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### Health Reform Work Group

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# HEALTH REFORM WORK GROUP



## The GHPC Health Reform Work Group

Policy development and economic analysis have been core competencies of the Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC) at Georgia State University (GSU) for more than two decades. When the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was passed in 2010, GHPC undertook comprehensive efforts to understand and translate the law for local, state, and national audiences. As health reform is once again being debated, GHPC is taking a leading role in analyzing current health reform proposals; building a knowledge base to inform decision making from a systems perspective; and helping stakeholders (government agencies, public health departments, hospitals, and other provider organizations) build their capacity to strategically plan in a time of health system transformation.

The GHPC Health Reform Work Group is a multidisciplinary team composed of faculty and staff from GSU's Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, the J. Mack Robinson College of Business, the School of Public Health, the College of Law, and the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. Team members have expertise in health policy, health care administration, economics, insurance, finance, employee benefits, risk management, long-term care, public health, and law. The work group operates in real time to track the development of health reform and translate and disseminate information to stakeholders through policy briefs, presentations, panel discussions, toolkits, and webinars.

## Current Health Reform Work

The Health Reform Work Group is currently tracking all health reform proposals under discussion at the national level. Using a live tracking system, the group breaks down and compares each proposal by key components shown in the sample chart below.

	PRE-AFFORDABLE CARE ACT	AFFORDABLE CARE ACT	POTENTIAL REPLACEMENT PLANS
SOURCES OF COVERAGE			
FINANCIAL IMPACT			
MAJOR COMPONENTS			
PREVENTION			

With the health reform proposal tracker as a base, the work group:

- Convenes biweekly meetings to discuss new policy developments;
- Authors relevant policy briefs on emerging health reform themes;
- Develops presentation materials;
- Makes systematic and tailored individual and group presentations to interested stakeholders;
- Analyzes information as it emerges using national, state, and local data;
- Creates analytic tools; and
- Performs strategic health reform assessments with key stakeholder groups.

Once a new health reform bill becomes law, the work group will track the implementation of that law, including its impact on the rates of uninsured in Georgia, private and public market responses, regulations, court decisions, and state responses. The work group will use this information to create materials and presentations for stakeholders, partners, and clients.



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## GHPC Faculty and Staff Expertise



### **Karen Minyard, Ph.D.**

Karen Minyard has been the executive director of GHPC at Georgia State University's Andrew Young School of Policy Studies since 2001. Minyard connects the research, policy, and programmatic work of the center across issue areas, including public health, end-of-life care, children's health, public and private health coverage, and the uninsured. She has extensive experience with the state Medicaid program, both with the design of a reformed Medicaid program and the external evaluation of the primary care case management program.



### **Kathleen Adams, Ph.D.**

Kathleen Adams is a professor in the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. Adams has more than 25 years of experience in applied economic analysis with much of her research focused on low-income and vulnerable populations and on Medicaid policies and issues.



### **Leigh Alderman, J.D., M.P.H.**

Leigh Alderman serves as senior advisor to the director of the Georgia Health Policy Center. Alderman provides advice and leadership on special initiatives and sponsor funded projects. Her areas of expertise include strategic planning, health policy research, analysis and surveillance, mediation, and meeting facilitation.



### **Carolyn Bourdeaux, Ph.D.**

Carolyn Bourdeaux is an associate professor of public management and policy at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University. Bourdeaux also serves as the director of the Center for State and Local Finance and the Associate Director for Research for the Fiscal Research Center. Her recent research has focused on cutback budgeting, tax reform, intergovernmental fiscal relations as well as the legislative budget processes and decision-making.



### **Erin Fuse Brown, J.D., M.P.H.**

Erin Fuse Brown is an assistant professor of law and a faculty member of the Center for Law, Health & Society at Georgia State University. Fuse Brown's areas of research and expertise include health care prices, health care markets, the Affordable Care Act, health care competition and regulation, patient financial protection, and genetic research and privacy.



### **William Custer, Ph.D.**

Bill Custer is an expert in the areas of employee benefits, health care financing, and health insurance. He authored numerous articles and studies on the health care delivery system, insurance, retirement income security, and employee benefits. Custer is the director of the Center for Health Services Research and holds a joint appointment in the Department of Risk Management and Insurance at Georgia State University.



### **Ann DiGirolamo, Ph.D.**

Ann DiGirolamo is a director at GHPC and leads its Center of Excellence for Children's Behavioral Health. DiGirolamo provides expertise in research, evaluation, workforce development, and policy related to child and adolescent behavioral health, working with communities and within public health systems to promote an effective System of Care for youth with behavioral health needs.



### **Melissa Haberlen, J.D., M.P.H.**

Melissa Haberlen is an attorney and senior research associate at GHPC. She has experience in health policy research, health law analysis and advisement, employer group health management, health benefits contract procurement and negotiation, human rights law, and project management.



