

## MEDICAID MADNESS 2013 Speaker Biographies

### BASIC TRACK

#### **9:45 – 11:45 BadgerCare 101**

**Ryan X. Farrell** is a Disability Rights Wisconsin staff attorney in Milwaukee. He provides technical assistance, training, and caseload management to Disability Benefit Specialists located at Aging and Disability Resource Centers throughout the state. He also provides legal back-up for the Wisconsin Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. His practice areas include: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and other public benefit programs. Prior to joining DRW, Ryan worked with the Elder Benefit Specialist Program at the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups in Madison. He has served as law clerk for the Wisconsin Department of Justice, the Dane County District Attorney's Office, and the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Ryan is a 2009 graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School.

**Martin Schroeder** is a staff attorney for ABC for Health. Prior to law school, he worked as a project manager for Epic Systems where he managed hospital teams installing Epic's medical record software. During law school, Martin interned at ABC for Health along with other Madison-area non-profit organizations focused on community health and environmental protection. He provides direct legal advocacy for clients, writing and editing services, and development assistance for ABC for Health's for-profit subsidiary, My Coverage Plan, Inc. He received a J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School and a B.A. from the University of Notre Dame.

#### **11:45 – 12:45 Lunch (meal is not provided)**

#### **12:45 – 2:30 Introduction to Elderly, Blind, & Disabled Medicaid**

**Molly L. Bandt** is the Managing Attorney for the Benefits Team of Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW). This position involves management of program attorney services provided to over 80 Disability Benefit Specialists located at Aging and Disability Resource Centers throughout the state. Prior to working for DRW, Ms. Bandt was employed as an attorney at the Elder Law Center, where she provided legal back-up services to the Elderly Benefit Specialist program. She has also worked as an attorney at Western Wisconsin Legal Services in Dodgeville, where she represented low-income clients in public benefit cases and other civil matters. Ms. Bandt is a 1994 graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School.

**Eva Shiffrin** works as a program attorney at Disability Rights Wisconsin, where she provides technical assistance to disability benefit specialists around the state regarding benefits programs such as Medicare, Social Security Disability and Medical Assistance. Prior to working at Disability Rights Wisconsin, Eva worked as the Executive Director at Fair Wisconsin, staff attorney at the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, and as a legal back-up attorney at the Elder Law Center. She is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School.

#### **2:30 – 2:45 Break**

#### **2:45 – 4:30 Overview of Medicaid Home and Community Based Long Term Care**

**Mitchell Hagopian** is a staff attorney with the Community and Institutions team

of the Disability Rights Wisconsin in Madison. Prior to coming to DRW in March of 2001 he was employed at the Elder Law Center of the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups where he coordinated the ELC's benefit specialist legal backup program. A 1985 graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School, he has also worked at Western Wisconsin Legal Services in Dodgeville and the Center For Public Representation. In other words, no client has ever actually paid him a penny. Mitch has litigated many Medicaid cases; is a regular presenter on Medicaid issues at CLE programs; and coauthored the Medicaid chapter of the State Bar's popular CLE Books publication, *Advising Older Clients and Their Families*. In recent years his practice has also included protective services issues, particularly as they relate to funding issues for protective placements.

**4:30 – 4:45      Questions**

### **ADVANCED TRACK**

**9:45 – 11:45      What the Affordable Care Act Means for Medicaid and Wisconsin**

**Dr. Robert Kraig** Executive Director (PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison; M.A. University of Georgia; B.A. University of Pittsburgh) Over the past 14 years, Robert has played a significant role in the Wisconsin public policy arena. Robert is a leading strategist in the Wisconsin progressive movement, and is especially known for developing innovative approaches to promote health care reform. Robert is leading in the development of new progressive communications models which are more effective and fully integrate traditional organizing with earned, social, and new media strategies. Robert frequently appears in Wisconsin media. He has also appeared on major national media outlets such as Fox News, MSNBC, Al Jazeera, Democracy Now, and many syndicated radio programs, and has been quoted in national newspapers and magazines such as the New York Times, Washington Post, The American Prospect, The Atlantic, and Mother Jones. In October of 2011 Robert was one of the recipients of the Citizen Leadership Award from the Campaign for America's Future. In January of 2009 Families USA, the national organization for health care consumers, presented Robert with its "Consumer Health Advocate of the Year Award." Also in 2009, the Wisconsin State Assembly gave Robert a special citation for his work in promoting health care reform in Wisconsin. In 2007 Kraig shared, with his colleague Matt Brusky, the "Progressive Innovation Award" from the Ballot Initiative Strategy Center. He is also a policy expert, authoring eleven reports on various aspects of the health care crisis, and speaking throughout the country on reform legislation. Robert earned a Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, holds a B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh, and an M.A. from the University of Georgia. He is the author of several major academic articles on American political rhetoric and a well-regarded book, *Woodrow Wilson and the Lost World of the Oratorical Statesman* (Texas A&M Press). The book topped a Wall Street Journal list of the five best books on presidential rhetoric. From 1999-2005 he was the Wisconsin Political Director for SEIU, where he helped develop and win the passage of several policy innovations which enabled over twelve thousand low-wage workers to form unions. He grew up in Oak Park, Illinois, and has lived in Wisconsin since 1989.

