



Health IT Leadership Roundtable: Vision for the Future of Health IT

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**Opening Remarks**

*Kristen McGovern, Partner, Sirona Strategies*

Kristen McGovern has been at the forefront of federal health care policy and politics for more than a decade. As a partner at Sirona Strategies, she works with senior corporate executives to develop integrated business, advocacy and communications strategies that reflect complex health care policies and regulations. She regularly advises clients on a range of topics including commercial insurance markets, Medicare, accountable care organizations, new payment and delivery models, digital health, behavioral health, transparency initiatives and more. Prior to launching Sirona Strategies, McGovern served as Chief of Staff to the National Coordinator for Health IT at HHS, and also worked at the Office of Management and Budget in the Executive Office of the President. In both roles, she regularly advised officials at HHS and the White House on key issues such as health IT, appropriations and funding, Medicare payment, quality and program integrity. McGovern holds a BA from Creighton University in Omaha, NE, and a JD with an emphasis in health law from Saint Louis University School of Law.

**CEO Roundtable: Harnessing Health Data to Advance Health Outcomes**

*Moderator: Rachel Rouben, National Healthcare Reporter, The Washington Post*

Rachel Rouben is a national health-care reporter for The Washington Post and author of The Health 202, a daily morning newsletter bringing readers inside everything from the health policy battles dominating Capitol Hill to the White House's handling of the coronavirus pandemic. She joined The Post in 2021 after covering health care at Politico, with a focus on Medicaid, Medicare and Obamacare.

Rouben first started writing about health care at the Carroll County Times, a local newspaper in Maryland, and has since covered health policy at National Journal and The Hill. She has covered the failure to monitor nursing homes during the pandemic; the country's effort to vaccinate millions of Americans; the nation's rising opioid epidemic; and Republicans' attempts to repeal Obamacare. Rouben received a BA in journalism from the University of Maryland.

*Ramsey Alwin, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Council on Aging (NCOA)*

Ramsey Alwin is president and chief executive office of NCOA. Throughout her career, Alwin has worked to design new measures of economic security for older adults that better account for out-of-pocket health costs and busts myths surrounding senior poverty. She worked to introduce the Measuring American Poverty Act in Congress to redefine the federal poverty measure to better account for older adults' costs of living. Thanks to Alwin’s efforts, the U.S. Census Bureau formally implemented the Supplemental Poverty Measure nationwide, doubling the elder poverty count once accounting for the true cost of health security. Alwin also has led and organized efforts to enact state and local legislation and regulations using the new measure of economic security for income/asset eligibility for means tested programs.

Prior to returning to NCOA, Ramsey was director of thought leadership - financial resilience at AARP, where she worked to position AARP as the global leader in challenging outdated beliefs and sparking new



solutions related to financial resilience and longevity, so people can choose how they age. Prior to her role at AARP, Alwin served as vice president of economic security at NCOA, director of national economic security programs at Wider Opportunities for Women, and director of program services at the National Association of State and Community Services Programs.

Alwin holds a B.A. from Simmons University and a master's degree from the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University.

### **Shawn Martin, Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, American Academy of Family Physicians**

Shawn Martin serves as executive vice president and chief executive officer for the American Academy of Family Physicians. The AAFP is the medical specialty organization representing 133,500 family physicians and medical students nationwide.

Martin works with the AAFP Board of Directors on the mission, strategy and vision for the AAFP and provides representation to other organizations, including medical, public, and private sectors.

Prior to joining the AAFP senior management team, Martin served as director of government relations and health policy and director of socioeconomic affairs at the American Osteopathic Association (AOA). He began his career at AOA as the assistant director of congressional affairs from 1999 to 2000, when he was promoted to deputy director of government relations and director of congressional affairs. In 2006, he was named director of government relations and health policy and, in 2011, he also became director of socioeconomic affairs at the AOA.

Martin has served on the National Quality Assurance Coalition Patient Centered Medical Home Advisory Board, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Practice Transformation Advisory Board, the Hospital and Facilities Accreditation Program Patient-Centered Medical Home Advisory Panel. He serves in leadership roles of several coalitions in Washington, including a six-year period as chair of the Health Coalition on Liability and Access. He also is an active member of the Patient Centered Primary Care Collaborative, where he has served in several official leadership roles since its inception in 2006.

In 2010, Martin received the Ryland Medal for Health Policy from the New York Institute of Technology, and in 2009, he received the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association President's Citation. He was named by The Hill as one of the top 10 health care lobbyists in Washington, DC.

A native of Oklahoma, Martin earned his Bachelor of Science degree in business administration and marketing from Phillips University and a masters of health care delivery science from Dartmouth College.

