



Student Forum
January 7-8, 2014
Speaker Biographies



Philip W. Johnston
Chair, Massachusetts Health Policy Forum
Former Chair, Massachusetts Democratic Party

Philip W. Johnston is Vice Chair of the BCBS Health Care Delivery and Quality committee, a member of the BCBS Governance committee, and Chair of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation. Phil began his career as a social worker, helping foster children who were the victims of abuse and neglect.

He founded the Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps, which became one of the largest and most respected child welfare agencies in the country serving thousands of the most troubled young people. In 1975, Phil was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives from the 10th Plymouth District and re-elected four times. In 1984, Governor Michael S. Dukakis appointed him Secretary of Human Services for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In that Cabinet-level position, Phil supervised 17 health and human services agencies comprising about one-half the state's budget. He served in that capacity longer than anyone in the state's history and was responsible for the implementation of scores of programs in the health and human services fields.

President Bill Clinton appointed Phil New England Director of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, where he served from 1993 until 1996. Since 1996, Phil has been President and CEO of Philip W. Johnston Associates, a firm specializing in health and human services with offices in Boston and Washington, D.C. He served as Chairman of the Massachusetts Democratic Party from 2000 until 2007. Currently Phil is Chairman of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Foundation, the Massachusetts Health Policy Forum and serves on the Boards of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute and the Kenneth B. Schwartz Center.



Leigh Simons
Senior Research Analyst
Joint Committee on Healthcare Financing

Leigh Simons is the senior research analyst for the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. She previously served as a

research analyst for the Joint Committee on Public Health. Leigh previously worked for the ABC News program "Nightline" in both its Washington, DC and New York offices. Her work there brought her to such diverse places as the Democratic National Convention in Denver, a lobster boat in Maine, and a trauma center in Philadelphia, among other assignments. As an undergraduate, Ms. Simons held several internships, including in the Washington and Boston press offices of Senator Edward M. Kennedy and with NBC "Nightly News," where she worked with the Supreme Court and Justice Correspondent. Leigh has a Master in Public Health, with a concentration in Health Policy & Management, from the Boston University School of Public Health, where she was the recipient of the Leonard Glantz Award for Academic Excellence. She holds a bachelor's degree from Tufts University, cum laude, in Political Science with a minor in Communications & Media Studies.



Shawn Collins
Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor
Senator Richard T. Moore

Shawn Collins serves as the Chief of Staff and General Counsel to Sen. Richard T. Moore in the Massachusetts Senate. In this position, Shawn develops and implements all policy objectives, strategies and operating plans for the Senator's office, as well as coordinates interactions between the Senator and legislative leadership. Additionally, Shawn oversees all other official relations, including those with local officials, constituents, and the media. Prior to his appointment as Chief of Staff, Shawn served as the influential Senator's Legislative & Budget Director, as well as his Communications Director. A resident of Webster, MA, he graduated with honors from Suffolk University with degrees in political science and public relations, and earned his JD from Suffolk University Law School and is admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth. He currently serves as the Vice Chairman of the Webster School Committee.



Representative Jeff Sanchez
Chair of Joint Committee on Public Health
Massachusetts State House

Representative Jeffrey Sánchez serves as Massachusetts State Representative for the 15th Suffolk District. In February 2009, he was appointed the House Chairman of the Joint Committee on Public Health. His work is centered on improving quality and health care access through systematic reforms in the public health and healthcare systems. Jeffrey currently serves on the Commonwealth's Health Disparities Council, the National

Conference of State Legislatures Health Reform and Medicaid Task Force, the MA Health Policy Forum and as Treasurer of the National Board of Hispanic Caucus Chairs.

He has recently been appointed by Speaker DeLeo to lead the House of Representatives delegation charged with the reconciliation of "An Act Relative to Pharmacy Practice in The Commonwealth" which will establish the regulatory framework for the Compounding Pharmacy industry. He earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Legal Education from the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and a Masters of Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, where he is honored to have been a Rappaport Urban Scholar. Jeffrey was raised in the Mission Hill Main Housing projects in Boston, where, as in every neighborhood in his district, he remains deeply involved with concerns and issues relating to health, safety, jobs, and community development.