**Jason Klimowicz** holds a BS in Electrical Engineering from UW-Madison and a Juris Doctor in Law from UW-Madison. Mr. Klimowicz has been a Program Attorney for the Disability Benefits Specialists program since 2005 at Disability Rights Wisconsin. In that capacity, he has worked with Medicaid, Medicare, and private health insurance laws. He has provided extensive training on the Affordable Care Act since 2010. Mr. Klimowicz was also the Consumer

Representative on the Health Insurance Risk Sharing Plan of Wisconsin Board of Directors from 2009 to 2011.

**11:45 – 12:45 Lunch (not provided)**

**12:45 – 2:30 Sarah Somers, National Health Law Program**

**Sarah Somers, J.D., M.P.H.** is Managing Attorney of the National Health Law Program's (NHeLP) North Carolina office. NHeLP is a part of the Network for Public Health Law. She specializes in litigation and litigation support intended to advance access to quality health care for low income and other underserved people. **Working** with health and poverty law advocates across the country, she engages in litigation, research, writing, and training on the Medicaid program, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Affordable Care Act, among other issues. Her publications include *A North Carolina Advocate's Guide to the Medicaid Program* (2006); *Health Care Reform for Native Americans: The Long-Awaited Permanent Reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act*, 44 J. POV. LAW & POLICY 365 (Nov-Dec. 2010); *The Affordable Care Act: A Giant Step Toward Insurance Coverage for All Americans*, 44 J. POV. L. & POLICY 330 (Nov.-Dec. 2010) (co-author). She is also a co-author of *An Advocates Guide to the Medicaid Program* (May 2011). Before coming to NHeLP, she worked for the Native American Protection and Advocacy Project on the Navajo Nation, where she represented children in special education and Medicaid cases. She is a graduate of University of Michigan Law School, the University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health.

**2:20 – 2:45 Break**

**2:45 – 4:30 Panel: Appeals & Advocacy in Medicaid**

**Sarah Somers, J.D., M.P.H.** is Managing Attorney of the National Health Law Program's (NHeLP) North Carolina office. NHeLP is a part of the Network for Public Health Law. She specializes in litigation and litigation support intended to advance access to quality health care for low income and other underserved people. Working with health and poverty law advocates across the country, she engages in litigation, research, writing, and training on the Medicaid program, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Affordable Care Act, among other issues. Her publications include *A North Carolina Advocate's Guide to the Medicaid Program* (2006); *Health Care Reform for Native Americans: The Long-Awaited Permanent Reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act*, 44 J. POV. LAW & POLICY 365 (Nov-Dec. 2010); *The Affordable Care Act: A Giant Step Toward Insurance Coverage for All Americans*, 44 J. POV. L. & POLICY 330 (Nov.-Dec. 2010) (co-author). She is also a co-author of *An Advocates Guide to the Medicaid Program* (May 2011). Before coming to NHeLP, she worked for the Native American Protection and Advocacy Project on the Navajo Nation, where she represented children in special education and Medicaid cases. She is a graduate of University of Michigan Law School, the University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health.

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Directors from 2009 to 2011.

**Pat DeLessio** has been a staff attorney with Legal Action of Wisconsin, a federally funded legal services office, for the past 25 years. Her current practice includes advocacy, administrative hearings, 227 appeals and other court proceedings in the area of public benefits, including W-2, child care, food stamps, Medicaid, Badgercare, kinship care, SSI and SSDI. In the past her practice also included education cases, complaints under IDEA, expulsions and suspensions. Pat graduated from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1979. Prior to coming to Legal Action she worked at the Oregon court of Appeals, Oregon Prisoners Legal Services and the Youth Policy and Law Center in Madison, WI. She is admitted to practice in the state and federal courts of Wisconsin and Oregon.

**Hal Menendez** is a 1979 graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School. He is admitted to practice in Wisconsin and Illinois, the U.S. district courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Wisconsin, the Northern District of Illinois and the Southern District of N.Y., and the Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit. He is a staff attorney at Legal Action of Wisconsin, Inc.'s Madison Office and L.A.W.'s public benefits priority coordinator. He is the former managing attorney of L.A.W.'s Madison. He has also been a staff attorney with Bronx Legal Services in N.Y., a supervising attorney with the Legal Assistance Foundation in Chicago.

**Kate Schilling** is the Legal Services Manager at Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc., where she oversees the Guardianship Support Center and the Elder Benefit Specialist Supervising Attorney program. She works predominantly in the areas of elder law, public benefits, and consumer law. Previously, she was in private practice near Hudson, Wisconsin, where she practiced in estate planning, Medicaid benefits, guardianship, and general civil litigation. Kate is a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin's Elder and Public Interest Law Sections. Prior to attending law school, Kate coordinated supports for adults with developmental disabilities, and she remains an active volunteer guardian for a woman with a disability living in Madison. She is also a volunteer at high school mock trial events, local free legal clinics, and Wills for Heroes.

**John Tedesco** is an administrative law judge with the Wisconsin Division of Hearings and Appeals. Prior to joining DHA, he was an attorney at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services where he appeared in administrative hearings before DHA ALJ's. For the first 10+ years of his career, John was a criminal trial and appellate litigator and also taught Trial Advocacy at the UW Law School.

**Shirin Cabraal** is a managing attorney at Disability Rights Wisconsin, the Protection and Advocacy agency for People with Disabilities in Wisconsin. Shirin was previously a staff attorney at Legal Action of Wisconsin. She has provided training to community groups, attorneys and judges on Medicaid and Long Term Care issues. She is a board member of the State Bar of Wisconsin's Elder Law Section and a member of several state, county and city committees dealing with disability rights.

**4:30 – 4:45**

**Questions**