

# HEALTH CARE SYMPOSIUM 2015

A LAST GENERATIONS' DREAMS — XXI CENTURY REALITY

## DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY



PRESENTS, IN COLLABORATION WITH  
THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS,  
2015 HEALTH CARE SYMPOSIUM AND FAIR

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2013 9:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

RECEPTION FOLLOWS FROM, 5:00 – 7:00 P.M.

AT THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS  
555 NEW JERSEY AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C.

HEALTH LEADERSHIP AWARD – REP. JUDY CHU  
HEALTH EQUITY LEADERSHIP AWARD – DR. JOHN DAVIES-COLE  
COMMUNITY HEALTH LEADERSHIP AWARD – RUBY JADE CORADO

### ACCESS, DISPARITIES, AND CULTURAL COMPETENCY

The Barriers to Communication: Linguistic, Ethnic, Geographical, Economic Class  
Disparities in Access to Information, Prevention, Treatment, and Maintenance

### HEALTH CARE: THE LAW AND THE ECONOMICS

Regulation and Implementation: Building a System. The Role of Private Insurance  
Medicaid The Fortunes of Innovation?

### FOOD, NUTRITION, AND PREVENTIVE STRATEGIES

The Healthful “Lifestyle” An Educated Wellness Guarding Against Dangers

### PHARMACEUTICALS AND THE PRAXIS OF CLINICAL TRIALS

Recruitment of Subjects Length of Trials, Costs of Trials

### HEALTH CARE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND PRIVACY

The New Modes of Information Diffusion The Privacy Perils

### THE CHIEF HEALTH THREATS: PREVENTION AND REMEDIES

Confronting the Chief Health Threats – Understanding, Prevention, and Remedy  
Mental Health, Diabetes, Substance Abuse

SPONSORS: CAREFIRST BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD  
OFFICE ON LATINO AFFAIRS, D.C. SOUTHWEST AIRLINES  
HOSTED BY THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS  
DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY  
1629 K STREET, N.W., SUITE 300 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

# AGENDA

9:00 a.m. Registration

9:30 **Welcome, MA. CRISTINA CABALLERO**, President/CEO, Dialogue on Diversity CONVENOR  
Introduction and Greeting: **CONNIE CORDOVILLA**, American Federation of Teachers

10:00 **Cultural Competency: Barriers: Linguistic, Social and Class, Geographical Isolation**  
Barriers through Inequality in Access and Treatment  
**KINTE IBBOTT**, Vice President, Center for Health Literacy, Maximus, Inc.  
**GRACE FLORES HUGHES**, Author, Memoirist

10:45 **The ACA: a Summing Up as of 2015** The Remaining Legal Challenges: Is There a Plan B?  
What Changes in Health Care/Medical Practice is the ACA Bringing?  
**KAREN DAVENPORT**, Director, Health Policy, National Women's Law Center  
**LENI GONZALEZ** Virginia, Status of ACA, Medicaid, Diffusing Information, *Enroll Virginia*  
**JEANETTE CONTRERAS**, CMS, healthfinder.gov, White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics

11:30 **NUTRITION:**  
Countering Obesity – Diet as a Preventive Regimen – Special Concerns for Children  
**JESSICA DONZE BLACK**, Pew Charitable Trusts, Director, Childhood Nutrition  
**ELENA RIOS**, President, National Hispanic Medical Association  
**LAURA MACCLEERY**, Center for Science in the Public Interest, Chief Attorney, Regulatory Matters

12:30 p.m. **MIDDAY/LUNCH SESSION**

**MALCOLM N. JOSEPH, III**, Medical Director, CareFirst BlueCross/BlueShield  
**LAQUANDRA NESBITT**, Featured Speaker, Director, D.C. Department of Health

## PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

**HONORABLE JUDY CHU**, U.S. House of Representatives HEALTH LEADERSHIP AWARD  
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS OF THE 27TH DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
FURTHERING WITH TIRELESS INTELLIGENCE AND SPIRIT  
THE CAUSE OF EQUITABLE, AFFORDABLE, AND ASSURED HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA,  
THE HEALTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

**DR. JOHN DAVIES-COLE**, Ph.D., MPH, Epidemiologist, Researcher, Civic Leader, Academician  
D.C.. HEALTH EQUITY LEADERSHIP AWARD  
IN HIS ADVANCEMENT OF MEDICINE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
AND THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY THROUGH EXCELLENCE IN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL PRACTICE  
ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF A GRATEFUL CITY  
THE HEALTH EQUITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

**RUBY JADE CORADO**, Founder, CasaRuby, COMMUNITY HEALTH LEADERSHIP AWARD  
FOUNDER AND INSPIRER OF CASARUBY  
A SHELTER AND A SYMBOL OF FELLOWSHIP AND HOPE,  
BRINGING SUPPORT AND JOY TO THE  
PERSONS OF THE LGBT COMMUNITY

