

## Kirsten K. Beronio

(b)(6)

### **EXPERIENCE:**

#### **National Association for Behavioral Healthcare**

*Director of Policy and Regulatory Affairs (February 2020 to the present)*

- Advising member health systems that provide mental healthcare and/or addiction treatment across the continuum of care including inpatient psychiatric settings, residential treatment facilities, partial hospitalization and intensive outpatient programs, and other facility-based outpatient services
- Monitoring and educating member health systems about federal program developments including Medicare payment rules and quality programs, mental health and addiction treatment parity implementation, Medicaid policy developments, coverage of telehealth, and Covid-19 relief efforts
- Developing positions on federal policies, regulations, and legislation that reflect the members' experience and expertise and focus on improving access to and quality of behavioral healthcare
- Convening several workgroups of member health system representatives on diverse topics including challenges faced by behavioral healthcare providers due to the Covid-19 pandemic and new federal requirements regarding price transparency
- Working with other stakeholder groups on a number of issues including development of state crisis stabilization systems and services, implementation of federal mental health and addiction treatment parity requirements, workplace violence prevention, and support for broader implementation of health information technology in behavioral healthcare setting
- Leading the NABH Quality Committee focused primarily on quality measure development for inpatient psychiatric facilities as well as collaborating with other stakeholders on developing an experience-of-care measure for inpatient psychiatric settings

#### **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group**

*Senior Policy Advisor for Behavioral Health (August 2016 to February 2020)*

- Led development of two Medicaid Section 1115 demonstration initiatives: one on improving beneficiaries' access to substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and another on access to care for serious mental illness (SMI)
- Assisted state Medicaid agencies with implementation of these Section 1115 initiatives to improve access to SUD and mental health treatment
- Developed formal legislative proposals for the President's Budget including provisions to --
  - Extend Medicaid coverage for pregnant women with SUDs included in the FY 2020 President's Budget, and
  - Expand Medicaid coverage of inpatient treatment for individuals with SMI included in the FY 2021 President's Budget
- Provided leadership on development of mental health and addiction treatment parity technical guidance tools for state Medicaid, alternative benefit, and children's health insurance program (CHIP) plans
- Actively participated in the CMS Opioid Steering Committee with agency leaders and senior staff
- Advised the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation regarding development of Medicaid models/demonstrations
- Provided technical assistance to Congress regarding development of legislation, including the SUPPORT Act (Pub L 115-271, enacted Oct. 2018)

## Kirsten K. Beronio

(b)(6)

- Represented CMS on various inter-agency committees including the Interdepartmental Serious Mental Illness Coordinating Committee

### **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**

#### **Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE)**

#### **Office of Disability, Aging and Long-Term Care Policy**

*Director, Division of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disabilities Policy (January 2012 to August 2016)*

*Management and Program Analyst (July 2010-January 2012)*

- Recruited, hired, and managed a team of six employees and led them to develop subject matter expertise and a portfolio of research projects on a range of policy issues
- Staffed the White House Interagency Task Force on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Parity; organized listening sessions with outside stakeholder groups, drafted objectives and action steps, developed report to the President on strategies to improve awareness of and compliance with parity
- Compiled a department-wide overview of on-going activities and possible new actions by HHS agencies to improve care for people with serious mental illness (SMI)
- Drafted the economic impact analysis of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) final rule for commercial health plans
- Collaborated with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) on changes to regulations and other actions to increase access to medication assisted treatment
- Led development of a proposal in the President's FY17 Budget to establish a formula grant for states to support early intervention services for people with SMI
- Helped incorporate parity requirements in the mental health and substance use disorders essential health benefit under the Affordable Care Act
- Provided advice on implementation of parity in the mental health and substance use disorder benefits for the Medicaid expansion population
- Advised the Social Security Administration on a development of a demonstration project to provide early intervention services to individuals with SMI
- Collaborated closely with the National Institute for Mental Health to support an Institute of Medicine study on quality standards for psychotherapy
- Designed and oversaw contracts with outside research firms to investigate a range of policy issues

### **Mental Health America**

*Vice President for Public Policy (September 2009 to July of 2010)*

*Senior Director, Government Affairs (March 2001 to September 2009)*

- Developed federal policy priorities focused on Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP for this national mental healthcare consumer organization with over 300 affiliates
- Managed a division comprised of two senior staff and two mid-level staff
- Collaborated with other stakeholder groups to achieve the following --
  - Parity requirement in CHIP
  - Strong mental health and SUD provisions in the major health care reform bills,
  - Protected status for certain mental health medications in the Medicare Part D benefit
  - Repeal of higher Medicare co-insurance rate for outpatient mental health services
- Drafted legislative proposals, comments on federal rulemakings, and Congressional testimony as well