### **Sean Robbins, Executive Vice President of External Affairs, Blue Cross Blue Shield Association**

Sean Robbins is executive vice president of external affairs for the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association (BCBSA), a national federation of 35 independent, community-based and locally operated Blue Cross and Blue Shield (BCBS) companies. Today, one in three Americans is covered by the Blue System.

With a track record of leading private and public sector organizations through complex, high-profile initiatives, Robbins' experience as an operational healthcare leader combined with his public affairs background is unique within the industry. He is recognized for his ability to articulate a clear strategy,



recruit strong teams, build results-oriented cultures and create strong external partnerships to accelerate results. As executive vice president, he provides leadership for BCBSA's external affairs functions, including the Office of Policy & Representation in Washington, D.C., which shapes public policy on behalf of the BCBS System, as well as the Brand Strategy and Marketing and Strategic Communications teams, which protect and enhance the BCBS brand on a national level.

Prior to joining the Association, Robbins was president of Regence Blue Shield of Idaho, a \$350 million health plan serving nearly 200,000 members as part of the Cambia Health Solutions family of companies in four western states. He had previously served as Cambia's senior vice president of public affairs and policy, overseeing the company's political, legislative and regulatory agenda and leading a modernization of the company's approach to public and government affairs.

Earlier in his career, Robbins led two community development organizations as CEO and supported two governors in building Oregon's statewide economic development strategy. He served Oregon Governors John Kitzhaber and Kate Brown as director of the Oregon Business Development Department and as CEO of Greater Portland Inc, a public-private economic development corporation comprised of the region's leading elected officials and business leaders.

A Wisconsin native, Robbins earned a business degree from the University of Iowa and a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin. He enjoys hiking, fly fishing, skiing and visiting our national parks with his wife and two sons. Together, they live in Boise, Idaho.

### **Administration Keynote**

#### **Catherine Oakar, Special Assistant to the President for Community Public Health and Disparities**

Catherine Oakar is special assistant to the President for community public health and Disparities. She most recently served on the Biden-Harris Transition. She was also a senior advisor at Waxman Strategies consulting on public health, nutrition, and health care issues. During the Obama-Biden Administration, she served at the White House as the Associate Director of the Let's Move! initiative in the First Lady's office and as a Senior Advisor in the Office of National AIDS Policy. Oakar was also the director of public health policy in the Office of Health Reform at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She began her work in Washington, D.C. as a Winston Health Policy Fellow. She has also conducted community-based research with low-income cancer survivors and safety net clinics. Oakar graduated from the University of Notre Dame and the University of Michigan School of Public Health. She is originally from outside Cleveland, Ohio.

### **Perspectives from Congress on Data & Health Equity**

#### **Rachel Dolin, PhD, Professional Staff Member, House Ways & Means Committee, Health Subcommittee**

Rachel Dolin, Ph.D., is democratic professional staff member with the Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Health. She is the principle author of "Under-Enforced and Over-Prescribed." Previously, Dr. Dolin was a 2017 David A. Winston Health Policy Fellow. Previously still, she was a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow from 2013-2017. Prior to her doctoral work she was employed as researcher for L&M Policy Research in Washington, D.C. Her work has been featured on NPR, in [Health Affairs](#) and in other peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Dolin received her B.A., magna cum laude, in Political Science and History from Tufts University and completed her PhD in Health Policy and



Management at the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

[Sara Berkemeier-Bell, Policy Advisor, Senator Dan Sullivan of Alaska](#)

Prior to coming to the hill, Sara worked as a Social Worker and Addiction Therapist in Rochester, NY. This boots-on-the-ground experience allows her to have a deep understanding of health care application, including physician paperwork, prior authorization, the interconnected social needs, and nuances with Medicare and Medicaid. She started her Hill experience as a fellow on the Senate Finance Committee and then transitioned to working for Senator Portman. While working for Senator Portman, Sara was engaged in opioid policy, including lifting the IMD exclusion, as well as other technical Medicare and social determinates of health policy. Sara now serves as Senator Sullivan’s policy advisor where she continues these efforts.

### **Panel #1: Advancing Health Equity through Health Data and Infrastructure**

*Moderator: Dr. Lucienne Ide, Chief Executive Officer, Rimidi; Co-Chair of the Health Equity and Access Leadership Coalition (HEAL)*

Lucienne M. Ide is a physician, scientist, and entrepreneur who is CEO of Rimidi, an IT company she founded in 2012 to address the challenging health and cost implications of common chronic diseases like diabetes. After earning a BA in physics from Middlebury College, Ide worked for the National Security Agency, Raytheon Systems, and Monarch Capital Partners. With a desire to shift her focus to health, Ide enrolled in the joint MD/PhD Medical Scientist Training Program at Emory University, which she completed in 2009. Dr. Ide, who lives in Atlanta, cofounded the Diabetes Prevention and Design Team, which is dedicated to reducing the prevalence of diabetes in the greater Atlanta community, and co-chairs the Health Equity and Access Leadership (HEAL) Coalition, a joint effort of the Consumer Technology Association and the Connected Health Initiative.

Ide is a member of the HIMSS National and HIMSS Georgia chapters; The App Association Connected Health Initiative Steering Committee Member, and the Middlebury College Board of Trustees.

[Dr. Maria Caban Alizondo, Director, Health Information Management Services, UCLA Health System](#)

Maria Caban Alizondo is the director of health information management services for UCLA Health System in Los Angeles, CA. She has been president of the California Health Information Association, CA delegate to AHIMA, and chair of the CHIA Governance Committee and Technology Taskforce. She participated in authoring the AHIMA CDI Toolkit, AHIMA Future of the House Taskforce and the AHIMA Envisioning Collaborative and is a proud AHIMA Mentor.

Prior to UCLA, Dr. Caban Alizondo worked in a variety of roles across the health information space including as director of EHR integrity at Stanford Health Clinics, and director of health information Management at St. John’s Health Center. Dr. Caban Alizondo is passionate about strategic change, leadership, and developing new professionals. She writes and presents frequently on topics that influence the profession, including strategic change management, relational leadership, applied informatics and governance, and operational technology integrations. She holds a PHD and masters of Arts in Leadership and Change in Healthcare from Antioch University.



#### Eliot Fishman, PhD, Senior Director, Health Policy, Families USA

As Senior Director of Health Policy, Eliot Fishman leads Families USA's policy analysis and advocacy agenda development at the state and federal levels, working with the policy department and other members of senior leadership. Prior to joining Families USA, he served at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) from 2013 to 2017. In that role, he led the federal government's work with states on Medicaid waivers and federal policy, on the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and Medicaid and CHIP quality measurement, eligibility, and enrollment. Prior to his work at CMS, Fishman served as Director of the Office of Policy in the New Jersey Department of Health, where he directed a large, complex portfolio including the Center for Health Statistics, Institutional Review Board, and the Office of Healthcare Quality Assessment. Fishman received his BA from Harvard College and his PhD from Yale University.

#### Joy Lewis, Senior Vice President, Health Equity Strategies and Executive Director, Institute for Diversity and Health Equity, American Hospital Association

Joy Lewis is senior vice president of health equity strategies at the American Hospital Association (AHA). Lewis has broad oversight for several key association priorities related to diversity, health equity and inclusion to support and build healthy communities. Lewis who most recently served as AHA's vice president for strategic health planning, also serves as executive director of the Institute for Diversity and Health Equity. She contributes to shaping strategy and lead the implementation of initiatives and programs that improve health by reducing disparities and promoting just and equitable health care.

Prior to joining the association in 2018, Lewis spent almost two decades at Kaiser Permanente. Over the years, she occupied different leadership roles, and spent the last several years as senior health policy leader at the Kaiser Permanente Institute for Health Policy where she developed expertise across a broad range of policy topics, including work linked to promoting equity in care and closing the disparities gap. Lewis holds dual master's degrees in social work and public health from Howard University and UCLA, respectively. She earned a bachelor of arts degree in psychology and sociology from Wesleyan University.

#### Dr. Lisa Schaffner, Vice President of Care Analytics, Highmark

Lisa M. Schaffner, Ph.D., is vice president of healthcare analytics for Highmark, Inc. In this role, she leads analytics strategy and generation of data-driven insights for Highmark's core health insurance business. As a key contributor to Highmark's transformation efforts, Dr. Schaffner is accountable for conveying the value of Highmark's products and services, and identifying actionable opportunities for customers and health care providers that enable optimization of value for members and patients.

Dr. Schaffner joined Highmark in 2018 and has over 20 years of health care analytics experience. Prior to joining Highmark, she held analytics leadership roles with healthcare payors in Oregon and Ohio. Before her business career, Dr. Schaffner spent 15 years as an academic health care researcher at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health and School of Medicine, and the Oregon Health and Science University School of Medicine.

Dr. Schaffner earned her Doctorate of Philosophy in Health Policy and Management, with a concentration in Health Services and Outcomes Research, from the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her doctoral training was generously supported by the National Institute of Mental Health and





the National Center for Health Statistics. Dr. Schaffner also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Management and Policy from the University of New Hampshire, and she completed a post-doctoral fellowship in Health Services and Clinical Research at Oregon Health and Science University.

## **Panel #2: Modernizing and Advancing Public Health**

*Moderator: Molly Murray, Senior Manager, Health Information Technology, Pew Charitable Trusts*

Molly Murray is a senior manager with Pew's health information technology project, which seeks to improve the safety of electronic health records (EHRs) and enhance the exchange of information so that health care providers and patients have the data they need to make informed decisions. This work will help advance efforts to ensure that the design, implementation, and use of EHRs do not lead to unintended harm, and that they can be used to improve care.