*A Cordial Welcome to our Friends, Guests,  
And Speakers for Dialogue on Diversity's  
2015 Health Care Symposium*



Dialogue on Diversity casts a revealing spotlight on many of the important fronts in the contentious – enterprise of health care in America. While the greater share of the clamor generated by the still, as always, strident disputations over the federal health care reform now five years out from the date of enactment (the ponderously named Patient Protection Affordable Care Act has as rule been shortened to ACA, and, it seems, without carefully the incidences, that one is now hearing a good deal less of the derisive name which, in incorporating the name of the chief executive, was calculated to imprint his own supposedly unlikeable persona on the statute itself) — it is nevertheless the orderly brigades of health care workers, those busy administrators, insurers, economists, nutritionists, and biological scientists that quietly carry forward the steady advance against acute illness, chronic disorders, and the insidious forces of our decadent lifestyles that steadily undercut “wellness”. Their labors are, as often as not, prosaic enough — but often again they exhibit the sharp insights of a restlessly inquiring science and the acumen of an innovating engineering profession.

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The 2015 Symposium agenda is designed to bring together an array of speakers from a variety of points of view, the political, the economic, the bureaucratic/legal, and the empirical, some commentators profoundly skeptical of the remedies proffered by the now not so new statute, others eagerly enough

h welcoming the package, for all its rough edges.

Today’s experts will allude to the reasoning that underlay the alternative plans before any enactment was solidified — ideas that still walk abroad, like ghosts that cannot be laid, as the content of the law’s operation is injected into laboriously devised regulations. But by now the focus of concern has shifted to the work of completing the tasks of implementing the sharply innovative statute. At this stage that appears to be the task of stimulating the enrollment of large numbers of persons who, for all the trumpeting of the matters in the papers, have not yet gotten the word — are there indeed two Americas, one not having the blessed wherewithal to scratch together the price of the day’s paper, the other smugly perusing the comforting op-eds? So that the diffusion of information pointing out and explaining the Marketplaces and their full shelves of newly accessible insurance arrangements is the arena in which the crucial action is to go forward. We have invited for today’s program, it may be noted, the person at HHS who is basically in charge of the source of many of the most valuable springs of this precious information, the internet site [healthfinder.gov](http://healthfinder.gov).

But at once our attention, quite ominously, has been drawn to the great marble edifice down a few blocks where the lot of the famous subsidies, enabling the economically disadvantaged to get smartly in line for the country’s “greatest in the world” medical care, is again up for grabs. Will the phrasing of a small portion of the ACA overbear the larger thrust of the law’s schema? — the infusion of substantial subsidies into the country’s health care system, drawing the less fortunate into the health care mainstream. It is curious that discourse in the papers has dwelt little on the mechanisms that would be set loose if the subsidies, those up to then supplied in two thirds or so of the Marketplaces in the country, were to shut off those enabling subsidies.

There is near silence on the Plan B to which recourse would be had in the event of the rambunctious court’s lucubrations. This, for one thing, would doubtless place a radically new complexion on the face of political currents: the massive numbers of the persons abruptly pitched off the wagon would, looking with horror on the health care opportunities appearing to have flown, would — they and their more affluent, perhaps influential sympathizers, the virtuous movers of the other half of America — exercise probably irresistible pressures to procure some virtual replacement of the health care club membership that the subsidies had facilitated. The precise shape of this pressure one may soon discover, but, again, perhaps, if the court were lenient with the phrasing, this would be a ripple, not a tsunami that the backers of the health care reform would need to deal with.

## THE HONORABLE JUDY CHU

Filling a vacancy in California's District 32 upon the incumbent Hilda Solis's appointment as Secretary of Labor, Rep. Judy Chu was first elected to the House of Representatives in 2009 and re-elected ever since, more recently, by way of redistricting, in District 27. Her antecedent career had seen successes in the California legislature and election for three terms as mayor of Monterey Park, California. She was born of Chinese parents in Los Angeles, moving later with her family to the Bay Area. She graduated from UCLA with a degree in Mathematics and gained her doctorate in psychology at the California School of Professional Psychology. After which she taught as professor of psychology in the Los Angeles area. Since 2011 she has served as Chair of the Asian Pacific American Caucus (a component of the "tri-caucus") in the House. As for her concerns in health care, Rep. Chu has laid out a five-point agenda for health care, headed by Prevention. She cites figures showing saving on the national health bill six times the expense of the added preventive measures required to achieve these savings. Not counting the non-money benefits of escaping the destruction by sickness or disability of cherished family and social enjoyments. Also on the list: ACA provisions requiring specific justifications by insurers for premium hikes, and the removal of the pre-existing-condition bars that had, among other horrors, foreclosed coverage for many afflicted children; statutory authorization to regulate use of potent pain-killing drugs by patients in need of these despite their general prohibition, with safeguards against the epidemic of drug overuse by semi-addicted patients; and changes of Medicare rules to sustain adequate compensation to physicians, thus ensuring continued service to Medicare patients. Dialogue on Diversity presents its HEALTH LEADERSHIP AWARD to Rep. Judy Chu in today's



Symposium.