Senator Richard T. Moore
Senate President Pro Tempore

Massachusetts State Senator Richard T. Moore (D-Uxbridge) is presently serving his ninth term in the Massachusetts Senate representing 14 Southern Central Massachusetts towns formally known as the Worcester and Norfolk district. In early 2013, Senate President Therese Murray (D-Plymouth) appointed Senator Moore to the position of Senate President Pro Tempore, one of the top two leadership posts after Senate President. In this capacity, Senator Moore assists the Senate President and the Senate Majority Leader in the running of the Senate and presides during sessions when the Senate President is temporarily absent.

In addition to his leadership as Senate President Pro Tempore, Senator Moore also serves as Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Ethics and Rules, which controls the flow of legislation; and is a member of the Committee on Bills in Third Reading, which gives bills final review before coming up for near final approval by the Senate.

On the national level, the Senator recently served as President of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) from 2010 – 2011; and the NCSL Foundation from 2011- 2012. Presently, he serves as co-chair of the NCSL Task Force on International Relations; and is a member of the NCSL Task Force on Federal Health Reform Implementation and the Task Force on Immigration and the States. He also serves on the Executive Committee of the Council of State Governments; and was also member of the 1992 Electoral College.



Jean Yang
Executive Director
Commonwealth Insurance Connector Agency

Jean Yang is the Executive Director of the Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority (Health Connector). In this position, she oversees the programs, policies, operations and staff of the Commonwealth's public health insurance Exchange - the linchpin of the state's historic health care reform law of 2006 and the model for health insurance Exchanges nationwide under the landmark

federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Prior to being appointed Executive Director in January 2013, Yang served as the Health Connector's Chief Financial Officer, where she oversaw all aspects of financial management and control of the organization. In particular, Yang led the successful procurement of the subsidized Commonwealth Care program in Fiscal year 2012 and 2013 that led to a premium rate decrease of 12% over two years. In addition, she also played a key leadership role in the Health Connector's implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, with specific responsibilities in the Plan Management and Financial Management functions associated with an ACA-compliant Exchange.

Before joining the Health Connector, Jean was Director of Contracting Strategy & Analytics at Tufts Health Plan in Massachusetts, where she worked extensively on health care reimbursement issues and payer-provider collaboration initiatives. Jean started her career as a management consultant with McKinsey & Company and subsequently Deloitte Consulting, where she served a wide variety of clients in the health care industry. Jean graduated from Peking University of China and earned her M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.



Áron Boros
Executive Director
Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA)

Áron Boros serves as the first Executive Director of the Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA). CHIA was established in 2012, as the successor agency to the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy. CHIA is an independent state agency that collects health care cost and quality information and provides objective analysis of this data to assist in the formulation of health care policy. CHIA maintains a

number of the responsibilities of the Division, including compiling annual cost trends reports, managing the state's all-payer claims database, and monitoring the financial performance of hospitals. CHIA also maintains a consumer health information website to enhance the transparency of the quality and cost of health care services in the Commonwealth.

Prior to joining the Division, Boros worked at MassHealth as the Director of Federal Finance. There he focused on managing the state-federal relationship with respect to expenditures eligible for federal financial participation. Prior to entering public service, Boros was an attorney at Boston law at Foley Hoag firm. He received his J.D. and Masters in Public Policy from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. He received his undergraduate degree in Geology from Amherst College. He lives in Jamaica Plain with his spouse Hillary Mull, daughter Julia and son Isaac.



***Liz Kowalczyk
Health Reporters
Boston Globe***

Kowalczyk covers healthcare and medicine for the Globe, including treatment and cost trends in hospitals and physicians' practices. She is a graduate of Cornell University, and has worked for the Globe since 2000. She was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2013 as part of a team for national reporting.



