

## **HCIN PRESS EVENT SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

### **California Association of Public Hospitals:**

#### **William B. Walker, Director and Health Officer, Contra Costa Health Services**

William B. Walker, M.D. is the Director of the Contra Costa County Health Services Department. He is board-certified in Family Practice and Geriatric Medicine. He has served the Contra Costa Health Services Department for more than 30 years: as a staff physician beginning in 1974, as Health Officer beginning in 1983, and as the Director of the Department since 1995. He is also a former President of the California Conference of Local Health Officers and the Health Officers Association of California, and past Chair of California Healthcare Safety Net Institute. Currently, he is the Chair for the Association of Bay Area Health Officials and Chair of California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems.

### **California Department of Managed Healthcare:**

#### **Cindy Ehnes, Director of California Department of Managed Healthcare**

Cindy Ehnes (pronounced Ee-nis) is an attorney with 25 years of legal experience, much in the area of health insurance and regulatory law. She served previously in the Department as the Deputy Director for Plan and Provider Relations, as a liaison to HMOs, doctors, hospitals and other providers. Her most recent position was as division manager of the self-funded health plans unit serving 300,000 members at the California Public Employees' Retirement System.

Cindy brings a substantial patients' rights and health care background. She is the author of The Prentice Hall ADA Compliance Advisor, one of two books she has written on the rights of persons with disabilities. She served for nine years as Consumer Representative and Chairman of Colorado's insurance plan for uninsured, high-risk individuals.

Cindy was the Enforcement Director for the Consumer Affairs section at the Colorado Division of Insurance, where she oversaw passage of several patients' rights initiatives, including new rules for patients with chronic conditions and for newborns. She also developed the quality assurance audit procedures for HMOs, and served as legislative affairs director for the Commission on Family Medicine in Colorado. After moving to California in June 2002, Cindy served as the interim executive officer at the California Board of Optometry in the Department of Consumer Affairs.

She is currently serving on the Board of Directors for the California Regional Health Information Organization (CalRHIO), seeking health information technology solutions and the Integrated Healthcare Association (IHA), focusing on pay-for-performance measures for provider groups.

Cindy is a graduate of George Washington University and Catholic University Law School, both in Washington, D.C. and is a resident of Fair Oaks, CA.

## **California HealthCare Foundation:**

### **Sam Karp, Vice President of Programs**

Sam Karp is vice president of programs at the California HealthCare Foundation (CHCF), where he is responsible for leading programmatic and grant-making activities of the Foundation's four program areas: Chronic Disease Care, Hospitals and Nursing Homes, Health Insurance, and Public Financing and Policy.

Previously, he served as director of CHCF's Health Information Technology program and chief information officer. Under Karp's leadership CHCF sponsored initiatives to accelerate the adoption and effective use of new information technologies in health care, and to increase understanding of emerging health policy and regulatory issues resulting from the speed and magnitude of technological change.

In partnership with the State of California, Karp led development of the first Web-based application in the United States to enroll low-income children in public health insurance programs. The program has recently been expanded in several California counties to enable families to apply for a range of state and local services through a single application process. He also spearheaded nationally recognized initiatives to safeguard the privacy of personal health information, and to evaluate the quality of health information on the Internet.

Prior to joining CHCF, Karp served as the founder and chief executive officer of HandsNet, Inc., a national nonprofit technology intermediary. He previously directed a large community health and nutrition organization in Santa Cruz, California, where he pioneered the development of integrated service delivery systems for low-income children, families, and the elderly.

Karp is a member of the Certification Commission for Health Information Technology, an advisory board member of the Center for Information Technology Leadership at Partners Healthcare System and the Tides Foundation Community Clinics Initiative, and a board member of California Food Policy Advocates. He received a bachelor's degree from Washington and Jefferson College.

## **Cisco Systems:**

### **Jeff Rideout, M.D., MA., FACP Vice President, Internet Business Solutions Group (IBSG) Cisco North American Healthcare Practice Co-Lead and Cisco Corporate Medical Director**

As the global leader of Cisco's Internet Business Solutions Group Healthcare Practice, Dr. Rideout works with health care and public sector leaders to help them use technology to accelerate transformation of the health care industry. Working on a non-fee basis, the groups helps customers use technology and business process innovation to transform their organizations and drive industry-leading change.

Dr. Rideout is also co-lead of Cisco's new healthcare industry vertical business group for North America, coordinating Cisco's customer facing efforts regarding networking solutions that improve quality, safety, and productivity of healthcare organizations.

