



Speakers

Strengthening the Direct Care Workforce: Scaling Up and Sustaining Strategies That Work

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Robert Espinoza, PHI

Robert Espinoza is the vice president of policy at PHI, where he oversees its national policy advocacy, research, and public education division in support of the direct care workforce. Espinoza is a nationally recognized expert and frequent speaker on aging, long-term care, and workforce issues. He serves on the board of directors for the American Society on Aging and the National Academy of Social Insurance. In 2020, he was selected for the first-ever CARE 100 list of the most innovative people working to reimagine how we care in America today and as one of Next Avenue's 2020 Influencers in Aging.



Debra Lipson, Mathematica

Debra Lipson is a senior fellow at Mathematica. She has more than 30 years of experience as a health policy researcher and analyst. Her research focuses on Medicaid and state health policy, managed care for vulnerable populations, and long-term services and supports for older adults and people with disabilities. For the past five years, she has directed a technical assistance project for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to strengthen federal and state oversight of Medicaid managed care programs, health homes, and integrated delivery systems for vulnerable populations. She also recently launched and directed a project for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to develop new quality measures for Medicaid programs serving vulnerable beneficiaries, including Medicare–Medicaid dual enrollees and long-term services and supports beneficiaries. From 2007 to 2014, Lipson served as co-investigator on the national evaluation of the Money Follows the Person demonstration, analyzing state grantees' implementation progress and challenges in trying to relocate elderly and disabled Medicaid beneficiaries living in institutions to home- and community-based care. Before coming to Mathematica, Lipson held senior positions at several research institutes, including the Institute for the Future of Aging Services (now LeadingAge Center for Applied research), the Alpha Center, and the Intergovernmental Health Policy Project at George Washington University. She has published widely in peer-reviewed journals and holds a master's degree in health services administration and health policy from the School of Public Health at the University of Michigan.



Bea Rector, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

Bea Rector is the director of the Home and Community Services Division within the Aging and Long-Term Support Administration in Washington State's Department of Social and Health Services. Rector has worked in long-term services and supports at the state level for 21 years. She is responsible for planning and administering federal and state services for people with functional impairments and their caregivers using Medicaid, the Older Americans Act, grants, and state funds. For the first 10 years of her career, she worked in a large nonprofit home care agency. She holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Washington.



Robyn Stone, LeadingAge LTSS Center @UMass Boston

Robyn I. Stone, Dr.P.H., is senior vice president for research at LeadingAge and co-director of the LeadingAge LTSS Center @UMass Boston. She is a noted researcher and internationally recognized authority on long-term care and aging policy, and she has been engaged in policy development, program evaluation, large-scale demonstrations, and other applied research activities in these areas for more than 40 years. Dr. Stone has held senior research and policy positions in the federal government and the private sector, including serving in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as deputy assistant secretary for disability, aging, and long-term care policy and assistant secretary for aging in the Clinton administration. Her work bridges the worlds of research, policy, and practice to improve the care delivered to older adults—particularly lower-income populations—and to ensure the best quality of life for these individuals and their families. Dr. Stone is a distinguished speaker and has been published widely in the areas of long-term care policy and quality, chronic care for older adults and people with disabilities, aging services workforce development, the link between low-income senior housing and health, and family caregiving. She is a fellow of the Gerontological Society of America and the National Academy of Social Insurance and was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2014. She serves on numerous provider and nonprofit boards that focus on aging issues.



Zulma Torres, Cooperative Home Care Associates

Zulma Torres has worked as a home health aide for Cooperative Home Care Associates, based in New York City, for 23 years. In this role, she provides direct care for her clients and assists with their activities of daily living. Torres became a home health aide as a means to provide for her family, but she soon learned that there is a great need for quality health care in a home setting, which makes her passionate about her work. During her time in this field, Torres has also worked in Cooperative Home Care Associates' home office and served as a translator at a nursing home. Outside work, she enjoys spending time with her husband, children, grandchildren, and other family members, and she loves reading, music, and eating good food.

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