

Massachusetts Local Public Health Infrastructure: Protecting Public Health and Preparing for the Next Pandemic

Speaker bios:

Philip W. Johnston, Chairman, Massachusetts Health Policy Forum

Philip W. Johnston is the President and Founder of Johnston Associates, LLC, a communications and public affairs consulting firm founded in 1996. Phil began his career by founding and serving as Executive Director of the Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps, one of the top juvenile justice and social services agencies in the country.

In 1984, Governor Michael S. Dukakis appointed Phil the Secretary of Health and Human Services in Massachusetts. In 1991, Phil served as the Executive Director of Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, in Washington, D.C. In 1992, he was appointed by President Clinton to serve as the New England Administrator of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He served in that role until 1996 when he became a Democratic candidate for the US Congress in the 10th District of Massachusetts.

In 2002, he was appointed to Chair the Board of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation. He has served on many Boards including Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, University of Massachusetts and Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights. Phil is the Board Chair of the Massachusetts Health Policy Forum, an organization funded by Massachusetts health providers and payors, which serves both as a health policy research organization and as a convener of key players in the health field to address health policy issues confronting the state and the nation. The Forum is affiliated with Brandeis University.

Phil received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst (Honors in History) and a Master of Arts degree from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Senator Joanne Comerford

Senator Joanne Comerford is the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Health, Massachusetts State House. She represents the Hampshire, Franklin, Worcester district in the State Senate. Jo previously worked for the Center for Human Development leading a crisis intervention outreach team through the focus on addressing the myriad and often intersecting root causes of crisis. She then organized for seven years as the director of the western Massachusetts American Friends Service Committee, before moving to direct the programs of The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts where she worked to meet the immediate demands of hunger. After The Food Bank, Jo led National Priorities Project, a national budget and tax priorities research organization, as its executive director. NPP garnered a Nobel Peace Prize nomination in Jo's final year. After NPP, Jo was a Campaign Director for MoveOn focusing on a range of issues from gun safety to health care. Jo is the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Health, and the Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Higher Education.

Anna Maria Siega-Riz, Ph.D., M.S.

Anna Maria Siega-Riz is Dean and Professor, Departments of Nutrition, and Biostatistics and epidemiology School of Public Health and Health Sciences University of Massachusetts, Amherst Dr. Siega-Riz's research focuses on the first 1,000 days of life by understanding the influence of maternal weight status and dietary patterns/behaviors in the etiology of adverse pregnancy outcomes, including but not limited to, gestational diabetes, pregnancy induced hypertension, pre-eclampsia, preterm birth, and inadequate or excessive gestational weight gain. She is also exploring food reward and sensitivity among pregnant women and early determinants of childhood obesity and the association of maternal preconceptional health with childhood eating and weight status among Hispanics. Other research interests include examining the determinants and consequences of food insecurity and the implications of food policy on health outcomes.

Dr. Siega-Riz serves on the National Institute of Health's Council of Councils, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Health and Medicine Division Advisory Committee, the Food and Nutrition Board, and as a board of trustees member for the International Food Information Council. Previously she served on the 2015 Dietary Guidelines Federal Advisory Committee; the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Advisory Council; the U.S. Department of Agriculture/U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Pregnancy Technical Expert Committee, B-24-month Project; and five Institute of Medicine committees. Dr. Siega-Riz has received the March of Dimes Agnes Higgins Award for Maternal and Fetal Nutrition; the University of North Carolina Center for Women's Health Research Award for Excellence; and the American Public Health Association, Food and Nutrition Mary Egan Award.

She held key positions at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Gillings School of Public Health, including Associate Dean for Academic Affairs; Program Leader of the Reproductive, Perinatal and Pediatric Program in the Department of Epidemiology; Associate Chair of Epidemiology; and Director of Nutrition Epidemiology Core, Nutrition Obesity Research Center. Dr. Siega-Riz holds a B.S.P.H. from the University of North Carolina School of Public Health, an M.S. in Food, Nutrition, and Food Service Management from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and a Ph.D. in Nutrition with a minor in Epidemiology from the University of North Carolina School of Public Health. She held the credentials of a registered dietician from 1983-2014.