## **Kirsten K. Beronio**

(b)(6)

as legislative alerts to educate and mobilize grassroots networks

- Organized policy briefings for Congressional staff

### **Committee on Finance, United States Senate**

*Counsel for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)  
(May 2000 to January 2001)*

- Represented Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Ranking Minority Member, in Finance Committee negotiations and meetings with federal and state officials and other stakeholders
- Advised the Senator on votes and Committee activities
- Developed and promoted legislation sponsored by Senator Moynihan
- Blocked spending cuts to CHIP proposed in the FY 2001 Labor, HHS Appropriations bill
- Developed legislative compromise to secure passage of the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act extending Medicaid coverage for women diagnosed through a federal screening program
- Advised Committee members on Medicaid upper payment limits for nursing homes and hospitals
- Developed legislation to reallocate unspent CHIP funds among states
- Developed sections of a Democratic Caucus bill to improve access to care through Medicaid and CHIP

### **Office of Paul S. Sarbanes, United States Senator, Maryland**

*Legislative Assistant (July 1998 to May 2000)*

Advised the Senator on a range of issues including health care, Social Security, women & children, and disability issues; wrote floor statements; prepared the Senator for public appearances; represented the Senator at State events (e.g., appeared before the MD General Assembly, Joint Committee on Federal Relations); worked with federal agencies to resolve constituent concerns

### **Office of Frank R. Lautenberg, United States Senator, New Jersey**

*Legislative Fellow (September 1997 to June 1998)*

Analyzed bills; developed amendments and legislative initiatives; met with government officials, interest groups, industry representatives; wrote floor statements, and prepared the Senator for press conferences, hearings, and meetings including legislative conference committee meetings

### **The Wyatt Company** (an employee benefits consulting firm)

*General Counsel's Office, Law Clerk (Summer 1994 and part-time during 1994-5 school year)*

Researched and advised the firm's attorneys on disability, corporate, employment, copyright, and malpractice issues

### **Judge Stanley S. Harris, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia**

*Judicial Intern (Summer 1993)*

Drafted opinions on various motions pending before the Court

## Kirsten K. Beronio

(b)(6)

### EDUCATION:

**Georgetown University Law Center**, Washington, DC

J.D. awarded May 29, 1995; Admitted to the Maryland Bar Dec. 13, 1995 and the DC Bar Nov. 8, 1996

**Princeton University**, Princeton, NJ

B.A., *summa cum laude*, June 1990

Honors: *Phi Beta Kappa*; Rensselaer Lee Award for Outstanding Senior Thesis

### AWARDS:

#### **CMS Administrator's Achievement Award, 2019**

Individual award for outstanding efforts to marshal the forces of CMS to address a major public health crisis: Fighting the Opioid Epidemic

#### **CMS Execution of Major Projects Award, 2018**

As a member of the Medicaid Section 1115 Opioid and Substance Use Disorder Comprehensive Treatment Demonstrations Team

#### **HHS Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service, 2014 and 2015**

As a member of the cross-Departmental team focused on addressing the opioid abuse epidemic

### PUBLICATIONS:

Beronio, K: Funding opportunities for expanding crisis stabilization systems and services, 2021 Series of Technical Assistance Briefs on Beyond Beds, Reimagining a Sustainable and Robust Continuum of Psychiatric Care, National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, Sept. 2021. Posted online by SAMHSA as part of a compendium entitled "Ready to Respond: Mental Health Beyond Crisis and Covid-19".

Beronio K, Glied S, Frank R: How the affordable care act and mental health parity and addiction equity act greatly expand coverage of behavioral health care, *Journal of Behavioral Health Services Research*, Oct. 2014; 41(4):410-28.

Frank RG, Beronio K, Glied S: Behavioral health parity and the Affordable Care Act, *Journal of Social Work in Disability Rehabilitation*, 2014; 13(1-2):31-43.

Goldman HH, Karakus M, Frey W, Beronio K: Economic grand rounds: financing first-episode psychosis services in the United States, *Psychiatric Services*, 2013 Jun;64(6):506-8.

Beronio K, Po R, Skopec L, Glied S: Affordable care act expands mental health and substance use disorder benefits and federal parity protections for 62 million Americans, *ASPE Issue Brief*, Washington, DC: Department of Health and Human Services, February, 2013. Posted by the Department of Health and Human Services on-line at [http://aspe.hhs.gov/health/reports/2013/mental/rb\\_mental.cfm](http://aspe.hhs.gov/health/reports/2013/mental/rb_mental.cfm).

Shern DL, Beronio KK, Minniear CC, Steverman SM: Comparative effectiveness research in mental health: an advocate's perspective, *Health Affairs*, 2010 Oct;29(10):1857-62.

Shern DL, Beronio KK, Harbin HT: After parity--what's next, *Health Affairs*, 2009 May-Jun;28(3):660-2.