## DR. MALCOLM N. JOSEPH III

Dr. Joseph serves as the Medical Director of CareFirst Blue Cross Blue Shield, with offices in Baltimore. He appears today, once again as the mainstay of the midday session, offering in his own remarks the important review of some of the chief health threats and moral tendencies that afflict American society. A valued friend of the Dialogue, Dr. Joseph has braved the cheerful din and clamor of the Dialogue's Holiday Fair party at the International Trade Center, bringing moreover a book as the gift for a fortunate child. Dr. Joseph is a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross and holds the M.D. and M.P.H. Degrees from elite The Johns Hopkins University medical school. Dr. Joseph had spent a score of years during the earlier part of his medical career with the U.S. Air Force, leaving in 1998 with the rank of Colonel. Entering the private sector, he serves on the boards of a range of medical and healthcare-related professional groups in the Mid-Atlantic area, and has taken over duties as the Medical Director for the large medical insurance and information service CareFirst Blue Cross Blue Shield. CareFirst is insurer of the costs of often mind-boggling medical bills, but its staff also aids clients with well honed advice and leads as to treatment modalities and a universe of able medical providers. High medical skills and a driving concern for fashioning medical science and the workings of the healthcare establishment into an instrument for rescuing the disadvantaged and marginalized persons in American society from the abandonment that has often been their lot – these have distinguished Dr. Joseph's career.



## KAREN DAVENPORT

Karen Davenport, whose analyses of the massive factual background of American health care in a series of programs antedating the now notorious health care reform act, brings a summation of the contemporary state, massive in extent and texture, of the U.S. health care apparatus whose elements — insureds, patients, physicians and nurses, manufacturers of pills and governors and legislatures, not to mention the black-robed judicial stewards of civilized propriety — all being sorted into a new set of cubbyholes with some novel rules, certainly on the insurance side, and in the pay arrangements and the techniques and rules of practice. Yet the legalities of one provision and another of the long and necessarily complex statute have been insistently agitated in opposition to some of the essential elements of the ACA law, which is due for another cliffhanger decision in a few weeks. One can imagine several courses of political and economic development in the event of a decision adverse to the statute as it has to this point operated. In these circumstances one may be grateful for the diligent labors of Ms. Davenport, and of other like experts in the lore of health care and its institutional foundations. Ms. Davenport, widely respected for her grasp and analytic savvy when it comes to the workings of this vast system, reports to us its present state, and, insofar as one foregoes use of the crystal ball, its prospects. She and her colleagues at the National Women's Law Center have generated a train of reports highlighting the factual terrain on which the discourse on health care travels, and analyzing the economics and the subtle legalities that, in this brusque world, mediate the institutional apparatus of health care to a nervously waiting population.



## DANIEL E. DAWES

Operating from his base in Atlanta's Morehouse University, where he is Director for governmental affairs at the Morehouse Medical School, Daniel E. Dawes nevertheless makes very frequent jaunts to the capital, the fountainhead of policy, the lifeblood of Mr. Dawes's professional activity. Acquainted with a numerous range of the many-faceted health care industries and their structure and legal standing, he is an endlessly stimulating source of factual perceptions and analytic thrusts that have built a high and widespread regard for his contributions. A lawyer by training, he has rapidly mastered a number of the subfields within the formidable topic of health care, but always his interest has zeroed in on the painful questions of disparities in the accessibility and quality of care now, only a bit less so under the ACA, graduated by income class, ethnicity, and race. Today he discusses disparities by some of these variables, notably in the context of the all-important clinical trials that are the gateway for the impressive gains in pharmaceuticals as a mechanisms of care and cure. Mr. Dawes had previously served is manager for federal affairs and the grassroots network for Premier Health Alliance, a consortium of several thousand hospitals and medical facilities throughout the country. In this post he had worked with 200 plus interested organizations, and maintained a continuing drumbeat of communications with the White House and the Congress, all aimed at ensuring the that the now five-years old health reform bill gave more than a polite bow in the direction of abating the disparities in care for a long train of disadvantaged classes in the population. Before association with Premier, Mr. Dawes worked as part of the legal staff in Senator Kennedy's HELP committee in the Senate. Previously to that he worked with the Congressional Black Caucus Brain-trust under the direction of Del. Donna M. Christian Christensen of the U.S. Virgin Islands. Mr. Dawes is a graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Law.