Before joining Pew, Murray worked on health information technology and quality measurement projects at the American College of Surgeons. She also previously worked with federally qualified health centers at the Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association, and as a project manager at Epic, a vendor of health information technology.

Murray received a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a master's in public administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

*Amanda Cavanaugh, Senior Program Manager, Center for Health Information Sharing and Innovation, Illinois Public Health Institute; Data Across Sectors for Health*

Amanda Cavanaugh has over 15 years of experience in technology and healthcare integration with an emphasis on operationalizing policy. As senior program manager at the Center for Health Information Sharing and Innovation, Amanda helps to implement Data Across Sectors for Health (DASH), which aims to identify barriers, opportunities, and promising practices for multi-sector collaborations to connect information systems and share data for community health improvement.

She is a champion for data and analytics to assess, improve and report on positive patient outcomes. She has expertise in Medicaid, Medicare, Managed Care and Waiver programs with a focus on policy analysis of program requirements, including services with supports in Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS), Home and Community Based Services (HCBS), Self-Directed and State systems. Cavanaugh holds a master's degree in Public Administration and Policy from American University and a BA from the University of Colorado at Boulder in political Science.

*Ashok Chennuru, Chief Data and Analytics Officer, Anthem*

Ashok Chennuru serves as a chief data and analytics officer for Anthem, leading enterprise data management, data quality, data governance, and enterprise analytics applications with focus on delivering action-oriented insights supporting all lines of business. In his role, Ashok works with key business and technology leaders in the development and execution of the data- and analytics-driven enterprise, "Digital/AI first" strategy. He also oversees Anthem's health information technology strategy, the execution of the longitudinal patient record, enterprise clinical data acquisition, provider data strategy, and clinical interoperability initiatives.



Prior to joining Anthem, Ashok led the Information Business Intelligence team at Liberty Mutual and focused on delivering analytics to key business areas such as actuarial and finance. Before Liberty Mutual, he worked at software giants SAP and Oracle as a software development engineer focused on analytics products.

Ashok holds a master's degree in computer science from the University of Missouri and a bachelor's degree in computer science and engineering from Madurai University in India.

**Dr. Annie Fine, Chief Science and Surveillance Officer, Senior Advisor to Data Modernization Initiative, Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists**

Dr. Annie Fine, is the chief science and surveillance office at CSTE. Prior to CSTE, she was the medical director of the Reportable Disease Data Analysis, and Informatics Unit at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH). In this role, Dr. Fine oversaw the data analysis and reportable disease surveillance unit, which tracks and analyzes all reportable communicable diseases to identify trends and detect outbreaks or clusters. She also continues to work closely with colleagues in public health informatics to improve the standardization of electronic laboratory data, integrate systems and improve interoperability with the NYC DOHMH Public Health Laboratory, and explore opportunities for leveraging electronic health records to improve reportable disease reporting.

Dr. Fine has served as a leader across multiple public health emergencies. She served as the lead for the Epidemiology and Data Unit for Surveillance and Epidemiology, during the recent response to Ebola virus in New York City. During the 2009 outbreak of pandemic H1N1 influenza, Dr. Fine oversaw development and publication of clinical policies and guidance, as well as frequently updated epidemiologic alerts for the medical community in New York City. She has published widely in the peer reviewed medical literature.

Dr. Fine served as the Director of Bioterrorism Preparedness at DOHMH from 1998-2000 and was one of the principal investigators of the 1999 outbreak of West Nile virus in New York City. She also participated actively in the investigations of intentional anthrax in 2001 following the World Trade Center attacks.

Dr. Fine was a recipient of the 2014 Sloan Public Service Award for the City of New York. Dr. Fine is a graduate of Harvard College, Boston University School of Medicine (summa cum laude), a board-certified pediatrician and an alumna of the Epidemic Intelligence Service at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**Morgan Honea, Executive Vice President, Contexture; Chief Executive Officer, Consortium for State and Regional Interoperability (CSRI)**

Morgan Honea serves as executive vice president at Contexture. He was previously chief executive officer of the Colorado Regional Health Information Organization (CORHIO), which merged with Arizona based Health Current to form Contexture. Under his leadership, CORHIO had grown at its fastest pace since inception—exchanging health information between 74 hospitals, more than 1,200 providers, and 20,000 users. He has also expanded the organization's partnership with the State of Colorado, as well as numerous payers and accountable care organizations to advance the Triple Aim in Colorado. Honea serves in a governance capacity for multiple organizations including the Trusted Interoperability Platform Advisory Committee and the Medical Services Board for the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy





and Financing. He attended the University of Tulsa, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in accounting and received a master's degree in health administration from Missouri State University.