

PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES: MEDICAID PANEL

Aug. 23, 2011

LANDER COONEY, CEO, COMMUNITY HEALTH PARTNERS

Lander Cooney has led Community Health Partners, a Federally Qualified Community Health Center serving Park and Gallatin Counties, as CEO since October 2010 and previously directed the Livingston Clinic site, beginning in February 2006. Ms. Cooney has been integral in the organization's electronic medical record implementation and development of the organization-wide measurement initiative that guides its Patient-Centered Medical Home transformation work. Under her leadership, Community Health Partners continues to grow and be recognized for excellence in patient-centered care, measurement and attention to quality, staff engagement, and health literacy advances.

Ms. Cooney holds a bachelor's degree from The Colorado College and a master's degree in Science Education from Montana State University.

JOHN GOODNOW, CEO, BENEFIS HEALTH SYSTEM

John Goodnow, CEO of Benefis Health System in Great Falls, has been a hospital administrator for more than 30 years, at a wide range of facilities and with a record of improving finances, increasing patient satisfaction, and forging relationships with other organizations and communities.

Mr. Goodnow earned a bachelor's degree in Biological Science and Administrative Health Sciences from the University of California-Davis in 1974 and a master's degree in Health Services Administration from the University of Michigan in 1976. He became a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives in 1987.

Mr. Goodnow's experience ranges from community hospitals to teaching hospitals. While he has worked primarily in the not-for-profit arena, his experience does also include some work with for-profit entities.

The Benefis Health System includes two owned acute care hospitals in Great Falls, one managed hospital, and an alliance of 14 affiliated hospitals (the Northcentral Montana Healthcare Alliance, NMHA). The Benefis Health System also includes an employed medical group, a senior campus, a home care/durable medical equipment company, a free-standing cancer center, a hospice, and a health club. Benefis Health System also is a partner with Bozeman Deaconess Hospital, St. Peter's Hospital of Helena, and Northern Montana Hospital of Havre in a new collaborative venture, the Montana Healthcare System (a "virtual" system). The Benefis Health System is the largest private employer in Great Falls, with a large service area as one of the state's premier tertiary referral centers.

BOB OLSEN, MHA, AN ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

Bob Olsen is a Vice President at MHA, An Association of Montana Health Care Providers. Mr. Olsen is responsible for government and regulatory affairs, issues related to health finance, insurance, and provider compensation. Joining MHA in 1989, Mr. Olsen is also responsible for the Association's data collection programs and provides advocacy and support for member institutions.

Mr. Olsen holds a master's degree in Health Administration and is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. He is a current member of the Board of Directors of the Montana Chapter of the Health Care Financial Management Association and of Health Share Montana. Mr. Olsen is a past member of the Board of Trustees of St. Peter's Hospital in Helena, Montana.

SHEILA SMITH, DIRECTOR, STILLWATER THERAPEUTIC SERVICES

Sheila Smith is the Director of Stillwater Therapeutic Services, a branch office of Western Montana Community Mental Health Center. Stillwater Therapeutic Services provides mental health services to children and families in Flathead County, the majority of whom are Medicaid recipients. Western Montana Mental Health Center provides mental health and substance abuse services to adults, children, and their families in 15 counties and 22 locations throughout western Montana.

Ms. Smith received her bachelor's degree from Montana State University in 1976 and her master's degree from the University of Washington in 1983. She has spent her career almost entirely in private not-for-profit agencies that provide publicly funded mental health services.