***Brian Rosman
Research Director
Health Care for All***

Brian Rosman is the research director of Health Care for All, the leading advocacy organization dedicated to expanding access to quality, affordable health care in Massachusetts. Brian's work focuses on policy research and analysis related to Massachusetts and national health reform, public health coverage programs, health payment methods, private insurance concerns and other policy issues. He drafted provisions of the Massachusetts health reform plan, and has played a major role in its implementation.

Before joining Health Care For All in 2003, Brian was a senior policy associate at the Schneider Institute for Health Policy at Brandeis University's Heller School. His work there was with the Council on Health Care Economics and Policy, focused on national health policy topics. From 1995-1998, Brian was the research director and general counsel for the House staff of the Joint Committee on Health Care of the Massachusetts legislature.

From 1989-1993, Brian was counsel to the Massachusetts Senate Committee on Ways & Means, working on health care, environmental and welfare issues. He has a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania and a degree in Political Science from Stanford University.



Richard C. Lord
President and CEO
Associated Industries of Massachusetts

Richard C. Lord is President and Chief Executive Officer of Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM). AIM is a state-wide employer advocacy and service organization of more than 5,000 member companies. Mr. Lord joined AIM in 1991 and served as Executive Vice President for Legislative Policy where he was responsible for AIM's public policy advocacy on health care, economic development, taxation, worker's compensation and other issues of interest to employers in the

Commonwealth. He has been President and CEO since 1999.

Prior to joining AIM, Mr. Lord served as Chief of Staff for the Committee on Ways and Means of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. The Committee is responsible for all legislation involving state funds and revenues, including the Commonwealth's annual budget and all tax related matters. Mr. Lord was employed by the Committee for six years, serving as the Budget Director before being promoted to the Chief of Staff position.

Before entering public service, Mr. Lord also worked in financial positions at General Electric Company and McCormack and Dodge, a Massachusetts-based software company. He is a 1977 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Williams College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and Psychology.

Mr. Lord is a member of several boards, including Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Boston, the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, the Massachusetts eHealth Collaborative, the Early Education for All Advisory Committee, The Children's Trust Fund, the Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education, the New England Center for Children, A.I.M. Mutual Insurance Company, Inc. and the Massachusetts Association for Mental Health. He also chairs the Massachusetts Workforce Training Fund Advisory Panel. He is a former member of the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority.



***Dolores Mitchell
Executive Director
Group Insurance Commission***

Dolores Mitchell is the Executive Director of the Group Insurance Commission, the agency that provides life, health, disability and dental and vision services to the Commonwealth's employees, retirees and their dependents; many of these benefits are also provided to a number of authorities, municipalities, and other entities. More than 400,000 people are covered by the GIC. Mrs. Mitchell has been in this position since 1987, serving in the administrations of Governors Dukakis, Weld, Cellucci, Swift, Romney, and now Governor Patrick.

Mrs. Mitchell is a member of a number of professional and community organizations, including the governing board of the Massachusetts Health Care Connector Authority, the Health Care Quality and Cost Council, the Massachusetts Health Council. She is Board president of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), Greater Boston Big Sister Association, of which she is a board member, Executive Committee of the Consumer/Purchaser Disclosure, and has recently been elected a member of the Board of Directors of the National Quality Forum (NQF), and is one of the founding members of Catalyst for Health Payment Reform. She is also a member of the Technical Committee of the Milbank Foundation.

Mrs. Mitchell is a frequent speaker on health care, politics, women's career issues, and related subjects.



