

Obama Administration
Key Personnel Related to Health Policy
January 5, 2008

White House

(All WH positions have been accepted and no senate confirmation is necessary)

Chief of Staff: Rahm Emanuel

Background – Congressman from Chicago, former advisor to President Clinton, head of Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC).

Asst to the President for Legislative Affairs: Phil Schiliro

Background -- Obama transition team's director of congressional relations, senior advisor to Obama's presidential campaign, Chief of Staff to Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) and the House Oversight Committee and a policy director for former Senator Tom Daschle (D-S.D.), the nominee for HHS Secretary.

Senior Advisor: David Axelrod

Background -- served as President-elect Obama's Chief Strategist during the presidential campaign, and led Obama's 2004 Senate campaign. Was a reporter for the Chicago Tribune. Founded Axelrod & Associates, a political consulting firm known today as AKP&D Message and Media. He led many successful democratic campaigns. He is married to Susan Axelrod, president and founder of Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy (CURE).

Senior Advisor & Asst to the President for Intergovernmental Relations & Public Liaison: Valerie Jarrett

Background – serves as co-chair of the Obama Transition Team, currently Director of USG Corporation, Inc., Navigant Consulting, Inc and RREEF America II. She is Chair of the University of Chicago Medical Center Board of Trustees. Ms. Jarrett has held a number of political appointments in Chicago.

Director, Office of Health Reform: Tom Daschle

Background – also will serve as Secretary of HHS (see for more background info). Daschle will be the lead “developer” and “architect” of President-Elect Obama's health care reforms.

Deputy Director, Office of Health Reform: Jeanne Lambrew

Background – Senior Fellow at American Progress and associate professor of public affairs at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas. Previously, she was an associate professor at the Dept of Health Policy, GW School of Public Health. From 1997-2001, she served in the Clinton White House. She worked at HHS during the 1993-94 health reform efforts.

Counsel: Greg Craig

Background -- served under President Bill Clinton as Assistant to the President and Special Counsel. Prior to his appointment to that post he served for two years as Director of Policy Planning under Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. Craig also worked for Senator Edward M. Kennedy as Senior Advisor on Defense, Foreign Policy and National Security from 1984-1988.

Associate Counsel to the President: Susan Sher

Background – Sher is currently the Vice President for Legal and Governmental Affairs and General Counsel of the University of Chicago Medical Center. A **cum laude** graduate of Loyola University of Chicago School of Law, she will provide legal advice to the First Lady and work on legal issues associated with health care policy. Sher sits on a number of task forces and committees involving not-for-profit corporations and healthcare, including the Illinois Hospital Association.

Press Secretary: Robert Gibbs

Background – served on Obama's Senate campaign in 2004 and was communications director to Senator Obama. Gibbs was a spokesman for Senator John Kerry in 2003, during the early stages of his presidential run. Graduate of North Carolina State University.

Director-designate, Domestic Policy Council: Melody Barnes

This position is considered part of the economic team and advises the President on education, health, housing, welfare, justice, federalism, transportation, environment, labor and veterans affairs. At this time, it appears this position will be a key person on health policy within the White House. The Bush Administration differed from the Clinton Administration by having two positions that split health care jurisdiction – the National Economic Council handled Medicare, Medicaid and tax treatment of health care; and the Domestic Policy Council handled public health, biomedical research, FDA policy, etc. The Obama Administration appears to be consolidating the health issues as was the case in the Clinton Administration.

Background -- currently co-director of the Agency Review Working Group for the Obama-Biden Transition Team, following a stint as the Senior Domestic Policy Advisor to Obama for America. She has also served as Executive Vice President for Policy at the Center for American Progress and as chief counsel to Senator Edward M. Kennedy on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Chief of Staff to the Vice President: Ron Klain

Background – Previously worked for Senator Biden as Chief Counsel of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Staff Director for Senate Democratic Leadership Committee under Senator Daschle, Chief of Staff to Vice President Al Gore, Chief of Staff to Attorney General Janet Reno, and Associate Counsel to President Clinton in charge of judicial selection.