## DEBORAH C. PEEL

Resourceful and persistent, not welcoming any hint of retreat in the cause of privacy, Dr. Deborah C. Peel has borne the banner and sounded the trumpet in the face of a mindless encroachment of technical capabilities upon the justly held territory of privacy in one's personal affairs, particularly as these touch the sensitive nerve of health care and medicine, is in the front lines for the cause of privacy in the realm of medical practice and the recording of medical information and histories. She is withal a psychiatrist, qualified as a psychoanalyst, with a practice of several decades in Austin, Texas. She is a graduate of the University of Texas Medical School, working subsequently for three years as a resident specializing in psychiatry. Finally, with years of study at the Dallas Institute for Psychoanalysis, she has attained to the recondite skills required for the psychoanalytic branch of the profession. Her medical labors form the counterpoint to her civic and intellectual activism on the IT front, doubtless informing her initiatives as a public intellectual and activist with the insights of one who has dealt professionally with the vagaries of the psyche and the character of the secret, the stressful and the embarrassing, the subtle moments that may induce or inhibit the confidences that permit the medical provider to perceive the deep dynamic of medical or psychic processes. The prospect of publicity of any sort for these confidences must inevitably operate as a disturbing influence in this delicately configured relationship. Her advocacy for the privacy interests of medical patients is of long standing. The organization she now heads, Patient Privacy Rights, dating from 2004, ranks as a leading influence in the national discourse on the place of the value of privacy in the health care setting. Each year her organization's principal public conference, the Privacy Summit, is held in Washington in early June.



**GRACE FLORES HUGHES** As the engaging writer of a gripping memoir, *A TALE OF SURVIVAL*, Grace Flores Hughes brings to bear a wealth of anguished memories as a member of a despised ethnic community in the rough and tumble of a merciless Texas society of half a century ago, and of her mature years of learning and experience in a range of diverse fields of organizational management and advocacy. She served in the Presidential administrations of Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush, acting during the earlier part of the period in the Department of Defense and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (now divided into DOEducation and HHS), a bonus achievement being to have anchored the term "Hispanic" in official federal parlance. Throughout, her interest has gravitated to the inequalities and distress experienced among ethnic and other population minorities and marginalized groups, seeking to evolve out of the country's settled values and principles some structures constructively advancing the fortunes and the interests of these portions of the national population. She also, under the aegis of the SBA, as Associate Administrator, spearheaded programs for Minority Small Business and Capital Ownership Development. At the Department of Justice she headed the Community Relations Service, setting priorities aimed at resolving ethnic conflicts around the country, and at once managing to achieve resettlement of Cuban and Haitian refugees in the U.S. (a species of concern that persists, as each day's newspapers retail, recounting the horrors of refugee floods from Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia).



## KINTE IBBOTT

Heading the Center for Health Literacy, the health care component at Maximus, Inc., Kinte Ibbot, a Vice President, is a veritable master of many crafts, coordinating a vast team of workers laboring with a daunting variety of skill sets. Maximus is an international communications and high level management and technical consulting complex, dealing in large part, alongside its major health care division, with a broad spectrum of social issues, all along deploying similarly massive and many-skilled forces. The CHL marshals a numerous phalanx of specialists in the cause of driving home health-sustaining and health-care basics with a world population often not instantly receptive to health-care intelligence, however revolutionizing the information might prove to be for their wellbeing – a vast team brought together by the Maximus organization’s international talent net: scientists, writers, organizers, social workers, public relations operatives, and more. The theme of much of the work of Maximus has been the existence of radical disparities of access and treatment in the health care realm, and with designing strategies to overcome these. Mr. Ibbott, in addition to his formidable bill of duties at Maximus, serves as part of the Adjunct Faculty in the Department of Health Systems Administration at Georgetown University.



## JESSICA DONZE-BLACK



As a knowledgeable and persuasive nutrition expert in the Pew Health Group, part of the Pew Charitable Trusts, Jessica Donze Black, alongside other duties in the field, supervises the campaign provocatively titled: Kids’ Safe and Healthful Foods Project, for which research and policy and advocacy work side by side to accomplish the profoundly significant purpose – it being next to a sure bet that under- or ill-nourished kids, not functioning at top levels in school, and thus also in adult life, are going to be a problem – for which any solution will come from the well-meaning ministrations of the well-fed moiety of the society. That is to say, an unfortunate cultural stratification of a community, often seen in its beginnings in educational and other inequalities, may well be exacerbated, Nutrition, especially in childhood, has many consequences, either salutary or dangerous, far downstream, and Ms. Donze-Black’s labors are the striving to mitigate the more painful outcomes,

## LAURA MACCLEERY

As the chief attorney for the regulatory matters in which her organization, the Center for Science in the Public Interest, is concerned, Laura MacCleery has necessarily developed a repertory of telling insights into most of the greatly varied nutrition-related questions in which the Center has sought action by tribunals of one or another kind, or has sought decisions delaying or denying initiatives of other stakeholders in the nutrition battles. While few lawyers would seriously claim to be omniscient, or even to be smarter than everyone else, it is clear that the day to day tasks of legal representation require the advocate to master the basic factual content of any controverted question, and, more, to see through the disputed questions with clarity and logical precision sufficient to persuade neutral, indeed skeptical, adjudicators, and, more urgently, to counter the argumentation of the opposing parties. Ms. MacCleery will review some of the matters in which official action has been sought or opposed by CSPI, and in which some response has issued by way of encouraging a more nutritious practice or barring a deleterious pretended foodstuff or a dangerous manufacturing or preparation method. Ms. MacCleery is a prolific producer of essays, tweets and blog paragraphs, submissions to courts and commissions, and videos, all on various aspects of the battle against the toxic stuffs lurking everywhere about in our environment, and the pernicious practices rampant in the consumer sector, and in nutrition in particular. She was a highly talented graduate of the University of Virginia in 1994. She gained her law degree in 1999 at Stanford.



