



2008 FAH Public Policy Conference and Business Exposition

March 2-5, 2008 . . . Marriott Wardman Park Hotel . . . Washington, D.C.

Nearly 1500 attendees representing hospital management companies, Group Purchasing Organizations (GPOs), Integrated Delivery Networks (IDNs), and hospital supplier companies gathered in early March in Washington, D.C., for the Federation of American Hospitals' 2008 Public Policy Conference and Business Exposition. This year's attendance represented the largest number of attendees in approximately a decade.

On Monday, the meeting began with an insightful, informative and entertaining keynote address about the Washington political scene and the 2008 Presidential campaigns by Tony Snow, former White House Press Secretary. The Monday morning session also recognized Dennis Robb, Senior Vice President of Supply Chain Management, The Health Alliance of Greater Cincinnati, as the recipient of the 2008 Corris Boyd Leadership and Diversity Award.

During Tuesday morning's plenary session, we heard from Keith Hennessey, Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and Director of the National Economic Council, The White House. We also heard from two of the most prominent health policy leaders on Capitol Hill: U.S. Senator Orrin G. Hatch (R-UT) and U.S. Senator John D. Rockefeller (D-WV), both of whom are advocates for improving health care and expanding health care coverage.

Tuesday's plenary session also included a panel discussion on "Health Policy and the Presidential Candidates: Where Do They Stand?" Two of the nation's leading health care economists, Joseph R. Antos, Wilson H. Taylor Scholar, Healthcare Retirement Policy, American Enterprise Institute, and Kenneth E. Thorpe, Ph.D., Robert W. Woodruff Professor and Chair, Emory University Rollins School of Public Health, offered their perspectives about health reform proposals offered by the eventual Democratic and Republican Presidential nominees.

The closing breakfast on Wednesday featured CMS Acting Administrator Kerry Weems. Mr. Weems discussed several key regulatory issues of interest to our industry.

And, as always, throughout the meeting, the FAH Business Exposition served as an invaluable forum for hospital executives and buyers to meet face-to-face with suppliers and to network with both current and potential customers.

Clearly, for many reasons, it was a compelling time to be in Washington. We hope that you found our annual conference to be informative, productive and entertaining, and we look forward to seeing you again in 2009.

The 2009 FAH Public Policy Conference and Business Exposition is scheduled for March 1-5, 2009, at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C. For further information, please contact Bonnie Money Penny at (501) 661-9555 or by email at bmoneypenny@fah.org.