

Incenting Value: How Congress Can Accelerate Health Care Innovation

Panelist Bios

1/27/2022



Christopher Elfner, Vice President, Clinically Integrated Network Bellin Health Partners

Christopher Elfner is the Vice President of Bellin's Clinically Integrated Network. In this role, he is driving Bellin into a new payment model where they are reimbursed for the health and well-being of the populations they serve rather than being paid for services performed. This involves contracting in a different way with payers and employers to make value based lives and incentives available to Bellin, and then evolving the delivery system to focus on high quality outcomes with a better experience at an affordable to cost to the buyers.

Prior to Bellin, Christopher spent 20 years partnering with organizations to drive higher impact from their limited energy and time by distilling data to knowledge that drives smarter actions. He has industry experience in Business Services, Distribution, Finance, Healthcare, Insurance, and Manufacturing.



Eric Fennel, Vice President, National Network Strategy, Innovation and Value Based Solutions Aetna

Eric Fennel serves as the Vice President, National Network Strategy, Innovation and Value Based Solutions at Aetna, a CVS Health company. Eric is responsible for leading a range of initiatives to transform the provider network and deliver greater value to consumers through new partnerships, payment models and technologies. In support of this effort, Eric also maintains responsibility for Aetna's Value-Based Solutions strategy, operations and engagement services across all lines of business.

Eric has more than 25 years of experience across a diverse range of health care organizations. Prior to joining Aetna, Eric oversaw operations nationally for Evolent Health's Value Based Solutions group. In this role, he was accountable for the performance of more than 80 clinicians across 10 states, working locally with patients and providers to execute Evolent's care management programs and deliver more than \$30 million in medical cost savings, and guiding the development of Evolent's VBS products and infrastructure.

Prior to joining Evolent, Eric was a senior member of the Policy and Programs Team at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI), which he joined early in its formation, supporting development of CMMI's strategy and leading efforts to build and manage its \$10 billion innovation portfolio. In this work, Eric drew upon his earlier experiences in developing new payment and engagement models at Lumenos and WellPoint/Anthem as well as his work at the National Committee for Quality Assurance.



**Richard Lipeles, Chief Operating Officer
Heritage Provider Network**

Richard Lipeles has more than 40 years of experience in leadership positions in healthcare and entrepreneurial companies. In June 2002, Lipeles joined the management team of Heritage Family of Companies as the company's COO. Heritage provides award winning medical care to more than 1,000,000 people in CA, NY, and AZ. The medical care is provided through company owned staff model medical groups and IPAs. Lipeles has been on multiple Boards of Directors for companies he's invested in through his venture fund.

Earlier, Lipeles was one of the founders of PacifiCare and was there from 1979-1995. In 1987, he became President of PacifiCare of California. In 1993, he was promoted to Executive Vice President of PacifiCare Health Systems overseeing the corporation's managed health care division which included health plans in California, Florida, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, and Washington. Lipeles retired from PacifiCare September 1995.

Lipeles has a Masters of Public Health from the University of California, Los Angeles and a Bachelor of Science in business economics from the University of California, Riverside.



**John Pickett, Regional Vice President II, Provider Solutions
Anthem Blue Cross**

John Pickett oversees the development and management of Anthem's provider networks throughout California for all Commercial and Government segments. John has been with Anthem since mid-2016 and he has been in his current role since early 2019.

John was with Oscar Health until mid-2016, where he brought over twenty (20) years of industry experience to a Google-funded health insurance start-up and, as the Head of Provider Networks, successfully built sustainable provider networks throughout California.

Prior to his efforts and time with Oscar, John was the Network Market Head at Aetna for almost five (5) years. John has also held leadership positions with well-respected health plans and large provider organizations, including PacifiCare and John Muir Health.

John earned a BSBA from the University of Arizona, an MBA from the University of California, Davis and a JD from the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law. While in law school, John clerked at the California Department of Managed Health Care.

John is a current member and in good standing with the California Bar.



**Jean Haynes, Chief Population Health Officer
Bon Secours Mercy Health**

As chief population health officer, Jean Haynes leads both clinical and non-clinical functions toward population health improvement, driving greater accessibility, growth and affordability in health care delivery and prevention.

