

Speakers for the New York CAN Webinar

CHILDREN IN HEALTH CARE REFORM

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Carla Plaza is a Senior Director of Government Affairs and Policy at Voices for America's Children. Carla closely monitors the latest federal and state developments impacting children's health. Her responsibilities include staffing Voices' Health Policy Advisory Group, implementing strategies in partnership with members and national partners; representing Voices legislative priorities to federally elected officials and the Administration; and mobilizing and educating Voices member network about the impact of federal proposals on children's health. Prior to joining Voices, Carla most recently served as the manager for the Health Policy Tracking Service (HPTS). During her seven years at HPTS, she focused on monitoring and analyzing state legislation and initiatives pertaining to health insurance and health care reform, as well as, state efforts to reduce childhood obesity rates. Carla holds a master's degree in public health from Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health in Atlanta, Georgia and a bachelor's degree from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Dawn Horner is senior program director at the Center for Children and Families (CCF) and a research instructor with the Georgetown University Health Policy Institute. She primarily focuses on policy issues impacting child and family health coverage and provides strategic support to the organization.

Prior to joining CCF she served as deputy director for The Children's Partnership. In that capacity she directed key components of the Partnership's research and policy work on health insurance issues for children in California and at the federal level. At the Partnership she spearheaded the creation of Express Lane Eligibility. This program, which increases children's health insurance coverage through linkages with other public programs, included new research, state and national policy development, and on-the-ground implementation. She has also served as United Way of Greater Los Angeles' associate policy director. She holds a Master of Science in international history from the London School of Economics and Political Science and a Bachelor of Arts in history and political science from the University of Southern California.

Since 1981, **Tom Birch** has served as legislative counsel in Washington, D.C., to a variety of non-profit organizations, including directing the policy and advocacy work of the National Child Abuse Coalition. An attorney by training, Mr. Birch came to this work from Congress where he served as legislative counsel to members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives on issues of domestic policy. Birch received the American Psychological Association's 2003 Award for Distinguished Contribution to Child Advocacy. In May, 2006, he was honored by Casey Family Programs for "his 25 years of uncompromising commitment to protect and improve the lives of America's most vulnerable children."

Birch was a founding member of the D.C. Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Children's Trust Fund, and has served on the boards of a number of nonprofit organizations, including Family Stress Services of the District of Columbia, the DC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, and the American Humane Association.