## ELENA RIOS

Elena Rios, presides over the National Hispanic Medical Association, which under her skilled hands was founded and launched on its way as a prime source of both influence and advoca7 on behalf of the U.S. Latino community. Her career is a history of leadership posts with countless organizations of Latino medical practitioners, along with public service with the Department of Health and Human Services, where she served from 1994 to 1998 as expert advisor on minority women’s health matters. She had served early in the 90s decade as coordinator of outreach groups for the National Health Care Reform Task Force operating in the period of the Clinton Administration’s vigorous, but in the end futile, push for a universal health care system.



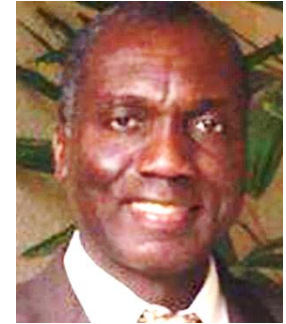


### RUBY JADE CORADO

**Ruby Jade Corado**, founder of CasaRuby, receives the COMMUNITY HEALTH LEADERSHIP AWARD. Casa Ruby is a shelter, community center, and urban club rolled into one for the local LGBT groups seeking an approving and congenial refuge from the sometimes censorious, even hostile social milieu, even in the socially liberal Washington metro area. Ruby herself presides, greeting all with a joyful welcome, inspiring the whirlwind of activity centering on the Casa – a real and significant contribution to the psychic wellbeing of a smart but sometimes fearful clientele. A form of wellness that must not be disregarded in the larger calculations of social benefit. Ms. Corado comes from El Salvador in Central America, emigrating to the U.S. at the age of sixteen, setting up in Washington in 1988, and swiftly gravitating to the illustrious career of a hospitality, counsel, and support impresario extraordinaire.

### JOHN DAVIES-COLE, PhD, MPH

The HEALTH EQUITY LEADERSHIP AWARD is conferred on **Dr. John Oliver Davies-Cole**, for long the State Epidemiologist for the city of Washington. His origins date to Sierra Leone in West Africa, a place to which he owes a residual affection even as an official and academic figure in an American metropolis. He was elected Chairman of the Board for 2014-2016 heading the diaspora organization (NOSLINA) of Sierra Leonians in North America, his skills in the techniques of disease detection, transmission, and treatment standing the homeland, already ravaged by Ebola, in good stead. Dr. Davies-Cole is co-author of numerous articles on disease, in its tell-tale symptoms, its contagion, and the varied speeds of transmission. Among these are articles on the statistical techniques of Syndromic Surveillance, a method evolved by leading figures in the field for early detection of epidemics sown by terrorist attacks or, of course, naturally occurring by way of outbreaks of disease (West Nile, Ebola, or other scourges striking broad swaths of a population) by noting reports of specific symptoms observed long before definitive diagnoses may be made of an actual presence of the disease in question. The name of the game is getting a jump on the spread of the contagion. Alongside the duties as the District’s Epidemiologist, Dr. Davies-Cole is part of the adjunct faculty with The George Washington University. Dr. Davies-Cole holds the degrees of Ph.D. and MPH.



### LENI GONZALEZ

Building on a solid series of governmental and civil society posts, in Northern Virginia and State-wide, over the last two decades, Leni Gonzalez has most recently turned her skills to the banner task of the post-health reform society, the establishment in the Commonwealth of Virginia of the near universal health care coverage that is the basic aim, to be achieved under the structures of the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA). She has taken in hand the key element of the work, the education of a population in need of insurance, eligible for insurance through the State Exchanges, or Marketplaces, sought by the States, (in the Virginia case under a cooperative arrangement with the Federal agencies – while other States, in applying for federal action, offered little actual aid in construction or operation of the resultant State exchanges), but without the ready knowledge of where and how to go about obtaining the coverage. The organization is called ENROLL VIRGINIA. Ms. Gonzalez has arranged and presented event after event targeting the Latino communities in the Northern Virginia area. Virginia is a particularly interesting case. The previous Administration balked the urgings of the most insistent opponents of the ACA by engaging in a Marketplace arrangement at least cooperative with the federal agencies, while leaving the acceptance of Medicaid expansion unutilized. The new, much differently disposed Virginia Administration, an eager backer of the ACA and the accompanying Medicaid expansion, leans as opportunity offers itself toward liberalizing the Medicaid stand adamantly opposed by the majority in the Legislature.