She also provides thought leadership throughout the organization regarding population and community health strategy to drive community, patient, and business outcomes.

Jean oversees the eight Bon Secours Mercy Health clinically integrated networks across ten markets and four states. These clinically integrated networks provide higher quality coordinated care at a lower total cost of care for Medicare, Medicaid & Commercial populations.

In 2020 the Bon Secours Mercy Health ACOs, with support from over 5,500 participating providers, created a combined \$60.6 million in Medicare savings.

She graduated Magna Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in Science in Nursing from St. Francis Medical Center College of Nursing and earned a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of South Florida.



**Susan M. Huang, M.D., Deputy Chief Medical Officer
Aledade**

Dr. Huang brings a unique combination of Medicare and Medicaid managed care expertise along with extensive community-based primary care and practice transformation experience in the safety net, including 15 years at a large FQHC and is still a practicing internist at a county clinic. She leads Aledade's clinical quality & wellness strategies, developing innovation roadmaps to test data-driven solutions and partnerships at scale.

She has helped launch Aledade's health equity team with first priorities focused on equity data mining, CHC engagement, Medicaid strategies, and addressing hypertension control disparity. Prior to joining Aledade, Dr. Huang served as the Chief Medical Officer of Health Plan of San Mateo, a publicly governed Medicaid and Medicare health plan in California and was responsible for the strategic guidance and operational oversight of all health and pharmacy services. She also provided key leadership for the plan's clinically integrated, innovative programs that addressed complex care, behavioral health, the Whole Child Model, and social determinants of health.

Dr. Huang has also served as Senior Medical Director of Population Health at Brown & Toland Physicians, a large Northern California independent physicians' network (IPA), leading the design and implementation of quality and performance improvement programs, predictive analytics strategies, as well as home visit and hospice care navigation initiatives. Prior to that, she was Chief Medical Officer of a large FQHC—Asian Health Services—where she successfully led the adoption of electronic health records, integration of behavioral health care, and care model and workforce transformation to patient-centered medical homes. She completed her MD degree and residency in Internal Medicine at UCSF. She also holds a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering from MIT.



**Mary Jane Pennington, M.D., President and CEO
Granger Medical Clinic**

Dr. Pennington has served as the President of Granger Medical Clinic for over 20 years, playing an integral role in the clinic's growth, and became CEO in 2019. She also currently represents Granger Medical Clinic on the Board of Evolent Care Partners, a multi-state independent physician practice Medicare Shared Savings Program ENHANCED Track ACO. Previously she served as CEO of Physicians Accountable Care of Utah, the ACO developed by Granger Medical Clinic, in 2013. She joined Granger in 1992, practicing as a pediatrician until early 2020, in West Valley and Riverton.

Dr. Pennington spent most of her childhood in Alabama, then earned her BS from Duke University, and her MD from Washington University Medical School in St. Louis. She initially came to Utah for her Pediatric Residency at Primary Children's Hospital, before moving to Iowa to practice for 4 years. In 1992 she and her husband decided to leave Iowa and pursue options in Utah. They felt that the community spirit and the outdoor lifestyle made it the place that they wanted to raise their children.

Dr. Pennington has loved leading Granger Medical these many years. She enjoys the opportunity to work with many wonderful doctors and other team members, in an organization where the physicians lead the way and put the patients first.



**J. William Wulf, M.D., Chief Executive Officer
Central Ohio Primary Care**

Dr. Bill Wulf is the first physician Chief Executive Officer of Central Ohio Primary Care, assuming this position in 2013. Prior to this role, he served as the Corporate Medical Director of COPC for seven years. Bringing over 30 years of leadership in Primary Care delivery he was a leader among the founding physicians that helped establish COPC, Inc. in 1996. COPC, as an independent physician owned organization, has grown to over 490 physicians in 83 locations in Central Ohio.

Dr. Wulf is a member of the COPC board of directors and serves on the board of Agilon Health. He is also on the board of directors and is the Board Chair of America's Physician Group (APG).

As a board-certified internist, he received his Doctor of Medicine from the Medical College of Ohio. Dr. Wulf previously operated a private practice in Columbus.