

2015 Student Forum Speaker Biographies

Timothy O'Neil ***Chief of Staff, Joint Committee on Public Health Massachusetts State House***

Timothy O'Neill is the Research Director for the Massachusetts state legislature's Joint Committee on Public Health. An experienced manager of legislative and committee affairs, Timothy has served in senior staff positions in both the Massachusetts House of Representatives and State Senate. As Research Director, he is responsible for the development and implementation of the Committee's legislative agenda, which includes health care cost and quality reform; patient safety and health care consumer rights; professional scope of practice and the realignment of the health care workforce; chronic disease prevention, management and wellness initiatives; biotechnology and life science priorities; and economic and tax policies related to healthcare. A graduate of Marquette University, Timothy lives in Hingham, Massachusetts with his wife Elizabeth and their daughter Claire.

Representative Jeffrey 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.

Philip W. Johnston ***Chair, Massachusetts Health Policy Forum***

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.

***Senator James Welch
Chair of Joint Committee on
Health Care Financing***

State Senator James Welch was sworn in January 2011 to represent Hampden District including Chicopee,

Springfield, and West Springfield. Currently, he is serving his second term in the Massachusetts Senate.

In 2001 Senator Welch began his career in public service, by joining the staff of Representative Stephen J. Buoniconti. In 2004, Senator Welch was elected to the West Springfield City Council representing District 4. In January of 2005 he was elected to represent the 6th Hampden District in the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

Jim currently serves as the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing. He was also selected as Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities. He is also a member of the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security and the Joint Committee on Election Laws.

Active in the community, Jim was a member of the West Springfield/Agawam Elks where he was selected as the 2010 "Irish Elk of the Year" and is also a member of the Dante Club. He has been a proud participant in Junior Achievement for the past 8 years at St. Thomas the Apostle School in West Springfield. He has previously served on the Human Rights Committee for the May Institute. In 2006 he was selected as the West Springfield Democratic Town Committee's "Democrat of the

**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.

**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 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. Prior to joining CHIA, Boros worked at the Massachusetts Office of Medicaid as the Director of Federal Finance. Before entering public service, Boros was an attorney at Boston law firm Foley Hoag. He received his J.D. and Masters in Public Policy from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

**Martha Bebinger
Reporter
WBUR**

Martha Bebinger covers health care and other topics at WBUR, the NPR affiliate in Boston. She has won dozens of regional and national awards in 16 years as a reporter, including the Nieman Fellowship for Journalism at Harvard University.

**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.

***Rebekha Diamond
Manager of External Affairs
Commonwealth Health Insurance
Connector Authority***

Rebekah Diamond is the Manager of External Affairs at the Health

Connector. She has worked at the Health Connector since 2012. Rebekah has worked on policy development, legislative drafting, oversight of major inter-disciplinary projects as well as outreach and education as it pertains to the Health Connector and National Health Care Reform. Rebekah is a graduate of Suffolk University Law School where she was Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Health and Biomedical Law. Rebekah was also the recipient of the Donoghue, Barrett & Singal Public Interest Health Law Fellowship. Rebekah received her bachelor's degree from the University of Rochester.

***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.

***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.

***Suzanne Condon
Associate Director for Health
Director, Bureau of Environmental
Health, Massachusetts
Department of Public Health***

Suzanne K. Condon is Associate Commissioner and Director of the Bureau of Environmental Health at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH). Ms. Condon leads a team of public health professionals, including epidemiologists, toxicologists, environmental health scientists, consultant physicians, indoor air/emergency response specialists, regulatory inspectors, and environmental health educators. In her capacity as Associate Commissioner, she also oversees the Department's Office of Local and Regional Health.

She has been a national leader in addressing health disparities; most notably those investigating lupus among African American and other women of color, and

investigating the role of environmental factors in pediatric asthma; and was instrumental in establishing the MDPH Diversity Council. In 2004, she worked collaboratively with local health officials statewide to establish a regional framework for planning and response to public health emergencies. She has appeared on numerous national news and science programs (e.g., ABC's 20/20, NOVA, ESPN, 60 Minutes). She holds a B.S. from Bridgewater State College, and a M.S. from Emmanuel College.

Ms. Condon's work has earned her state and national recognition. She has received the U.S. ATSDR special services award and a number of outstanding service awards from the MDPH. She is also a recipient of the the Massachusetts Environmental Health Association Dr. Joseph S. Goldfarb award for exemplary service in the professional practice of environmental public health in Massachusetts. In 2003 she was named a Distinguished Alumna at Bridgewater State College receiving the Adrian Rondileau Award. She is a member of the ASTHO State Environmental Health Directors Steering Committee and is a commissioned officer with the US FDA. She frequently lectures at the Harvard and Boston University Schools of Public Health.

***Dr. Al DeMaria
Medical Director, Bureau of
Infectious Disease Prevention,
Response and Services,
Massachusetts Department of
Public Health***

Dr. DeMaria is Medical Director of the Bureau of Infectious Disease in the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and State Epidemiologist for Massachusetts. He is a graduate of Boston University and Harvard Medical School. He trained in Internal Medicine at Montefiore Medical Center in The Bronx, New York and in Infectious Diseases at Boston City Hospital. Prior to joining the Department of Public Health, he was in private practice, and prior to that on the staff of The Maxwell Finland Laboratory for Infectious Diseases, Boston City Hospital. He is a Fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America, President of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists. He serves on committees of the Massachusetts Medical Society, on the board of The Public Health Museum and as the Past President of the Northeast Branch of the American Society for Microbiology.

***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.