

Winston Fellowship Weekly Report
Week 3: July 5 – July 7

Wednesday, July 5

John Rigg, Former Winston Fellow and Director of HRSA Office of Policy Analysis (current White House Leadership Fellow):

We met John for lunch and had a casual, upbeat conversation about his unique work experiences and path forward. We bonded over his current transition as a White House fellow back to other work. John provided sound and consistent advice for how to think about the fellowship and our future placement in the context of where we might want to go afterward. We also discussed briefly the role of HRSA and his office within HRSA.

Dr. Robert Moffit, Senior Fellow, Heritage Foundation:

Dr. Moffit began our conversation with the historical context for the current healthcare market in America (e.g. World War II and wage freezes) and some of the major challenges of controlling costs (e.g. third party payment). Although we knew about these stories already, I think our conversation with Dr. Moffit overall provided valuable insight into the conservative perspective on current challenges and solutions. By the end, we were able to ask some detailed questions about his views on current insurance coverage issues, such as the individual mandate and Medicaid, and his responses were refreshingly candid.

Thursday, July 6

Charlene MacDonald, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the House Minority Whip:

We still received some unique insight that we should explore as we move through the fellowship. She discussed, for example, her time on the budget committee, which we have heard little about thus far. In terms of placement advice, she emphasized to keep in mind the member would be in the top position of our committee. We also discussed some routine questions regarding the differences between leadership offices and committee staff, as well as her predictions on the Senate health bill. Within the budget committee, she recommended we speak with Diana Meredith.

KT Kramer and Leif Brierly, former fellows:

We had another casual lunch with KT and Leif. In hindsight, our conversation with them was uniquely instructive because of the amount of time they have had since their fellowship – long enough to transition to new things since their first job out from the placement, but their fellowship experience was still very recent. I specifically enjoyed hearing about KT's work, which piqued my interest in learning more about working on state-level issues and public health. I intend to follow up to discuss her work more in-depth.

Wendell Primus, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the House Minority Leader:

We revisited Wendell to speak with him about Rachel's work on hospice care and live discharges. Wendell asked some tough questions but Rachel did well. I thought it was interesting to see how he formulated the very beginnings of a policy idea in real time.

Friday, July 7

Andrew Roszack, Senior Director, Child Care Aware of America:

Rachel and I had a long lunch with Andrew and a great conversation. Andrew's career progression from firefighter to work on preparedness and childcare was really interesting and much different than other fellows. We both enjoyed learning about his various job opportunities (e.g. running emergency preparations for the Super Bowl). We also had the opportunity to learn a lot more about two subjects about which we are not as familiar (preparedness and child care), which is such a valuable component of the fellowship. He gave us a few suggestions of people to meet in areas we may want to explore more, such as the CDC, FDA, Department of Transportation, and Pharma.

Keith Fontenot, Managing Director of Government Relations and Public Policy, Hooper Lundy and Bookman PC:

We were fortunate to have some of the most informative, casual, and welcoming meetings of the fellowship thus far in the short week after the 4th of July weekend. Keith was no exception. He seemed determined to help connect us in any direction he could, based on our policy interests, in order to enrich our experience. Hopefully we can find the time to see all of the people he recommended. In addition to personal advice about the fellowship and who to meet, we also learned a lot about the role of OMB and CBO in the policymaking process (such as the "healthy tension" that exists between "policy people and budget people"). Further, we also received some memorable notes from his time working in the White House under Obama.