### JEANETTE CONTRERAS

An experienced expert in both education and health care concerns, Jeanette Contreras, Lead Outreach Specialist, Partner Relations Group, Office of Communications, CMS, is now deputed to the White House by her home agency, the CMS of HHS, and busied with the WH Initiative for Educational Excellence for Hispanics. She carries on with her basic task, that of achieving an effective informational outreach to Latino communities around the country on a variety of health-related programs, in particular, and most urgently, the Medicaid and health insurance Marketplace resources for this population. Ms. Contreras has been professionally concerned with the matters of public health since serving at the National Cancer Institute at NIH as in effect an emissary for the scientific mission of the Institute to the Congress and Executive branch agencies. Ms. Contreras holds an undergraduate degree from California State University at Los Angeles, and a Masters degree in Public Policy from American University in Washington, with additional studies in Governmental Affairs at Georgetown University.



## LAQUANDRA NESBITT

With extensive basic experience in the intricacies of public health issues in large urban settings gained during her years with the D.C. DOH, she introduced far-reaching adjustments in the practices of the Louisville agency. The sentiment of unease about the public health system appears to have been festering for some little while, and Ms. Nesbitt, upon her arrival, seeing that no one really knew which way to turn, took the initiative and lost little time in turning things around, introducing a variety of novel but evidence tested practices and methods. The health department was set to moving at new speeds and on new paths during the years of her tenure there. When opportunity offered, however, she returned as Director to the District of Columbia DOH, with a level of expertise seldom matched in the public health professions. She had worked for years in the D.C. public health system, in several high-level executive posts. Previously to that she had been part of the faculty of the School of Medicine at the University of Maryland, teaching on such topics as health relationships within families and the character of disparities of wealth and access to treatment in the universe of potential patients. From an academic point of view she is especially interested in the effects of income and social class disparities, and the link of both these with ethnicity and race – all factors that impact the shape of the health care system and its reflex in the public health system. The District of Columbia, in engaging Dr. Nesbitt to lead the Department, is clearly choosing to move in the direction of expert direction in its public health system.

**JONCA BULL** In a period of a dozen years Dr. Jonca Bull served at the Food and Drug Administration at the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research and in the Commissioner's Office. Subsequently, moving to the private sector, she served as Director of Clinical Regulatory Policy at Genentech, and as Vice President for U.S. Drug Regulatory Policy at Novartis. Returning to the FDA in 2012, she assumed responsibilities as Director of the Office of Minority Health. Among the many facets of the ACA reforms is the mandate that all federal



agencies install major Departments of Minority Health. Dr. Bull eagerly accepted the opportunity to head the FDA's department, being actuated, she notes, by strong concerns for the reigning inequalities that for long have been short-changed minorities in the health care system— one aspect of this treatment is that too few minority subjects are included in clinical trials to permit reliable analysis of these, possible disparate, classes, as independent strata of the trial sample. Dr. Bull concurrently holds the post of Assistant Clinical Professor in the George Washington University Medical Center. Dr. Bull, bearing sterling educational credentials, is a graduate of Princeton University, going on to earn the medical degree at Duke University Medical School, with post-graduate work at the George Washington University. She is Board certified in Ophthalmology.

**JOCELYN ULRICH** As Senior Director for Scientific and Regulatory Affairs in the world of pharmaceuticals, an environment of immense sums of resources, unique economics, and complex legal signposts, here and abroad, Jocelyn Ulrich now heads the division of the pharmaceutical trade group PhARMA. She has mastered an independent set of skills honed by dint of the intense study of years in the technical side of the industry, recently with Human Genome Sciences, and earlier with the Pfizer organization. Her object is to puzzle out and define with the clarity that the matter admits of, the possible matrix of what firms, or a certain firm, in the pharmaceutical industry can reasonably do with its technology and resources, and what is likely to result from markets and the law if it does. A sensitive grasp of several fields of expertise, distinct, but practically tied inextricably, are invoked in order to counsel shrewdly on the problems of firms in the crucible of the said markets and the law. It is not an exaggeration to aver that skills on the order of those Ms. Ulrich disposes of are awesome. We are honored to present her in this symposium. She holds the degree of MPH from New York University



## ELLEN LANGHANS

In work at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS for the inside the beltway folk) Ellen Langhans has explored the methods and the strategies for propagating the essential information about health itself and about the institutional mechanisms for obtaining – among the chiefly important examples – insurance, and otherwise navigating the daunting labyrinth of the modern health care apparatus. Perhaps the most powerful engine for diffusing such information is the internet site *healthfinder.gov*. Ms. Langhans serves as the managing director for this extraordinary instrumentality, a key channel for getting authoritative and plainly stated facts on health and the methods to sustain it into the hands of ordinary persons. One of the tasks of any such internet operation is to make the potential users aware of its existence and of its value. All this requires a factual knowledge of the topic, and a creative, almost artistic, bent in presenting it in an engaging way to catch the attention of the persons most in need.







