



DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY

Over Twenty Five Years of Service to America's Diverse Communities

PRESS ADVISORY

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DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY ON HEALTH CARE 2017 – PREVENTION, PRIVACY, PRICE

Washington, D.C. May 28, 2017 Policy aficionados, legal and health care professionals, and interested citizens were on hand Tuesday, May 23rd for Dialogue on Diversity's eighteenth Symposium on the broad range of issues and quandaries on the frontier of the health care cosmos. The current Symposium, held at the elegant conference area in the Washington headquarters of the National Council of La Raza, was followed as well in real time by viewers on Facebook, courtesy of the collaborating Global Policy Institute (GPI) whose facilities streamed presentations, while terse reports on the fast-paced scenes of policy and technical exposition were going out over Twitter. **Ma. Cristina Caballero**, Dialogue president and CEO, greeted attendees, noting "the advance of information technology in health care and the inevitable opportunities for privacy breaches, the Symposium's task is to bring an up-date of the state of privacy, the perils that threaten it, and present protective steps to shield privacy interests." Welcome was conveyed as well by Director Jackie Reyes of the D.C. Office of Latino Affairs, accompanied by her Deputy **Julio Guity-Guevara**. Also on the agenda was the presentation to **Rep. Raúl Grijalva** of Arizona of the Dialogue's Trailblazer Award.

The top question of the day concerned the ACA and the crusade to abolish it. A panel of three experts – **Jeanette Contreras** of CMS, **Janel George** of the National Women's Law Center, and **Mara Yoedelman** of National Health Law Program reviewed features of the latest proposed successor statute – a diagnosis that was not far off from the awaited CBO report that, in the event, was released the next day. An earlier CBO report had dealt with an original attempted replacement bill. The second round legislative proposal provided, among many other points, for more extensive state-level options (here red flags all around) and an apparent erosion of the prohibition on taking account of the insured's medical history ["pre-existing" conditions]. The CBO estimate in this second round of the number of persons to be added to the ranks of the uninsured in the medium-run, remained approximately the same (23 - 24 mill.).

Principal midday session speaker **Dr. Joxel Garcia**, holder of a succession of high ranking posts in the world of health care administration, now Executive Director of the planning and design function in the anti-Cancer program now famously gathering speed under the general direction of former Vice President Joseph Biden (the heartbreaking death of whose son has furnished the deep emotional commitment that has powered the larger project in public and political support), the forced-draft campaign dubbed the Cancer "MoonShot". Dr. Garcia mustered an impressive array of metrics laying out the ravages of cancer in its many forms (noting the dramatic reductions in the lethality of some of the most dangerous varieties), the specific targets of the most recent victories, and the proximate targets of the research now being aimed at such remaining types as colorectal, pancreatic, human papillomavirus, and numerous others.

A view of the economics of health care was spelled out by **Prof. Paulo von Schirach**, head of Washington's GPI think tank, who pointed out the startling disparities between the per capita expenses of health care in the U.S. and the far more modest figures for every other country, while numerous measures of health care results show the U.S. with little better than mediocre results. The apparent reason for the disparity in cost is a combination of fee-for-service economics and a socially ingrained ethos of destructive dietary practices. One may hope, **Prof. von Schirach** suggested, for a revolution in these aspects of the health care system – the removal of price incentives for wasteful procedures, and the inculcation of a preventive ethos.

Afternoon panels dealt with questions of linguistic/cultural barriers to health care access. **Astrid Jimenez** discussed her many-faceted efforts of Nueva Vida, of which she is Executive Director, in following disadvantaged minority patients every step of the way in negotiating the complexities of the health care system. **Dr. Sergio Rimola** reviewed the complex of health care facilities and the mutually supportive relationships of public and privacy entities in an efficient system, with primary reference to his own Virginia milieu. **Rosalía Fajardo** of Family and outlined the work that organization does in shepherding persons hard pressed by economic, domestic, and private mental health strains. **Martin Mendoza** of the FDA's minority health office discussed the logic of all-important clinical trials and the need for minority subjects; while **Jason Resendez** reviewed the development of possible treatments for Alzheimer's. **Herman Alvarado** of the Ana G. Mendez University offered a sophisticated analysis of learning – a project emerging from family, culture, language, in which research builds knowledge, and that action. **Hilda Crespo**, the versatile long-time Vice President at the Aspira Association, a Puerto Rican oriented educational institute, recounted the battle against HIV/AIDS in Aspira's initiatives.

About Dialogue on Diversity: Dialogue on Diversity is an international network of women, and men, entrepreneurs and professionals, NGO executives and staff, bringing together Latino and other diverse cultural traditions, for exploring Internet Privacy, Women's History, Health Care, Immigration, and other essential social and policy questions that are illuminated at the interface of the varied mind-sets and values and styles of our diverse audience of friends and members.

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