

Laura Hanen, MPP

Laura Hanen is Director of Government Affairs at the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). Prior to joining NACCHO, Ms. Hanen was the Director of Government Relations for the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors for more than ten years. Ms. Hanen held leadership roles in a number of national coalitions, including the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership, the HIV Health Care Access Working Group, the AIDS Drug Assistance Program Working Group, and the Hepatitis Appropriations Partnership. Ms. Hanen also served as the Senior Lobbyist for the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and a legislative assistant for Representative Rick Boucher of the Ninth District of Virginia. Ms. Hanen received her Bachelor's degree from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana and a Master's degree in Public Policy from Georgetown University.

Ernest Hopkins

Ernest Hopkins is the Legislative Director for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and Chair of the CAEAR Coalition Board of Directors. He has been involved with CAEAR Coalition since 1994 when he was appointed Chair of the Metropolitan Washington, DC, Regional HIV Health Services Planning Council. He is an appointed member of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Health Resources and Services Administration (CDC/HRSA) Advisory Committee on HIV and STD Prevention and Treatment and a founding member and Chair of the National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition. He also serves on the board of the National AIDS Housing Coalition and Convening Group of the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership.

Ann Lefert

Ann Lefert is Director of Policy and Health Care Access at the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD). She has been with NASTAD since 2002 and is responsible for coordinating and administering technical assistance to state Ryan White Part B and AIDS Drug Assistance Programs. Ann also directs NASTAD's work regarding expanding health care access for individuals living with HIV/AIDS through Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance, working with Community Health Centers and preparing for health reform. She also is responsible for policy development and advocacy on appropriations and legislation related to HIV/AIDS care and treatment and health reform. Ann is an active participant of the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership, the HIV Health Care Access Work Group, the ADAP Coalition and co-chairs the Ryan White Work Group. Ann received her Bachelor's degree from St. Olaf College in Minnesota and her Master's degree in Public Policy from Georgetown University.

Andrea Maresca

Andrea Maresca is Director of Federal Policy and Strategy at the National Association Medicaid Directors. She joined NAMD with over seven years of Medicaid-focused policy experience. Most recently, Andrea has been Vice President for Medicaid Policy at the Association for Community Affiliated Plans, where she covered federal policy issues impacting non-profit Medicaid managed care organizations. Prior to joining ACAP, she spent several years at the National Governors Association and the National Association of State Medicaid Directors, NAMD's predecessor organization. During her tenure as NGA's Legislative Director for Health Policy, Andrea helped guide the organization's federal policy initiatives on health care reform, Medicaid, the state Children's Health Insurance Program, and health information technology. While at NASMD, she worked with the states' Medicaid directors to develop and advance policy initiatives and oversaw several technical advisory groups. Andrea's other professional experience includes time with an association representing Medicaid providers and as staff to a member of Congress. She earned her MPH from the George Washington University and her BA from Villanova University.

Karen Pollitz, MPP

Ms. Pollitz is a Senior Fellow at the Kaiser Family Foundation. Prior to joining the foundation, she was the Director for Consumer Support at the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight in the Department of Health and Human Services, taking leave from being a Research Professor at Georgetown University's Health Policy Institute. There she directed research on health insurance reform issues as they affect consumers and patients. Her areas of focus included regulation of private health insurance plans and markets, managed care consumer protections, and access to affordable health insurance. Previously, Ms. Pollitz served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health Legislation at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services from 1993 to 1997. In this capacity she was the Secretary's legislative liaison on all federal health care issues, including national health care reform, Medicare, Medicaid, and U.S. Public Health Service agencies and programs. From 1984 to 1991, Ms. Pollitz worked as a health policy advisor to several Members of Congress. After leaving the Hill, Ms. Pollitz worked as the Assistant Director of the Washington Office of the American Academy of Family Physicians, and taught at the Marymount University School of Business. She is a member of the advisory board of the California Health Benefits Review Program and from 2004-2006 she served on the Board of Directors of the Maryland Health Insurance Plan (MHIP). From 2004-2005, she was a member of the Institute of Medicine Committee on Cancer Survivorship. In 2000-2001, she served on the standards committee of the National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA). She holds an MPP from the University of California at Berkeley and a BA with Honors from Oberlin College.

Carole Treston, RN, MPH

Carole is the Executive Director of AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth and Families, an organization that provides training and technical assistance to programs serving women, youth, children, and families affected by HIV and AIDS in the US and advocates for public policies that benefit them. She is an RN who in 1988 developed one of the first comprehensive, family-centered HIV/AIDS programs in the country, leading the way for Ryan White Part D programs and a precursor to the "medical home" model of care. She received her MPH from Columbia University, focusing on health policy and management. She served as ED of the Children's Hope Foundation in NYC— an organization that partnered with 120 agencies to improve the quality of life for children, youth and families affected by HIV/AIDS. She also served as the Director of Operations for the Pediatric AIDS Clinical Trials Group. There, she was recognized as an advocate for the Community Constituency Group.

Andrea Weddle, MSW

Andrea Weddle has been the executive director of the HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA), an organization representing frontline HIV medical providers and researchers, since September 2008. Previously she served as the associate director of the association for six years. She devotes much of her time to advancing HIVMA's public policy and advocacy priorities, which include improving access to health care for people with HIV/AIDS; addressing HIV medical workforce issues and promoting public policies grounded in science. Prior to joining HIVMA, she conducted policy research on Medicaid managed care programs as a research associate for the Center for HIV Quality Care and served as the staff director for the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society. Ms. Weddle has worked in the health policy field for more than decade and has a Master's in Social Welfare from the University of California, Berkeley.