**MARIA SCHIFF** The analysis of spending by state governments, a field not heretofore exhaustively explored, is a project of the Pew Charitable Trusts and the MacArthur Foundation. The project's Director is today's expert on substance abuse as a target of state spending, Maria Schiff, a careful student of the patterns of spending by the governments of the individual states on various elements of health care – both the aggregate and its components severally. Today's topic concerns substance abuse, and the expenditures devoted to its special problem, detailing the state drug [substance] abuse spending, showing aggregate and components for each state. Managing a crew of researchers the force keep tabs on state spending and are thus situated to perceive paths to more efficient husbanding of the always scarce resources of state governments. Her particular subject in today's discussion is the pattern of spending over states on the programs related to substance abuse – which states are more open-handed in supporting such spending, and which lay emphasis on treatment, on prevention, on law enforcement and the like. Ms. Schiff holds an undergraduate degree in history from SUNY at Buffalo, and a masters degree in public health administration from Long Island University.

**JOSE SEGURA**

from the Clínica del Pueblo, located in the quarter of Washington with densest Latino population, Mr. Segura is cojunselor and expert in both matters of mental health and of substance abuse and addiction. José Segura, La Clínica del Pueblo Page VI Heading the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse at La Clínica del Pueblo, Jose Segura marks nine years with this exemplary organization providing a broad range of medical and health care services to a largely Spanish speaking, immigrant population in the near north of Washington. Mr. Segura is a highly credentialed social work professional, alongside work at LCDP presiding at seminars in the School of Social Service at Catholic University, conducting clinical supervision of clinicians, substance abuse counselors, and case managers. He had previously acted as Program Manager with Identity, Inc. an organization working with young gang members in the Maryland suburban counties, and with Mary's Center. Mr. Segura studied under a post- Masters Clinical Fellowship at the Child Study Center at Yale University. He has presented lectures at conferences on depression among displaced youth, suicide prevention, and mental wellness, among other topics.

**REGINA RENTERIA WEITZMAN. M.D.**

Dr. Weitzman is conversant with more than one field of medical learning and has turned her versatile skills to the social and advocacy aspects of medicine, with a particular concern for the victims of diabetic illness. Speaks on the dangerous condition of diabetes, one of the most frequent, and potentially most harmful of chronic maladies. The affliction of the elderly but also of every age group down to the youngest. Its onset is insidious and, once detected, is subject to effective treatments. The signs leading to detection and the course of treatment, the indicated cautions in the everyday habits of life and the perhaps onerous but needful régime of medical attention. Dr. Weitzman's career includes a notably generous component of public education activities, with a heavy schedule of lectures and a never exhausted stream of pamphlets and articles that, quite strikingly, deal with a broad range of medical questions, always with the rare skill of rendering the technically abstruse approachable for those with having only ordinary faculties.

**ROSA E. PIZZI**

Vida Senior Centers, entering its fortieth year of service to Latino elderly in the Washington area, has welcomed Ms. Rosa E. Pizzi as is new Executive Director. Ms. Pizzi, taking the reins at Vida on May 26<sup>th</sup>, is eager and able to propel the achievements so far racked up by the VIDA organization to new levels in service to the older cohorts of the local Latino community. In this early period of her tutelage over the Centers' operations Ms. Pizzi has busied herself forming friendly and productive relationships with the clients who regularly visit the Vida Center, and whose problems are susceptible to the hospitable ambience and the services of these places of comfort, even refuge. The sense for the loneliness, the likes and dislikes, and the habits of each client, once gained, is a reserve, banked against the day a caregiver in a fit of pique strikes the client. Such incidents, if not prevented, call for a sensitive understanding of both the caregiver and the elderly charge, with the hope that mutual acceptance can be built and problems of money and other items freely spoken of and the best route to abating the discords explored. Ms. Pizzi herself is a graduate of St. Mary's college in San Antonio. In study beyond that, she has earned the graduate degree M.A.

in economics.



## CONNIE CORDOVILLA



Ms. Cordovilla, the go-to figure in the AFT organization, has come to be the near indispensable person in Dialogue on Diversity's presentations of its health care programs over the last several years. We welcome her today not only as the supervisor of everything logistical but also as the representative of AFT in greeting our guests and speakers. But aside from these observations, one will soon discover that within the all-business façade is an ardent concern for the marginalized and needy and lonely in our society, and the vitality of the AFG affords an eminently apt way to realize these sentiments in many forms of action. Ms. Cordovilla's title tells the story, Associate Director for Human Rights and Community Relations. She is a member of committees, on the planning boards, and officer for a long list of groups fostering efforts to provide aid and shelter for the disabled, the abused, and the poor. She acts

as liaison from AFT in working with community based organizations on a gamut of social issues – from women's rights, to workplace harassment and bullying, and to civil rights for persons of the LGBT communities. She heads as President the Northern Virginia chapter of NOW and has taken on treasurer's duties in the National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education.