Sarah L. Goff, MD, PhD

Dr. Goff is an Associate Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management in the School of Public Health and Health Sciences at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She is also adjunct Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School – Baystate. She received her MD from the University of Massachusetts Medical School and completed a Post-Doctoral Fellowship in the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program at Yale School of Medicine. She is a graduate of the NIH Training Institute for Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health and received her PhD in Public Health from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

As a health services researcher and practicing pediatrician and internist, her research broadly seeks to address issues of quality and equity in the U.S. health care system with a focus on health and health care for women and children. Her research includes studies to determine the relationship between organizational factors and pediatric health care quality and identifying barriers to screening for postpartum depression in primary care pediatric practices. She is currently funded by NIH to study the impact of the new Medicaid ACOs on pediatric asthma quality of care, outcomes, and disparities. She is

also the co-founder of Project ACCCES, a Collaboration to build Capacity for Community Engaged Research in Springfield. The Project ACCCES team has provided training in community engaged research methods across the state, including most recently in partnership with the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School's Center for Translational Science.

Juliana Sopko

Juliana Sopko is a second-year MPH candidate at the University of Massachusetts Amherst School of Public Health and Health Sciences. She earned her bachelor of science in public health in 2021. Juliana has focused her most recent research on legislation such as ACCESS law and through robust qualitative analysis, evaluated the effectiveness and impact of these public health policies. Outside of the classroom, Juliana works as an EMT, Medical Advocate, and Teaching Assistant. Upon graduating this spring, Juliana will pursue a career in medicine, where she will apply her public health knowledge and medical training to help care for individuals living in rural and underserved communities.

Parker Sweet

Parker Sweet is a second year MPH student in Health Policy and Management at the UMass Amherst school of public health. In 2021, he was recognized by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education and Gov. Baker as one of the 29 Who Shine in the Commonwealth for his leadership in the UMass Amherst contact tracing program. Currently, Parker is a program specialist with the Massachusetts Health Officers Association and is interested in continuing public health innovation and program management in local and state health.

Representative Denise Garlick

State Representative Denise C. Garlick represents the 43,000 people of the 13th Norfolk District, comprised of Needham, Dover and Medfield (precincts 1 and 2). She currently serves as the Chair of Bills in Third Reading, which is the final committee legislation must pass before it can be engrossed. She is also serving as the elected Chair of the permanent funded Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities and she is the only legislator serving on the Opioid Trust Fund Advisory Council.

During the 2019-2020 legislative session, Representative Garlick served as the Vice Chair of the House and Joint Committee on Ways and Means, which is responsible for crafting the state's annual budget and considering all legislation affecting the finances of the Commonwealth. Starting in 2019, she was appointed to lead the Caring Collaboration for Vulnerable Children and Families. Throughout 2020, she was one of five members of the House of Representatives leading the COVID-19 response for the House and acting as a liaison between the members and the Massachusetts COVID-19 Response Command Center.

As a former Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use, and Recovery, Representative Garlick is the House author of the 2018 Opioid Bill (Chapter 208 of the Acts of 2018). And as Chair of the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs she worked to change the Council on Aging formula, influencing services to older adults throughout the Commonwealth. Representative Garlick has also previously served as the Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee on Education and on the Joint Committees on Public Health and Healthcare Financing.

In addition to her work as a legislator, Representative Garlick is a Registered Nurse and a past President of the Massachusetts Nurses Association. Carrying this experience with her, she is the sponsor of the ICU staffing law, one of the only laws on nurse staffing in the nation.

Currently Representative Garlick's legislative focus includes championing local and regional public health, addressing workplace violence in healthcare facilities, efficient use of school resources, Medicare for all, and ensuring access to open meetings through remote options.

Representative Garlick's work focuses on and reflects the issues and concerns of the communities she represents including climate change, affordable housing, access to affordable quality healthcare, voting access, issues related to individuals with disabilities, COVID-19 relief for families, individuals, schools, & businesses, and resources for schools, including the Special Education circuit breaker and METCO funding. Representative Garlick consciously addresses all issues with a careful lens for vulnerable individuals and communities in the Commonwealth.

Representative Garlick strongly believes in working in coalitions with her community organizations and her colleagues. She is a member of the Caucus of Women Legislators, the MetroWest Caucus, the Labor Caucus, the Caucus for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities, the Elder Affairs Caucus, the Biotech Caucus, and the Manufacturing Caucus. She also serves as a board member on the Massachusetts Health Policy Forum and previously served on the Harvard School of Public Health Occupational and Environmental Advisory Board.

