

Gary J. Rost

Executive Director of Savannah Business Group on Healthcare Cost Management Inc.

Gary Rost is the Executive Director of Savannah Business Group on Healthcare Cost Management Inc. and its subsidiaries; SBG Preferred Health Resources and Savannah Health Alliance, located in Savannah, Georgia. The Coalition has twenty seven member employers representing over 45,000 lives. Savannah Business Group on Health is active in programs that improve employee health; such as Leapfrog, Bridges to Excellence, Georgia EHR Partnership, Savannah HIE Team, and other local pay for performance programs. SBG Preferred Health Resources is the contracting arm of the Coalition. SBG's programs include a PPO (using a direct to provider contracting model), a PBM, an EAP, and other contracts.

Savannah Health Alliance is the Coalition's multi stake holder community health improvement program and has been recognized by HHS as a Community Leader for Value-driven Health Care.

Gary has been with SBG since 1993 and has been Executive Director since 2001. Prior to joining SBG Gary spent 20 years in the US Army.

Gary serves as a member of the Georgia Diabetes and Obesity Project Steering Committee; is a member of the Georgia Hospital Association's Partnership for and Health Accountability Advisory Council; is the Savannah Region Leapfrog Group coordinator, and serves on the National Business Coalition on Health's Board of Governors and Chairs the NBCH Value Based Purchasing Committee.

Gary and his wife Debra live in Guyton, Georgia and have been married for thirty-four years. They have four children and nine grandchildren.

Diane Z. Weems, M.D.

Chair, Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council (CCSNPC)
Chief Medical Officer, Chatham County Health Department

Dr. Diane Weems has served as Chair of the Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council since its inception in 2004. The Council serves as a countywide collaborative planning group created to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the health care delivery system to better meet the needs of the uninsured and underinsured in our area. Dr. Weems is also the Chief Medical Officer for the Coastal Health District, an eight county public health region spanning the coast of Georgia, Administrator for the Chatham County Health Department, and a Board Certified Pediatrician. As a representative of public health, Dr. Weems is viewed as a neutral convener of the Council.

In her position as Chair of the Safety Net Planning Council, Dr. Weems facilitates communication between contributing partners and oversees the daily work of the Council. She has provided leadership to the Council as it transitioned to a private non-profit organization in 2007. The Council, representing key community stakeholders and safety net providers, has adopted the goal of establishing a community health information exchange and seeks to develop a model of HIE which will be sustainable, scalable, and replicable while encouraging patient accountability. The Council is a current recipient of a Department of Community Health (DCH) Health Information Exchange (HIE) Pilot Program grant.

In addition to her position at the Chatham County Health Department and Safety Net Planning Council, Dr. Weems currently serves as medical director for the Chatham County Health Department Laboratory; champion for Step Up! (Savannah's poverty reduction initiative) and serves on several community boards. She is the recipient of numerous professional awards including the Georgia Medical Society's "Health Care Hero Award". She is a member of the Georgia Medical Society, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Georgia Public Health Association, the American Public Health Association, a member and delegate to the Medical Association of Georgia, and past-president of the Florida Pediatric Alumni Association.

Charles D. Kennedy, M.D.

Vice President, Health Information Technology & Research,
WellPoint, Inc.

Charles D. Kennedy, MD is the Vice President of Health Information Technology & Research for WellPoint, Inc. Dr. Kennedy is responsible for clinical informatics capabilities for WellPoint Inc. He has led the expansion of WellPoint capabilities into Outcomes Research, Clinical Research, and drug safety studies. He has led WellPoint's acquisitions of key companies such as HealthCore, an outcomes and clinical research company, has developed strategic partnerships with Informatics vendors such as Resolution Health Inc., and has developed business relationships with point of care vendors such as AllScripts, Zix Corp., RelayHealth, McKesson, and many others. Dr. Kennedy has also led internal initiatives to deploy Informatics solutions including the development of clinical effectiveness reporting for employer groups, the deployment of new services such as claims based electronic medical record solution for emergency rooms (a pilot in St. Louis), and is the architect of various E-prescribing initiatives for WellPoint. Dr. Kennedy is a recognized expert in the emerging area of Health Information Technology and serves in a leadership capacity on multiple industry collaborative including a founding commissioner for the Certification Commission for Health Information Technology, Board member on the National Alliance for Health Information Technology and a Board member of CalRHIO.

Dr. Kennedy holds a Master of Business Administration from Stanford University and a Bachelor of Science in Genetics from University of California at Berkeley. He completed his Internship and Residency at Highland General Hospital in Oakland, California. Dr. Kennedy has been featured and quoted in multiple industry articles including *The Industry Standard*, *Modern Healthcare*, and others. Focus of the articles includes the application of technology and the Internet to selected health insurance operational challenges.

James R. Morrow, M.D.

Vice President of North Fulton Family Medicine and
Chairman of the Georgia Electronic Health Record Partnership

Dr. Morrow is currently VP and CIO of North Fulton Family Medicine, a twelve-doctor, ten PA, four-location family practice in metro-Atlanta. Winner of a 2004 HIMSS Primary Care Davies Award for Implementation of an EHR, Dr. Morrow was also recognized as the 2006 Physician IT Leader of the Year by HIMSS at their Annual Conference in New Orleans in February, 2007. Dr. Morrow recently was reappointed as a commissioner to the Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology (CCHIT) and also served HIMSS as a member of the Ambulatory Davies Selection Committee, the Ambulatory Information Systems Steering Committee, the Katrina's Phoenix Task Force, and chairman of the Practice Leadership Task Force. He also serves as HIT mentor to the Common Ground Clinic in the greater New Orleans area, a free clinic started post-Katrina to care for the indigent in that area.