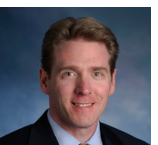
### **Patricia Ketsche, Ph.D.**

Pat Ketsche's expertise is in risk management and insurance. She is on the faculty of the Institute of Health Administration in the J. Mack Robinson College of Business at Georgia State University. Ketsche has done extensive research work for various public and private organizations using the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey data and the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey data to evaluate the existing distribution of health insurance in the population and the effect of policy proposals on coverage.



### **Glenn M. Landers, Sc.D.**

Glenn Landers is a director at GHPC and leads the center's health systems work. Landers' primary areas of expertise are in long-term care and access for the uninsured. From 2002–2005, he co-led Georgia's HRSA State Planning Grant for the Uninsured. In 2004, he led a research project that analyzed the costs and outcomes of Georgia Medicaid's nursing facility program and home- and community-based services programs for the Georgia Department of Community Health.



### **James Marton, Ph.D.**

Jim Marton is a health economist in the Department of Economics at Georgia State University. Marton's research, which combines theoretical and empirical methods, examines the financing of public and private health insurance programs. His work has been published in such journals as the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, the *Journal of Urban Economics*, *Health Economics*, *Economic Theory, Inquiry*, and *Health Services Research*. appeared in the *American Journal of Public Health*.



**Lisa McGarrie, M.S.W.**

Lisa McGarrie is a research associate with the Georgia Health Policy Center's Community Health Systems Development team. McGarrie has specialized experience in behavioral health care systems, including financing, policy development, and evaluation of community-based behavioral health interventions across a variety of implementation settings.



**Susan McLaren, M.P.H.**

Susan McLaren is a senior research associate with the Georgia Health Policy Center who leads the research and evaluation work for the Center of Excellence for Children's Behavioral Health team. McLaren's evaluation projects are related to children's behavioral health, Systems of Care, Medicaid, Georgia's Children's Health Insurance Program, care coordination, program evaluation, and collaborative learning initiatives.



**Thomas A. Mroz, Ph.D.**

Thomas A. Mroz is a professor and a health and labor economist in the Department of Economics, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University. Mroz's research also encompasses economic demography, program evaluation, transition economics, and applied econometrics.



**Chris Parker, M.B.B.S., M.P.H.**

Chris Parker is a director at the Georgia Health Policy Center and holds a leadership role in many of the center's projects related to population health, international health, and program evaluation. Parker is a skilled facilitator who has guided a significant number of multisectoral, state, and local organizational strategic and evaluation plans.



**Tamanna Patel, M.P.H.**

Tamanna Patel is a senior research associate at the Georgia Health Policy Center where she works on the Community Health Systems Development team. Patel's areas of expertise include technical assistance, sustainability, rural health, awards management, diabetes, and enrollment and coverage education post-Affordable Care Act.



**Jana Pruett, M.S.W.**

Jana Pruett is a research associate and leads the policy and finance work for the Center of Excellence team at the Georgia Health Policy Center. Pruett has experience as both a researcher and as a clinical social worker.



**Bill Rencher, J.D., M.P.H.**

Bill Rencher is an attorney and research associate on the Medicaid Policy and Business Team at GHPC. Rencher has experience with hospital financial assistance programs, federal and state health care laws and regulations, the Affordable Care Act, and research ethics. He is a member of the State Bar of Georgia, Health Law section, and his work has appeared in the *American Journal of Public Health*.



**Jessica Smith, Ph.D.**

Jessica Smith is a senior research associate on the Medicaid Policy and Business Team at GHPC. As a member of the team, Smith brings her experience in managing and analyzing Medicaid claims data and large data sets to provide support for quantitative analyses and policy evaluations.



**Angela Snyder, Ph.D.**

Angela Snyder is an assistant research professor at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University. Snyder works with DCH on several projects evaluating public insurance programs for children, including reporting on annual programmatic performance measures for Georgia's CHIP and Medicaid programs.



**Criss Sutton, M.S.W.**

Criss Sutton is a senior research associate at the Georgia Health Policy Center with expertise in community health assessments and planning. Sutton's current work includes community health needs assessments and planning for local medical centers and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-sponsored Bridging for Health: Improving Community Health Through Innovations in Financing.



**Carla Willis, Ph.D.**

Carla Willis is the associate project director of the Medicaid Policy and Business Team at GHPC. Willis leads projects requiring quantitative and qualitative analysis, health policy development, legislative evaluation, and business solutions for the Georgia Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids programs.

## GHPC's Experience with Health Reform

The ACA aimed to expand public and private insurance coverage, improve the health care delivery system, and increase access to preventive services in the United States. To date, GHPC and its faculty and affiliates have researched, written, and produced a series of policy briefs directly related to the ACA in addition to publishing background and general reports for agencies and organizations interested in the impact of the ACA on specific programs. These briefs have been widely disseminated.

GHPC developed a health reform toolkit that included a health reform PowerPoint presentation with notes; policy briefs; the 50-State Health Reform Calculator for Small Businesses<sup>®</sup>; fact sheets with resources and descriptions of the basic components of health reform; and a glossary of health care terms. In addition, GHPC staff and faculty affiliates have given more than 100 presentations on the ACA for stakeholders nationally, throughout Georgia, and in local communities.

## Resources and Publications

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