Resilience and Renaissance: Efforts to Rebuild a Healthier New Orleans
Pre-Site Visit Briefing

MODERATOR

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Evangelene Franklin, MD, is the director of emergency preparedness and special projects of the City of New Orleans Health Department (NOHD) and has directed preparation of the NOHD’s All Hazards Emergency Operations Plan. She is a participant in the City of New Orleans Emergency Operations Center (ESF8) in the event of a hurricane or other state of emergency. During Hurricane Katrina, she was co-medical director of the Special Needs Shelter in the Superdome. She and her Superdome coworkers were evacuated to Dallas and worked with the public and mental health organizations in the Dallas/Fort Worth area and with the Center for Disease Control in the Convention Center and Reunion Shelters. Until November 2008, she was
director of clinical services and employee health with responsibility for five clinics including one school-based clinic, Dental Services, WIC, Child and Maternal Health and the Healthcare for the Homeless Programs. She continues to provide leadership in all areas related to health information technology, geographic information systems, (GIS), and the NOHD Web site. She expanded NOHD medical and dental services and integrated granted program services into the clinical setting.

She is co-author of “Excess Mortality in the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina,” (Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness, 2007), has edited and authored sections in Bridging the Gap: Embracing Solutions to Eliminate Health Barriers, NOHD After Katrina 2005-2008. In Getting People Healthy in New Orleans, a comprehensive monograph based on Healthy People 2010, she described the state of health in New Orleans and the Health Department's agenda for change. This document was released in October 2005 due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. She is also the author of a chapter on pre- and post-Katrina health care challenges in New Orleans highlighting the implementation of portable health records in a book entitled in There’s No Such Thing as a Natural Disaster: Race, Class, and Katrina (Routledge, August 2006) and co-editor of Lessons Learned: Successes Achieved Be Prepared for Disaster: Advice from Katrina Survivors (iUniverse, 2006).

Prior to her current position at the NOHD, Dr. Franklin worked as health plan medical director for Aetna and United Healthcare in Louisiana; served as director of Immediate Care Department, Call Center, and Ancillary Services (laboratory, x-ray, physical therapy and occupational medicine) at UniversityMEDNET, a large group practice in Cleveland, Ohio; as a clinical instructor at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine; an assistant medical director, Cleveland Family Health Services; and held appointments to University Hospitals of Cleveland and UniversityMEDNET Credentialing and Quality Committees. She currently holds a special appointment to the Department of Community Medicine at Tulane School of Medicine, is an instructor at Tulane School of Public Health in Health Systems Management, and is an adjunct professor of Homeland Security in the Tulane University School of Continuing Studies. She received her doctor of medicine and master of public health degrees from Yale University and her bachelor of arts degree in biochemistry and certificate in science in human affairs from Princeton University. She is board-certified in internal medicine. Her home in the Bayou St. John neighborhood and those of all of her relatives in New Orleans East were flooded by Katrina. She currently lives and works in New Orleans, writes, and lectures in various parts of the United States.
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Diane Rowland, ScD, is the executive vice president of the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and the executive director of the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. She is also an adjunct professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Bloomberg School of Public Health of the Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Rowland has directed the Kaiser Commission since 1991 and overseen the Foundation’s health policy work since 1993. She is a noted authority on health policy, Medicare and Medicaid, and health care for poor and disadvantaged populations, and she frequently testifies as an expert witness before the United States Congress on health policy issues. Her federal health policy experience includes service on the staff of the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment of the Committee on Energy and Commerce in the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress, as well as senior health policy positions in the Department of Health and Human Services in the Office of the Secretary and the Health Care Financing Administration (now Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services). Dr. Rowland is a nationally recognized expert with a distinguished career in public policy focusing on health insurance coverage, access to care, and health care financing for low-income, elderly, and disabled populations. She has published widely on these subjects and is the editor of several books, including Financing Home Care (Johns Hopkins University, 1991) and The Medicaid Financing Crisis: Balancing Responsibilities, Policies, and Dollars (Transaction, 1994), and is a co-author of Medicare Policy: New Directions for Health and Long-Term Care of the Elderly (Johns Hopkins University, 1985) and Health Care Cost Containment: Lessons from the Past and a Policy Proposal for the Future (Johns Hopkins University, 1990).

Dr Rowland is a member of the Institute of Medicine, a founding member of the National Academy for Social Insurance, past president and fellow of the Association for Health Services Research (now AcademyHealth), a senior fellow of the Brookdale Foundation, and a member of the board of Grantmakers in Health. She is also co-chair of the Public Policy Advisory Group for the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, and a member of the Campaign’s board. Dr. Rowland has served as a national expert on the Governor’s Health Reform Task Force in Louisiana, the Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality, and the Commonwealth Commission on the Future of Health Insurance and Commission on Women’s Health. Dr. Rowland holds a bachelor's degree from Wellesley College, a master's degree in public administration from the University of California at Los Angeles, and a doctor of science degree in health policy and management from the Johns Hopkins University.
Peggy Sparr has been supporting the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in its oversight of federal planning and implementation activities for the rebuilding of the Gulf Coast Health Care infrastructure, since Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast at the end of August 2005. She is on loan to the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response to help him oversee state and local preparedness team.

Ms. Sparr has worked on many different sides in the business of health care regulation and its implementation. Her professional career spans 34 years as a teacher, provider, policy analyst, and administrator in health and human services. She comes to this experience most currently acting as the deputy director of the Greater New Orleans Health Care Rebuild staff, in the Office of the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and before that, as the Department of Health and Human Service’s executive coordinator for the Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Regulatory Reform, in Washington, DC. Ms. Sparr’s education includes an MPA degree in intergovernmental management from the University of Southern California, an MSEd degree in exceptional children education from Buffalo State College, a BA degree (cum laude) in communication disorders from the State University of New York, Buffalo.