Dr. Morrow is on the board of directors of the Physician's Institute for Excellence, the Georgia Health Information Exchange, and the Georgia State Chapter of HIMSS. In 2005, he founded a healthcare consulting firm, *Healthcare Quality Technology & Research, Inc.* and is developing clients involved in the implementation and advancement of healthcare information technology. Expanding his role in promoting use of healthcare information technology and electronic medical records, Dr. Morrow is involved with the Center for Health Transformation, serves on its e-Prescribing Workgroup and has authored op-ed articles with the Center. He has presented to national audiences at HIMSS Annual Conference, National Health IT Day in Washington, D.C., and the World Healthcare Congress, also in D.C.

Most recently, Dr. Morrow has taken on the challenge of chairman of the Georgia State EHR Partnership Workgroup, working with the governor's Health Information Technology and Transparency Board to recruit physicians for Georgia's participation in CMS's EHR Demonstration Project. Dr. Morrow lives in Cumming, Georgia, with wife, Kim, and children Lyndsay, 15 and Nicholas, 12, along with Golden Retrievers Cooper and Gordon. In his spare time, he enjoys tailgating at Clemson football, woodworking, landscaping, boating, playing jazz guitar and piano, and writing.

Mark LaBorde, CEBS
President, Aetna Small and Middle Market Business
Southeast Region

Mark is the President of Aetna Small and Middle Market Business for the Southeast Region. In this role, he is responsible for the region's business, including sales, and profit and loss, as well as coordinating services among product development, underwriting, finance and actuarial to serve local businesses.

Prior to his current position, Mark was the Senior Vice President of Sales for the Southeast region. In this role, he was responsible for new business sales and account management activities for clients with 2 to 3,000 employees. During his 21 year career with Aetna, Mark has held a variety of field and corporate positions. They include Account Executive, Group School Instructor, Director of Sales and Customer Relations in Georgia, and General Manager of our Key Account segment in the Southeast region.

Mark graduated from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. He holds a Certified Employee Benefit Specialist (CEBS) designation from the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans, in conjunction with the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania.

Healthcare Accomplishments of Speaker Newt Gingrich

Since retiring from Congress, Newt Gingrich has worked extensively on the issues of health and healthcare, devoting the majority of his time to advocating a transformation of the entire system. In 2003, he founded the [Center for Health Transformation](#), a collaboration of public and private sector leaders dedicated to the creation of a 21st Century Intelligent Health System that saves lives and saves money.

Honored most recently by *Modern Healthcare's* annual poll as the 5th Most Powerful Person in Healthcare for 2006, Newt Gingrich is widely recognized as a transformational leader, unparalleled in his ability to create and lead successful large-scale change. As the architect of the Contract with America, he led the Republican Party to victory in 1994, capturing the majority in the U.S. House for the first time in forty years. Under his leadership, Congress passed transformational legislation including welfare reform, the first balanced budget in a generation, funding to strengthen our defense capabilities, and the first tax cuts in sixteen years. During his twenty years in Congress, Speaker Gingrich was committed to improving America's healthcare system, co-chairing the Republican Task Force on Health for four years prior to becoming Speaker. Under his leadership as Speaker, Medicare was improved, investment in medical research was dramatically increased, and FDA reform was enacted to allow for quicker approval and access to new medicines for those with terminal and degenerative illnesses.

The Washington Times called him "the indispensable leader" and *Time* magazine, in naming him Man of the Year for 1995, said, "Leaders make things possible. Exceptional leaders make them inevitable. Newt Gingrich belongs in the category of the exceptional."

Mr. Gingrich is currently a member of the Advisory Board for the Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research and sits on the Board of Regents at the National Library of Medicine. In addition, he co-chairs the National Commission for Quality Long Term Care. He has received numerous health and healthcare honors and awards, including:

- 1995 March of Dimes Georgian of the Year
- 1996 Georgia Breast Cancer Coalition Honoree
- 1996 Mental Health Association Advocacy Award
- 1997 Juvenile Diabetes Foundation Advocate of the Year
- 1998 American Association of Endocrinologists Patients Advocate of the Year
- 1998 American Diabetes Association Charles Best Medal (highest non-medical award bestowed by the ADA)
- 1998 National Association of Community Health Centers Diabetes Healthcare Advocate of the Year
- 2001 Science Coalition's Science Pioneer Award

- 2005 NCQA Health Quality Award (National Committee for Quality Assurance)
- 2005 National Minority Health Month Foundation Award for outstanding contributions to elimination of diabetes
- 2005 Louis Sullivan Award for his leadership and advocacy for the rapid adoption of health information technology (WEDI, the Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange)
- 2005 HIMSS Advocacy Award for his leadership advancing information and management systems for the betterment of human health
- 2006 National Hispanic Youth Initiative Award for Leadership

Speaker Gingrich has authored numerous health publications, columns and books, including Saving Lives and Saving Money, which describes the vision and principles of the Center for Health Transformation. His book Winning the Future includes key chapters on health and healthcare, based on his work at The Center. Speaker Gingrich and Center for Health Transformation CEO and President Nancy Desmond published The Art of Transformation in 2007, and 2008 brings another publication, Real Change, which devotes a chapter to the necessary changes in today's healthcare system.