***Robin Callahan
Deputy Medicaid Director for Policy and
Programs, Massachusetts Office of Medicaid***

Robin Callahan is the Director of Member Policy and Program Development for the Massachusetts Office of Medicaid. In that role, she manages the development of MassHealth policies and programs related to member eligibility, benefits, and advocate relations. Robin was MassHealth's Project Director for implementation of Massachusetts' health care reform bill, Chapter 58: An Act Providing Access to Affordable, Quality, Accountable Health Care. She continues to play an integral role in developing member policy in relation to Massachusetts' health care reform and, additionally, to federal health care reform. Her leadership in program development for MassHealth has helped to create a strong working relationship between the Office of Medicaid and the Connector Authority (Massachusetts' exchange) as they create and maintain insurance options for various populations across the Commonwealth. Robin has also served in a variety of

management roles at MassHealth, including Director of Waiver and State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) Administration. Robin is a Princeton University graduate, with independent work focusing on health economics, and has been in public service for over 20 years.



***Marcia Fowler
Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Mental Health***

Marcia Fowler was named Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health (DMH) in February 2012. Commissioner Fowler has an extensive background and expertise in clinical programs, human service management and budget experience in both the public and private sectors. A lawyer and a clinician, Commissioner Fowler is committed to ensuring under her leadership, that DMH is focused on consumer voice and choice, and that transparent communications and open dialogue among stakeholders in the mental health community is integral to forwarding the mission of the Department.

One of the hallmarks of Commissioner Fowler's service to DMH is her passion and commitment to assuring that all individuals have every opportunity to participate in their treatment, care and recovery. During her tenure with the Department, Commissioner Fowler has supported and built a community services delivery system based on flexibility, a peer workforce and the integration of behavioral health and physical wellness.



***John Polanowicz
Secretary
Executive Office of Health and Human Services***

John Polanowicz was sworn in as Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) by Governor Deval Patrick on January 22, 2013. Secretary Polanowicz oversees 15 state agencies in this role, serving in the Cabinet of Governor Patrick. He is an experienced health care leader, using his expertise to help Massachusetts increase our already nation-leading access to care, while also tackling the issue of costs. John's compassion and thoughtfulness makes him a strong advocate for our veterans, families and individuals with disabilities across the Commonwealth.

Prior to his appointment, Secretary Polanowicz served as president of St. Elizabeth's Medical Center in Brighton since 2011, overseeing the largest hospital in the Steward Health Care System. He brings expertise working in a cutting-edge community health care system, serving tens of thousands of patients and families. He was also instrumental in positioning Steward as an accountable care organization to increase access and decrease cost for patients.

Prior to joining St. Elizabeth's, Polanowicz served as president and chief executive officer at Marlborough Hospital for eight years. There, he bolstered patient care by establishing new service lines, building relationships with physician groups and investing in emerging technologies. He also led a financial turnaround that resulted in five straight years of positive financial results. Polanowicz previously served as vice president of operations at UMass Memorial Medical Center.

Polanowicz is a former company commander in the U.S. Army, where he served in a Blackhawk Assault Helicopter Company during overseas military operations. He brings a deep understanding of issues facing our veterans and military families. Secretary Polanowicz is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and holds a MBA from Stanford University. He resides in Northborough.



Cheryl Bartlett
Commissioner
Department of Public Health

Cheryl Bartlett, RN was named Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in June 2013. Throughout her career in public health and health care, Ms. Bartlett has been a voice for promoting positive change in health outcomes for Massachusetts residents. As Commissioner Ms. Bartlett chairs the newly appointed Prevention and Wellness Advisory Board, which oversees a \$60 million Prevention Trust Fund – the first of its kind in the nation.

As former Deputy Commissioner, Ms. Bartlett led the Department's implementation of the health care cost containment legislation known as Chapter 224 and spearheaded a number of other health care quality and performance improvement initiatives. Most recently she oversaw the workgroup charged with creating regulations to support the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes, and continues to provide leadership as those regulations are implemented. Ms. Bartlett also continues to chair the Massachusetts Comprehensive Cancer Advisory Committee and is a member of the Governor's Food Policy Council.