Denise and her husband, Russell, are long-time residents of Needham, Massachusetts and proud parents of four young adults.

Craig Andrade

Craig Andrade is Associate Dean of Practice, Associate Professor in Community Health Sciences and Director of the Activist Lab at Boston University's School of Public Health (SPH) where he serves to catalyze and encourage SPH's public health practice portfolio, promoting bold public health engagement locally and globally. Previously, Dr. Andrade was the Director of the Bureau of Family Health & Nutrition at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). He also served as Director of the Division of Health Access at DPH, helped found the Racial Equity Leadership Team and Cross-Department Racial Equity Collaborative at DPH, and was Associate Dean of Health and Wellness and Director of Student Health Services at Wheaton College in Norton, MA. He served as critical care, public health, and ward nurse at Boston Medical Center; nurse manager and head athletic trainer at Buckingham Browne & Nichols School in Cambridge, MA; and was owner/operator of Active Health, a private health and fitness company. Craig is a registered nurse, athletic trainer, licensed massage therapist, and strength and condition specialist with master's and doctoral degrees in public health from Boston University.

Damōn Chaplin

Damōn Chaplin is a highly motivated senior administrator with over 20 years of public and private leadership experience. He has experience across the spectrum, including within local and state government, program and policy development, regulatory agencies, as well as, for-profit and not-for-profit systems and union environments. His public health and business administration background has allowed Damōn to hone his rapid assessment and critical thinking skills and leverage these keen analyses in his administrative, operational, and strategic planning roles. Currently, Damōn Chaplin

serves as the Public Health Director for the City of New Bedford. In this role he manages a 22 member staff operating 6 public health division's responsible for enforcing federal, state and local ordinances and codes for students and families residing in the 45,000 housing units and patronizing local businesses and restaurants serving a population of approximately 100,000 people.

In his previous role with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) as the Director of Local Public Health Initiatives and Metro Boston Regional Director, he provides statewide leadership and direction to local health departments interested in applying for accreditation and forming public health districts using a shared service model for improving health equity and strengthening workforce development. He also managed the program operations for the Massachusetts Large Cities Project, consisting of the state's 14 largest cities (cities with populations of 70,000 or greater) ranging from Framingham with a population of approximately 70,000 people to Boston with a population of more than 650,000 people. Damōn is the husband to the dynamic Donna Chaplin and the father to four beautiful children in the Greater Boston Region.

Phoebe Walker

Phoebe Walker is the Director of Community Services at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG). Ms. Walker has worked on regional public health collaborations, substance use disorder prevention and intervention, chronic disease prevention, and a wide variety of municipal governmental policy and staffing issues in the Commonwealth's most rural county. She co-Chairs the local hospital Community Benefits Committee, sits on the Board of the Community Health Center of Franklin County, and facilitates the region's coordinated Community Health Improvement Planning Network.

Ms. Walker was appointed by the Governor to the Special Commission on Local and Regional Public Health, the Massachusetts COVID Vaccine Advisory Group and the Food Policy Council. She sits on the Community Health and Healthy Aging Funds State Advisory Committee and the Steering Committee of the Coalition for Local Public Health, as a representative of the Western MA Public Health Association.

Michael Doonan, PhD

Michael Doonan is an associate professor and Director for the Masters of Public Policy Program, Schneider Institute for Health Policy at The Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University. He is the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Health Policy Forum. His Ph.D. from Brandeis is both in Political Science and Health Services Research. His research and publications focus on issues related to access to health care reform, federalism, Medicaid, federal/state relations, public health and the politics and economics of health system change. He speaks widely on state and national health care reform. He is author of *American Federalism in Practice: The Formulation and Implementation of Contemporary Health Policy*, published by the Brookings Institute Press in 2013.

Michael worked as program specialist for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), in the area of Medicaid managed care and state health care reform. He served as a member of President Clinton's Health Care Taskforce working primarily on the Low-Income and Working Families work group, and as a member of the Taskforce Speakers Bureau. Michael also worked as a fellow for the U.S. Senate Finance Committee as they considered national reform in 1994. He began his career as a legislative aide for Senator John Kerry where he worked on health and environmental issues.

