

Speaker Biographies

Julie Goon currently serves as Director of Medicare Outreach and Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS). In this position, she is responsible for ensuring that the campaign to educate Medicare beneficiaries about the expanded benefits and choices they will receive under the Medicare Modernization Act is coordinated between the Department, the Administration, the Congress, and external advocacy groups.

Prior to joining HHS, Ms. Goon served as Senior Vice President of Government Affairs for AHIP (previously AAHP-HIAA), the oldest and largest trade association representing the managed health care industry. In this position, she was responsible for AHIP's Congressional lobbying strategy, grassroots outreach, coalition building and the association's political activities.

Prior to joining AHIP, Ms. Goon was Director of Federal Relations for Humana Inc. She began working for Humana in 1986 in the Corporate Public Affairs Department in Louisville, KY, and then moved to Washington, DC in 1990 to open Humana's Washington office.

Ms. Goon also worked for the Colorado Legislative Council, a staff organization for the Colorado General Assembly, from 1982-1986. She graduated from Colorado State University with an honors degree in History, and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Aileen Harper is the Executive Director of the Center for Health Care Rights (CHCR). CHCR is a non-profit advocacy organization dedicated to promoting access to quality health care for consumers. Since 1984, CHCR has provided Medicare advocacy and health insurance counseling services to Medicare beneficiaries and their families in Los Angeles County and administers one of the largest Medicare State Health Insurance Program (SHIPs) in the United States. CHCR uses our Medicare direct service work to inform our systemic advocacy efforts on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries at the state and national levels. CHCR's programs are funded by government and private foundation grants. Ms. Harper has a master's in health administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Patricia Neuman is a vice president of the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and is Director of the foundation's Medicare Policy Project. Dr. Neuman is widely regarded as an expert on Medicare policy issues. She has published numerous articles on topics related to health coverage and financing for the Medicare population, and has been invited several times to present expert testimony before Congressional Committees.

Before joining the Foundation in 1995, Dr. Neuman served for six years on the professional staff of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health in the U.S. House of Representatives, and for three years on the staff of the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging working on health and long-term care issues.

Dr. Neuman received a Doctorate of Science degree in health policy and management and a Masters of Science degree in health finance and management from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in Baltimore, Maryland. She is currently an Associate in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the School of Hygiene and Public Health of the Johns Hopkins University. She received her Bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut.