



The Schroeder Center for Health Policy

College of William & Mary

Fall 2012 Newsletter

The Schroeder Center for Health Policy is made possible by a generous gift from Cliff and Lois Schroeder and was established to inform and educate decision makers on a wide array of health policy issues. The Schroeder Center is part of the Thomas Jefferson Program in Public Policy at the College of William & Mary.

Greetings from the Schroeder Center for Health Policy!

We are pleased to share recent news about the [Schroeder Center for Health Policy](#) at the College of William & Mary.

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Marilyn Tavenner, CMS Administrator, Visits W&M

Marilyn Tavenner, Acting Administrator for the [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services](#) (CMS) and Virginia's former Secretary of Health and Human Resources, addressed a large group of faculty, students, and interested guests at the College of William & Mary on September 24, 2012. The event was co-sponsored by Riverside Health System's [Center for Excellence in Aging and Geriatric Health](#) (CEAGH) and the College's Schroeder Center for Health Policy. Tavenner's talk focused on the Affordable Care Act and its effect on older Americans.



Ms. Tavenner spoke specifically about how the Affordable Care Act will:

- save older Americans money through prescription drug coverage,
- strengthen Medicare through the provision of preventive services and by extending the life of the Trust Fund,
- include home and community-based services as a Medicaid option, and
- provide improved coordinated care for Medicaid-Medicare dual eligible individuals.

Following her prepared remarks, Ms. Tavenner participated in a lively discussion, answering questions from the audience about the health reform law's expected implementation and addressing concerns, including those from emergency room physi-

cians who worried about the influx of new patients resulting from the new law without adequate numbers of physicians in place.

Louis Rossiter, Ph.D., a Schroeder Center faculty affiliate and also a former Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Resources, played an instrumental role in organizing Ms. Tavenner's visit to Williamsburg. Ms. Tavenner was Dr. Rossiter's former student at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Schroeder Center Convenes Community Health Data Workshop

The Schroeder Center for Health Policy convened a Community Health Data Workshop for local health and human services providers on Friday, October 26, 2012 at the [Williamsburg Community Health Foundation](#).

The workshop provided an opportunity for representatives from local safety net providers of healthcare and other human services in the Historic Triangle to discuss challenges they face when it comes to sharing and using data effectively. More than 15 organizations were represented at the workshop including Avalon, Gloucester-Matthews Free Clinic, Child Development Resources, and the United Way of Greater Williamsburg, among others. There were also some new Historic Triangle community members in attendance, including Amy Lazev, the new School Health Initiative Program (SHIP) Coordinator for Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools, and Steve Smith, the new Executive Director of Olde Towne Medical Center.



Participants commented on the need to build bridges between organizations focused on clinical care and organizations focused on prevention. They further commented on the potential for additional data sharing and collaboration to improve community health. For example, participants noted that clinical care data might be useful for non-clinical human services providers, and that information from human services providers and prevention programs might be useful to clinical care providers. These types of data sharing could help health and human services providers address the various problems affecting population and individual health.

The workshop concluded with a discussion on the possible merits of creating a Community Health Profile or Community Health Report Card using existing data from sources such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Virginia Department of Health combined with data collected by local health and human services providers.

Faculty and staff from the Schroeder Center for Health Policy at the College of William & Mary (Jennifer Mellor, Scott Ickes, and Elizabeth Vestal) convened the workshop with support from a grant from the Williamsburg Community Health Foundation.

New Funding Opportunities for Health Policy Research

The Schroeder Center is pleased to announce a new Small Grants Program which will award grants of up to \$2,000 to William & Mary faculty engaged in health policy research. The new program will be launched in January 2013 when interested faculty members can find application materials and procedures on the Schroeder Center's website. As part of the Schroeder Center's mission to support health policy research at the College of William & Mary, the new Small Grants Program will increase and enhance faculty-led research in the field of health policy. This program builds on the Schroeder Center's other efforts to support faculty-led health policy research at William & Mary.

In addition, faculty members interested in external funding for health policy research can now access the Schroeder Center's quarterly list of external funding opportunities. These quarterly reports provide detailed information on funding opportunities for research on healthcare information technology, healthcare costs, aging, disparities in health and healthcare, among other topic areas. The [October 2012 health funding compilation](#) includes over 80 grant announcements and is available now on the Schroeder Center website.

New Publications by Schroeder Center Faculty Affiliates

Faculty members working at the Schroeder Center for Health Policy have recently published three new studies in the leading journals of health policy and health economics. Schroeder Center staff member Elizabeth Vestal has prepared new [research briefs](#) that summarize the findings of two studies.

- ["Recessions and Seniors' Health"](#) summarizes new analysis of the link between unemployment and seniors' health outcomes, health-related behaviors, and healthcare utilization by researchers Melissa McInerney, Ph.D. and Jennifer Mellor, Ph.D. One interesting finding from this study is that elderly mortality appears to be countercyclical in recent years, and not procyclical, as many prior studies suggested in slightly older data.
- ["Medicare's OPSS and Hospital Outpatient Volume"](#) highlights a new study by faculty affiliates Daifeng He, Ph.D. and Jennifer Mellor, Ph.D. on Medicare's Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPSS). In the first study to look at the effects of OPSS on hospital outpatient volume, He and Mellor show that the new payment system reduced the reimbursement rates that hospitals received for many common surgical procedures. In response to these rate cuts, the average hospital reduced the volume of outpatient care provided to Medicare beneficiaries and increased the volume of care provided to patients covered by private fee-for-service insurers.

Faculty News

- Louis Rossiter, Ph.D., former Schroeder Center Director and current faculty affiliate, participated in an [eHealth Initiative Forum](#) in Washington, D.C. in



First Lady Carter with Dr. Jensen

August where he gave a presentation entitled “Using Analytics to Support Provider Initiated Pay-for-Performance Programs.” Dr. Rossiter was also recently appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Williamsburg Community Health Foundation.

- Faculty affiliate, Christine Jensen, Ph.D., was an invited presenter at the 25th Annual Summit and Training Institute of the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving in Americus, Georgia on October 24, 2012. Dr. Jensen gave a presentation entitled “Family and Professional Caregivers: Taking Care of Yourself is a Mandatory Job Requirement.”
- Health Affairs, the leading national journal on health policy, recently published in its November 2012 issue a new study by Schroeder Center faculty affiliates, Melissa McInerney, Ph.D. and Jennifer M. Mellor, Ph.D., entitled “State Unemployment in Recessions During 1991-2009 Was Linked to Faster Growth in Medicare Spending.”

W&M Undergraduates Assist Faculty in Health Policy Research

Every semester, the Schroeder Center offers W&M undergraduates the opportunity to gain valuable research experience in paid assistantships supervised by faculty members. This fall, six talented undergraduates are working with faculty in the Departments of Economics, Sociology, Government, and Kinesiology and the Mason School of Business on a variety of topics related to health policy:

Ryan Buckland, Public Policy (2013), is working with Economics Professor Daifeng He on a project entitled *Informal Care Provision for Elderly Parents*.

Maryam Kanna, Economics (2014), is working with Economics Professor Nick Sanders on a project entitled *The Role of Environmental Stress on Early Development*.

Emily Mahoney, Kinesiology and Health Sciences (2015), is working with Kinesiology and Health Sciences Professor Scott Ickes and Executive Director of Aid-Data Brad Parks on a project entitled *The Medium-range Impact of Foreign Aid Allocation on Child Nutrition and Survival*.

Gabe Manion, Public Policy (2014), is working with Government Professor Jaime Settle on a project entitled *Public Discourse on the Affordable Care Act*.

Christiana Sherman, International Development (2014), is working with Sociology Professor David Aday on a project entitled *Community Health in the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua*.

Jyness Williams, Kinesiology and Health Sciences (2014), is working with Business Professor Chon Abraham on a project entitled *Healthcare Information Technology*.

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