

## **Speaker Bios for CSI Health Care Briefing on 10.15.08**

### **Melanie Bella, Senior Vice President for Policy and Operations, Center for Health Care Strategies**

Melanie Bella, senior vice president for policy and operations at the Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS), leads the organization's efforts to improve the quality of care for people with chronic illness and disabilities, including work on chronic disease management, managed long-term care, and special needs health plans for dual-eligible beneficiaries. Prior to CHCS, Ms. Bella served as Medicaid director for the state of Indiana from 2001 through 2005. During her tenure as Medicaid director, one of Ms. Bella's most notable accomplishments was the Indiana Chronic Disease Management Program. Ms. Bella serves as a health care advisor to the Kennedy School of Government's Innovations in American Government Awards program and is a member of the National Committee for Quality Assurance's Geriatrics Measurement Advisory Panel (GMAP). She earned a master's in business administration from Harvard University and a bachelor's degree from DePauw University.

### **Susan Sherry, Deputy Director, Community Catalyst**

Susan Sherry has over twenty five years of experience in health policy and consumer health advocacy. At Community Catalyst and Families USA, she developed and supervised the organization's state-based technical assistance programs and issue work including tobacco tax coalitions, nonprofit to for-profit conversions, health reform, and prescription access initiatives. Sherry is an instructor at the Harvard School of Public Health where she teaches a course in community organizing. In 2004 and 2005, Sherry was named one of Modern Healthcare's 100 Most Powerful People in Healthcare. Prior to her national work, Sherry was the founding Executive Director of Health Care For All. In that role, she represented consumer interests in negotiations around the 1986 Massachusetts universal health care law, hospital free care, insurance market reforms, and financially distressed acute care hospitals. She was involved in implementation of state health reforms. Sherry holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and a master's degree from Goddard College. She has also completed her doctoral coursework at Brandeis University.

### **Larry Heyeck, Deputy Director, Medical Assistance Division, NM**

Larry Heyeck is currently the Deputy Director of the Medical Assistance Division of the Human Services Department for the State of New Mexico. Prior to working for the State, Mr. Heyeck was employed as General Counsel for Health Care Horizons, d/b/a Cimarron Health Plan, one of the state's managed care organizations. Mr. Heyeck first received his license to practice law in 1987. Since that time, Mr. Heyeck has practiced law: commercial litigation and insurance defense; taught legal and other courses, such as 20<sup>th</sup> Century American History, at a private college in Albuquerque, New Mexico. For the past few years, Mr. Heyeck has performed stand-up comedy at various venues throughout New Mexico, including Laff's Comedy Club and Catch a Rising Star in Albuquerque.