

Catherine Hess, MSW, has over twenty-five years of senior and executive level state and national health policy experience. Currently she is a Senior Program Director at the National Academy for State Health Policy, where she develops and implements programs in areas that currently include high performance health systems; community health safety nets and linkages; and child health coverage, including SCHIP and cover all children initiatives. Before joining NASHP in 2005, Ms. Hess was the first Executive Director of the national Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP), a position she held for fourteen years. Ms. Hess and AMCHP have been the recipients of numerous awards, including the first HHS *Dr. Vince L. Hutchins Partnership Award* to Ms. Hess in 2001. From 2002 to 2005 Ms. Hess worked as an independent health policy consultant to clients that included the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the National Institute for Health Care Management, the United Hospital Fund, the New York Academy of Medicine, the Lewin Group, Health Systems Research and state health agencies. She holds adjunct faculty appointments at both Johns Hopkins and George Washington Universities' schools of public health. In the 1980's, Ms. Hess served as Director of the Policy Office for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Division of Family Health. While there, she staffed and wrote the report for the state's Task Force on Prevention of Infant Mortality which resulted in the country's first state financed maternity care insurance program, Healthy Start. Ms. Hess graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Rochester (1976) and has a Master of Social Work (1980) from the Boston University School of Social Work.