## BETTIE BACA

Bettie Baca, in a role tempered in long experience in our forums and Symposia, is once more at the helm in the morning session of today's

Symposium as MC, measuring out the times for the train of speakers and succinctly announcing each as they come on, and in sum making the train run on time. We are once again honored by her participation, presiding in this 2015 Dialogue program. Ms. Baca is a luminary of the first magnitude in the world of Latino civic concern, not only in the Washington metro region, but in the chronicle of the genuine Latin political consciousness throughout the country. She was part of the founding generation of Latino activists who chartered the organizations that have come to be today part of the country's political landscape, laying out the facts and analyses on the issues that can make for a better life for the immigrant and minority populations of the republic. This founding generation's creations flourish today to take their due part in shaping the political culture of the country, and presiding over the art and language of this ever growing portion of the American social structure. Ms. Baca is a member of the Board of Directors of Dialogue on Diversity and has been a loyal friend of the Dialogue since its beginning more than some twenty five years ago.



## EILEEN TORRES

The tasks of Forum MC are taken over today by the personable Ms. Eileen Torres, who presides over the second portion of the Forum agenda. Ms. Torres is well known among the aficionados of the Latino art of music and dance, having brought these to the rapt attention of a city not so blasé as to resist the fascinations of those very special rhythms and sonorities. Ms. Torres is an old friend of Dialogue on Diversity, having assisted as moderator and master of ceremonies – introducer in chief, timekeeper, and often prodding questioner -- in more than one symposium in the first decade of our presence on the Washington scene. We welcome

her again to the lectern for our panel on women's lives and challenges around the world. Ms. Torres has herself excelled in the intricacies of Latino dance performance, and has shaped a scintillating career of teaching, organizing, mentoring, and writing, all with the passionate purpose of bringing this cultural treasure to the ears and hearts of her Latino audiences, but also to the mainstream population whose acquaintance leads to the delight wrought in the seductive sounds of sights of the Latin art. Ms. Torres has come to be the consummate Latino artist-entrepreneur. Theatrical performances at the Atlas and other venues, concerts displaying every facet of Latin musical sensibility, and her articles and informal lectures on all the above – this is a short catalogue of her achievements, which are still in the making. We hope to keep you informed.



## MERCEDES BLANCO AND CLAUDIA CAICEDO

Finally recognition must be had of two excellent ladies, representing the Maximus organization, (whose head for health care literacy, Mr. Kinte Ibbott, is one of the morning speakers, laying out the story on disparities and cultural competency in today's Symposium). Coming from Rhode Island for the occasion is **Ms. Mercedes Blanco**, well versed in the special problems and concerns of the older cohorts of our society; she stands eager to import to these senior figures in our midst the inspirations, the cautions, and the useful in the lore of the aging science. Her colleague, **Ms. Claudia Caicedo**, of the Washington metro area, also well informed on the concerns and needs of the elderly, joins Ms. Blanco in presenting the program, concurrent to the main symposium's panels, designed for this group, principally the clients of the Vida Senior Centers in Washington, augmented by others for whom these concerns are of interest.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Credit must also be accorded to the faithful crew of friends of the Dialogue who, as our outreach collaborators, have circulated word of the Symposium among colleagues and contacts.

Again, special thanks are due to the many volunteers not named here, our helpers and our valued angels, who have managed the registration tables, the exhibits and display tables, and performed with quiet efficiency countless other tasks that go to make for a successful day.

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## DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY— THE QUARTER CENTURY MARK

Dialogue on Diversity was founded in a series of conferences and informal meetings during the late 1980s, taking final shape in 1990. While the organization was officially established as a District of Columbia not-for-profit corporation in November of 1991, its actual existence and programming date from the previous year.

The present year, 2015, thus marks the twenty fifth anniversary of our chronicle, our efforts, and our accomplishments.

We hope to stage a celebration of this occasion, which if not momentous in the long corridors of history, is at least cause for great satisfaction and pleasure in our own world. We wish to make that celebration one worthy of its object, the continuing work of Dialogue on Diversity.

While plans now are in at best an inchoate stage, we welcome the suggestions, the offers to aid in the planning and doing, and your encouragement. We are aiming at a point in the mid-Fall. We hope the rest, the details and the impetus, will be your ideas.

Ma. Cristina Caballero, President

### *WORDS OF THANKS TO OUR ADDITIONAL SYMPOSIUM SPONSORS:*

While conveying thanks to our principal sponsors, CareFirst and Southwest Airlines, we also wish to express an emphatic thank you to the Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs, whose grant to Dialogue on Diversity enables this program and also the Entrepreneurship Conference and the Domestic Violence Awareness and Immigration Colloquium later in the Fall. Again, our thanks are due especially to the generous hosts for this and other programs of Dialogue on Diversity, the America Federation of Teachers, and its remarkable Associate Director of Human Rights and Community Affairs, Ms. Connie Cordovilla.