Prior to being named Deputy Commissioner, Ms. Bartlett was the Director of the Bureau of Community Health and Prevention where she provided strategic direction and oversight for Mass in Motion – the groundbreaking Patrick administration initiative to help Massachusetts residents to eat better and move more in the places

they live, learn, work and play. She also served as the Massachusetts Chronic Disease Director for DPH at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Ms. Bartlett has extensive experience as a registered nurse and hospital administrator implementing health system changes through quality assessment and improvement practices. She received national certification in four nursing specialties; cardiovascular, epidemiology, surveillance and infection control, dialysis and HIV/AIDS. Ms. Bartlett has also provided leadership for "Healthy Communities" initiatives in several regions across the state to address social determinants of health. She previously served on the Boards of the Massachusetts Prostate Cancer Coalition, Lung Cancer Alliance of MA, and AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts.

Ms. Bartlett has held elected and appointed positions at the local level in several municipalities, including serving on the Nantucket Board of Selectman. She received her nursing training at Yale New Haven Hospital and Quinnipiac University and graduated *summa cum laude* from Stonehill College with a degree in health care administration. As part of a Massachusetts delegation, Ms. Bartlett has volunteered in the Pskov region of Russia implementing public health programs to increase education and awareness about reproductive health and to prevent developmental disabilities associated with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder.



Hilary Jacobs
Director of the Bureau of Substance Abuse Service

Hilary Jacobs is the Director of the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services operating under the auspices of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Ms. Jacobs is a licensed independent clinical social worker and a licensed drug and alcohol counselor in Massachusetts. She has worked in the addictions field for the past 30

years. Ms. Jacobs' roles have included direct clinical service, supervisory, administrative and policy making positions. She has extensive training experience on the local, state and national level. Ms. Jacobs received the Dole-Nyswander award for outstanding contributions to opiate treatment from the American Association for the Treatment of Opiate Dependence.



Lea Susan Ojamaa
Director for the Division of Prevention and Wellness, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Lea Susan Ojamaa, MPH is the Director for the Division of Prevention and Wellness at MDPH. Within the division are the chronic disease

prevention programs, including asthma, comprehensive cancer, diabetes, heart disease, overweight/obesity and stroke as well as the Massachusetts Tobacco Cessation and Prevention program. Lea Susan provides overall management and leadership to the division and is responsible for the integration and coordination of initiatives. She provides leadership and oversight to the statewide Mass in Motion initiative and provides training and technical assistance to support the use of policy, systems and environmental change strategies to prevent and reduce chronic disease and associated risk factors and impact healthier communities. Lea Susan provides staff support and content expertise to the Healthy Transportation Compact and represents the MDPH on the Massachusetts Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board and the Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Task Force. Lea Susan has a bachelor's degree in social work from the University of New Hampshire and a master's degree in public health from Boston University.



David Seltz
Executive Director
Health Policy Commission

David Seltz is the Executive Director of the Health Policy Commission (Commission). Recently established by comprehensive health care cost containment legislation, Chapter 224 of the Acts of 2012, the Commission is an independent state agency governed by an 11-person, expert Board. The Commission aims to modernize the health care payment and delivery models in Massachusetts in order to establish a more accountable, affordable system. Prior to this appointment to this position, David was the

Special Advisor for Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, responsible for coordinating the Administration's efforts to implement all aspects of Chapter 224. After receiving his Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Boston College in 2003, David worked for 4 years as a Fiscal Policy Analyst and Manager for the Senate Committee on Ways and Means as the primary staffer responsible for all state health care finance issues. David was the chief health care advisor for Senator Therese Murray, and was involved in the 6-month Conference Committee negotiations that produced the landmark Massachusetts Health Care Reform bill, or Chapter 58 of the Acts of 2006.

Subsequently, as a member of Senate President Murray's senior staff, he assisted with the development, negotiation, and passage of three comprehensive health care cost and quality bills in 2008, 2010, and 2012. In addition to health care issues, David was the lead policy staffer responsible for managing the policy team and coordinating the development of the President's policy agenda. In this role, he advised the Senate President on various public policy reforms, including education reform, municipal health insurance reform, and an overhaul of the public pension system.