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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Six Medicaid Directors Selected for *Medicaid Leadership Institute*

Initiative enhances the leadership capacity of Medicaid directors to deliver high-quality, cost-effective health care services.

Hamilton, NJ, July 9, 2012 – The Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) today announced that six Medicaid directors have been chosen to participate as fellows in the 2013 class of the *Medicaid Leadership Institute*. CHCS directs this RWJF-funded initiative to build the capacity of Medicaid directors to transform their programs into national models for accessible, cost-effective care.

With the potential addition of up to 17 million new beneficiaries in 2014, Medicaid is poised to become the largest health care purchaser in the U.S., representing roughly one quarter of the nation’s population. More than ever, Medicaid directors will have tremendous opportunities to leverage their purchasing power to influence improvements in health care quality, delivery and value.

“Medicaid directors are ideally positioned to lead the way in reforming our health care system,” said Andy Hyman, JD, senior program officer and coverage team director at RWJF. “We are proud to support the professional development of these dedicated leaders who are guiding efforts to deliver high quality, cost-effective health care for millions of Americans.”

Medicaid directors competitively selected to participate in the unique executive leadership development program are:

- Andrew Allison, PhD, Arkansas
- Suzanne Brennan, Colorado
- Mark Schaefer, PhD, Connecticut
- Linda Elam, PhD, District of Columbia
- Julian Harris, MD, Massachusetts
- Cynthia Jones, Virginia

The 2013 class of the *Medicaid Leadership Institute* is the fourth group of Medicaid directors chosen for this prestigious executive training program. Since 2009, directors from 17 states serving nearly 33 million beneficiaries – roughly 53 percent of the national Medicaid population -- have participated in the year-long curriculum. The program is managed by CHCS and directed by Carolyn Ingram, senior vice president at CHCS and former New Mexico Medicaid director.

“Each of these six Medicaid directors is essentially the CEO of one of the largest health insurers in his or her state. We are excited to work with these executives who are passionate about maximizing the value of their programs for millions of beneficiaries,” said Ms. Ingram. “The Medicaid directors chosen bring a diverse array of experiences to the *Institute* and will collectively spur each other to take full advantage of opportunities to transform the nation’s health care safety net.”

The 12-month *Institute* is designed to enhance the strategic thinking, substantive knowledge, individual leadership, and technical skills that directors need to effectively lead and foster innovation in their state Medicaid programs. For more information about the *Medicaid Leadership Institute*, visit www.medicaidleaders.org.

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About the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation focuses on the pressing health and health care issues facing our country. As the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all Americans, the Foundation works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful and timely change. For 40 years the Foundation has brought experience, commitment, and a rigorous, balanced approach to the problems that affect the health and health care of those it serves. When it comes to helping Americans lead healthier lives and get the care they need, the Foundation expects to make a difference in your lifetime.

About the Center for Health Care Strategies

The Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) is a nonprofit health policy resource center dedicated to improving health care access and quality for low-income Americans. CHCS works with state and federal agencies, health plans, providers, and consumer groups to develop innovative programs that better serve people with complex and high-cost health care needs. Its program priorities are: enhancing access to coverage and services; improving quality and reducing racial and ethnic disparities; integrating care for people with complex and special needs; and building Medicaid leadership and capacity.