Dr. Rideout also serves as Cisco's Corporate Medical Director. In this role Dr. Rideout provides strategic leadership on a global basis for health benefit value purchasing decisions for Cisco's 65,000 employees and dependents worldwide.

Currently, Dr. Rideout is a member of the US Department of Health and Human Services' American Health Information Community (AHIC) Chronic Care Workgroup, sponsored by Secretary Leavitt and Chaired by Mark McClellan, MD of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Dr. Rideout also represents Cisco on the Board of Directors for the Pacific Business Group on Health.

Previously, Dr. Rideout was Chief Medical Officer and SVP for Blue Shield of California. Dr. Rideout is also a member of the National Advisory Council for the Robert Wood Johnson/IHI Pursuing Perfection grant program for excellence in health care delivery. Dr. Rideout also served as the Chief Medical Officer for the National Health Care Purchasing Institute, supporting the Institute's \$8.8 million Rewarding Results grant program jointly underwritten by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the California Health Care Foundation. Dr. Rideout is also an Advisory Board member for the Health IT Certification program, and is a volunteer physician and Board of Directors member for Medical Teams International, an international medical relief organization.

Dr. Rideout is a board certified internist, completing his residency training at University of California, San Francisco. He is a fellow of the American College of Physicians, is an assistant clinical professor at UCSF and a lecturer at the UC Berkeley Haas School of Business. He received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School, and his undergraduate degree from Stanford University. He also holds a master's degree in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics from Oxford University where he studied as a Rhodes Scholar.

#### **Fujitsu Computer Products of America:**

##### **Joel Hagberg Vice President, Marketing and Business Development**

Joel Hagberg, Vice President, Marketing and Business Development, is responsible for Storage Products Marketing Communications and New Business Development. He brings to the position more than twenty years of experience in computer sales, product marketing, and product management. Joel previously served as Fujitsu Vice President of Product and Program Management. His responsibilities include Product Marketing support for OEM and Distribution sales, future Product Planning, PR, Analyst Relations, Trade Shows and Third Party programs. Joel is also responsible for New Business Development with a variety of Fujitsu Technology Products.

Prior to joining Fujitsu, Joel served with O.R. Technology, Maxtor, Conner Peripherals, Micropolis Core and IBM in executive marketing and sales positions. Joel received a Bachelors Degree from the University of Maryland.

#### **Health Access Foundation:**

##### **Anthony Wright, Executive Director, Health Access Foundation**

Anthony Wright serves as Executive Director for Health Access California, the statewide health care consumer advocacy coalition, working on behalf of the insured and uninsured, made up of over 200 organizations representing seniors, children, working families, people with disabilities, immigrants, people of faith, labor, and communities of color.

Under Wright's leadership since 2002, Health Access has been a leader in efforts to fight health care budget cuts, to expand both employer-based coverage and public insurance programs, to advance consumer protections, and to address the causes of medical debt. For example, his work on hospital overcharging and abusive billing and collections practices led to both to legislative action and hospital guidelines on the issue. Recently, he served as co-chair and campaign manager for the No on 78/Yes on 79 initiative effort, facing the prescription drug industry and the most expensive ballot campaign in the nation's history.

Wright's background is as a consumer advocate and community organizer, and he has been widely quoted in local and national media on a range of issues. He served as Program Director for New Jersey Citizen Action. As coordinator of New Jersey's health care consumer coalition, he ran successful campaigns to win HMO patient protections, defeat for-profit takeovers of nonprofit hospitals and Blue Cross Blue Shield, pass a law to govern hospital conversions and acquisitions, and expand coverage for low- and moderate-income children and parents.

Wright also worked at the Center for Media Education in Washington, DC, *The Nation* magazine in New York, and in Vice President Gore's office in the White House. Born and raised in the Bronx, Wright graduated from Amherst College magna cum laude in both English and Sociology.

#### **Health Care Interpreter Network (HCIN):**

##### **Melinda Paras, CEO, Paras and Associates (HCIN Administrator)**

Melinda Paras is the CEO of an independent consulting firm, Paras and Associates. She is leading the implementation of new language access solutions in hospital settings. Paras is the past Director of Communications, Policy and Planning for the Alameda County Medical Center (ACMC) an independent hospital authority operating safety-net medical facilities in Alameda County. These include Highland Hospital, a 250 bed acute care facility with a level 2 trauma center, Fairmont Hospital a skilled nursing facility, John George Psychiatric Pavillion, and free-standing community clinics throughout Alameda County, California. ACMC has a \$450 million dollar annual budget and more than 3,000 employees.