Director of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Vice President: Sudafi Henry

Background – Henry served as Majority Leader Steny Hoyer's Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor since April 2008, and as Deputy External Relations Director for the Majority Leader for two years prior to assuming the role of Counsel. Henry is a graduate of the University of Maryland and the Georgetown University Law School.

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director: Peter Orszag

Background -- currently serves as the Director of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), overseeing the agency's work in providing objective, nonpartisan, and timely analyses of economic and budgetary issues. Under his leadership, CBO has expanded its focus on health care and worked on dynamic scoring to recognize savings across program accounts. Previously, he served as Special Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and as a staff economist and then Senior Advisor and Senior Economist at the President's Council of Economic Advisers.

Health Care Policy Working Group – Transition Team

Headed by former Sen. Tom Daschle (nominee Secretary of HHS)

- Lauren Aronson - health policy aide to Rep. Rahm Emanuel
- Jenny Backus – Democratic consultant and strategist
- Jonathan Blum - Democratic consultant

- Jennifer Cannistra - Vice-president of Avalere and former Senate Finance Committee staffer
- Mark Childress - Foley Hoag partner; former Chief Counsel and Policy Director to former Democratic Leader, Tom Daschle and General Counsel to the Senate Labor Committee Under Chairman Edward Kennedy
- David Cutler - former chief counsel; and policy director for then-U.S. Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle
- Elizabeth Engel - Obama's senior health advisor
- Dora Hughes, MD – Obama Senate health advisor and former deputy director for health for Kennedy on the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
- Jeanne Lambrew - Senior fellow at the Center for American Progress and former program associate director for health at the Office of Management and Budget and senior health analyst at the National Economic Council
- Terrell McSweeney - Domestic policy advisor to the vice president
- Rahul Rajkumar - Resident at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston
- Gregory C. Simon - former Chief Domestic Policy Advisor to Vice President Al Gore, President, Fastercures

Cabinet Secretaries – (Senate confirmation hearings will begin in January 2009)

Secretary of Health and Human Service (HHS): Tom Daschle

Background -- Former Senate Majority Leader (D-S.D.) - Daschle was an early mentor of Obama's, encouraging the freshman senator to consider running for president despite the long odds. Daschle helped line up support for Obama in the Senate — and after losing his reelection fight in 2004, Daschle sent his key operatives and aides to work for Obama in his Senate office and his presidential campaign.

- **Assistant Secretary** — Not decided
 - Ken Thorpe, Judy Feder, being discussed
- **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** — Not decided
 - Ken Thorpe, Judy Feder
- **Food & Drug Administration (FDA)** — Not decided
- **National Institutes of Health (NIH)** — Not decided
- **U.S. Surgeon General** — Not decided
- **Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ)** — Not decided
 - Carolyn Clancy being discussed to stay on

Secretary of Treasury: Tim Geithner

Background -- currently the president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Previously served as Under Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs in the Clinton Administration.

Secretary of Veteran Affairs: General Eric Shinseki (Ret.)

Background – Four star Army General, 38 year veteran. Best known for questioning the Bush Administration's Iraq war strategy. Retired shortly after the fall of Baghdad in 2003.

Secretary of the Department of Defense: Robert Gates

Background – serves as current Secretary of Defense (since 2006). Former Director of the CIA.

- **Assistant Secretary for Defense, Health Affairs and Director, TriCARE Management Activity (TMA)** – TBA

Secretary of Labor: Honorable Hilda Solis (CA)

Background – Solis was elected in 2000 to represent California's 32nd Congressional District in the House of Representatives and currently sits on the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Prior to her election to Congress, Rep. Solis served in both the California State Assembly and State Senate: in the State Senate, she chaired the Industrial Relations Committee.

Secretary of State: Honorable Hillary Clinton

Background – Current senator from New York. Current chair of the Senate HELP Committee's Working Group on Insurance Coverage.

Department of Justice/Attorney General – Eric Holder

Background – Holder served as Deputy Attorney General in the Department of Justice in the Clinton Administration from 1997 to 2001. A graduate of the Columbia School of Law, Holder is a partner at Covington & Burling LLP.