



SENATOR SHELDON WHITEHOUSE (D-RI)

U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse has made reforming our broken health care system a hallmark of his career. He founded the Rhode Island Quality Institute, a collaborative effort between health care providers, insurers, and government that has pioneered efforts to expand the use of electronic prescriptions and improve the quality of care delivered in the state's intensive care units. In the Senate, Whitehouse made health care reform the subject of the first three pieces of legislation he introduced since taking office. This trio of bills is aimed at encouraging health quality reforms, building a national health IT infrastructure, and linking health care payments to health care quality. He has held dozens of meetings with health care leaders and advocacy organizations, in Rhode Island and nationwide, to build consensus on health care reform. As a temporary member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, Whitehouse is taking part in the Senate's effort to draft landmark health reform legislation that will lower cost, cover more Americans, and improve the quality of care.

A graduate of Yale University and the University of Virginia School of Law, Whitehouse served as a policy advisor and counsel in the Office of the Governor of Rhode Island and as the state's Director of Business Regulation before being nominated by President Bill Clinton to be Rhode Island's U.S. Attorney in 1994. He was elected State Attorney General in 1998, a position in which he served from 1999-2003, and elected to the Senate in 2006.

Whitehouse lives in Newport, Rhode Island with his wife, Sandra, a marine biologist and environmental advocate, and their two children.

MARGARET E. O'KANE **President** **National Committee for Quality Assurance**

Margaret E. O'Kane is the founding President of the National Committee for Quality Assurance and one of the nation's leading advocates for improving health care quality through measurement, reporting and accountability. With her leadership, NCQA has been widely recognized as a leader in the health care quality field; in 2005, NCQA received awards from the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, the American Diabetes Association and the American Pharmacists' Association.

Ms. O'Kane plays a key role in many efforts to improve health care quality. In 1999, she was elected as a member of the Institute of Medicine. The following year, Ms. O'Kane received the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention *Champion of Prevention* award, the agency's highest honor. She has frequently appeared on *Modern Healthcare's* list of

the *100 Most Powerful People in Healthcare*, most recently in August 2008. She currently serves as co-chair of the National Priorities Partnership of the National Quality Forum, a group charged to develop broad-based consensus around national priorities and goals for health care performance measurement and public reporting.

Ms. O’Kane holds a master’s degree in Health Administration and Planning from The Johns Hopkins University.

SARAH HUDSON SCHOLLE, MPH, DrPH
Assistant Vice President for Research
National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)

Dr. Scholle is responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of NCQA’s research agenda. Dr. Scholle is a health services researcher and previously served as Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh. Her research interests focus on assessing quality of health care, addressing cultural competence and disparities, and evaluating practice systems and patient experiences of care. At NCQA, Dr. Scholle has led a variety of projects to understand disparities in health care and opportunities for addressing cultural competence and disparities in quality measurement and evaluation of health care organizations. Her projects have developed standards for health plans related to culturally and linguistically appropriate services (CLAS), identified innovative efforts by health plans to address health care disparities and CLAS, provided technical support and financial assistance to small practices undertaking quality improvement efforts related to CLAS/disparities, and examined the feasibility of reporting HEDIS cardiovascular disease measures stratified by gender and race/ethnicity. Dr. Scholle has led efforts to develop measures of practice organization and patient centered care, and is currently leading an effort to further refine measurement of the patient-centered medical home.

ROBIN M. WEINICK, PhD
Senior Social Scientist
RAND Corporation

Robin M. Weinick, PhD is a Senior Social Scientist at RAND. Dr. Weinick previously served as a Senior Scientist in the Institute for Health Policy at Massachusetts General Hospital, an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, and as Associate Director of the Disparities Solutions Center at Massachusetts General Hospital. In these capacities, she was responsible for development of the first hospital-wide disparities report based on hospital quality measures and produced a guidebook to assist other hospitals in such analyses, evaluated a 10-site quality improvement and disparities reduction intervention for the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, and served on the Quality and Safety Measurement Steering Committee. Dr. Weinick has a 10-year history of federal service in various positions at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). Among other responsibilities at AHRQ, she

led the development of emergency department triage training materials and a consensus process to develop emergency department crowding measures.

TERESA LATHAM KOCKINIS, PA-C
Physician Assistant
California Coast Medical Center

Mrs. Latham Kockinis is a certified physician assistant with 6 years of experience practicing at a level one neurosurgery trauma center. She currently wears several hats at California Coast Medical Center in Huntington Beach. Her duties include dispensing medications, providing physical therapy, acting as a liaison for patient triage and managing office operations.

Mrs. Latham Kockinis has served on an investigative review board as a scientific member. She has spent a considerable amount of time working with women's homeless shelters as well as rehabilitating teens at halfway houses. She currently lends her time volunteering at local senior centers and provides assistance with blood pressure and cholesterol readings, administers flu vaccines and delivers hearing and vision exams.

THOMAS KOCKINIS, MD
Family Physician
California Coast Medical Center

Dr. Kockinis is a family physician practicing in Huntington Beach, CA, where he has practiced for more than 20 years. He works with a physician assistant who also acts as the office manager. Together, they see an average of 20 patients per day, of which more than a quarter are limited English proficient.

Dr. Kockinis is fluent in Spanish, board certified in pain management, active in the California Medical Association, and a consultant in various organizations that help physician practices implement health information technology. He also participated in the NCQA technical assistance program for small practices, sponsored by The California Endowment, to evaluate the needs of small physician practices in providing high-quality services to the underserved patient population in his office. As a result of that collaboration, he was able to purchase an electronic medical record system that is currently being used in his office to better manage patient care for all segments of his patient population.