Ms. Paras oversaw the strategic planning and facilities planning efforts of ACMC including facilities planning and the oversight of the new Critical Care Building project of ACMC. She led the strategic planning activities of the ACMC Board of Trustees, policy and legislative activities, and all internal and external communications of the Medical Center.

Melinda Paras is previously the Executive Director of Health Access a California health policy and advocacy organization. She is also the former President of the ACMC Board of Trustees and a former San Francisco Health Commissioner. Paras is currently a member of the board of the California Health Interpreters Association.

## **San Joaquin General Hospital:**

### **Kenneth B. Cohen, MHA, CHE, Director, San Joaquin County Health Care Services Agency**

Mr. Cohen is Health Care Services Agency Director and Hospital CEO San Joaquin County Health Care Services Agency. Reporting to the County Board of Supervisors, Ken is responsible for: San Joaquin General Hospital, Emergency Medical Services Agency, Department of Public Health, Behavioral Health Services, Substance Abuse and the Public Guardian/Conservator Office. The Health Care Services Agency has an annual operating budget of more than \$450 million and nearly 2,000 employees. Since Ken joined San Joaquin County, San Joaquin General Hospital has improved its financial results through a \$15.1 million hospital turnaround plan, which yielded positive financial results in 2004 and 2005. San Joaquin General Hospital, in conjunction with San Mateo General Hospital and Contra Costa Regional Medical Center was also the first hospital in the nation to implement a video medical interpreter system and multi-hospital network, the Health Care Interpreter Network. Under Ken's leadership, the county completed its first organized system-wide Trauma Plan, and revised the Emergency Ambulance (911) Transportation Plan, including the establishment in May 2006 of exclusive ambulance operating zones.

Prior to joining San Joaquin County, Ken served as Chief Executive Officer and Board Member for the Alameda County Medical Center, where he implemented a quality and financial turnaround plan that resulted in the hospital receiving an unqualified three year accreditation, and nearly \$20 million in bottom line operating improvements.

Ken has also served as the Director of the Riverside County Health Care Services Agency, and as CEO of the Riverside County Regional Medical Center. While at Riverside, Ken received national recognition for the planning and direction for the construction, equipping, transition and opening of an award winning, state-of-the-art, 520,000 square foot, \$250 million replacement medical center on a master planned, 100-acre campus. He also developed an award-winning innovative Capital Financing Plan, comprised of State and Local government and private sector financing, which paid for the construction of the replacement Medical Center through a combination of commercial land lease agreements, which developed related commercial and retail facilities on the campus.

Ken has completed a Senior Policy Fellowship with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/National Association of Public Hospitals. He has a Masters Degree from the George Washington University Medical Center, Washington, D.C., and a Bachelors Degree from Ithaca College. He is a Diplomate in the American College of Health Care Executives and a member of various professional and community boards. He is also a member of the the California Health Care Foundation's Financial Health Care of California Hospitals Advisory Group.

Ken is married to Deborah Cohen and has three daughters, Kimberly, Lauren and Meredith.

## **San Mateo Medical Center:**

### **Nancy J. Steiger, RN, MS, CEO of San Mateo Medical Center**

Nancy is the Chief Executive Officer of San Mateo Medical Center (CA), a 509 bed acute and long-term care public hospital and clinic system with over \$200 million in revenue. During her

tenure, Nancy successfully led a reorganization and \$10 million dollar turnaround while increasing volume, programs and services throughout San Mateo County. Her contributions include a significant culture change driven by the implementation of a workforce engagement program, as well as the establishment of technology innovations to improve productivity and patient care. Under Nancy's leadership, the San Mateo Medical Center was one of the first hospitals to create a remote video interpretation system for patients who do not speak English.

Nancy has also spearheaded several new programs, including the development of a unique Senior Care Center that provides comprehensive, interdisciplinary care for older adults; expansion of the primary care clinics; development of an infusion center; establishing on site MRI services; and assuming management of Burlingame Long-Term Care, a 281 bed long-term care center.

Prior to San Mateo Medical Center, Nancy spent 15 years at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital/St. Joseph Health System, in progressive management positions, most recently as Chief Operating Officer.

Nancy has served on numerous boards and currently sits on the California Association of Public Hospitals (CAPH) Executive Committee. She is also a member of the California Hospital Association, and serves as scholarship chairperson for Women Healthcare Executives.

Nancy received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from New York University in 1976. She went on to complete her Master's degree in 1980 from the University of California at San Francisco. She is the co-author of Self-Care Nursing: Theory and Practice published in 1985 and again in 1995.