Leyden is responsible for the management and clinical oversight of accreditation reviewers and the interface with stakeholder-based accreditation committees.