

2016 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.

Erika Scibelli, Esq.
Legislative Director and Legal Counsel,
Office of Senator James T. Welch,
Massachusetts State House

Erika Scibelli is the Legislative Director and Legal Counsel in the office of State Senator James T. Welch, Chairman of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing. She is the Senate point person for issues related to the Committee and is a policy advisor to the Senator on all health care matters.

Previously, Erika focused on public interest work in her positions as a law clerk at the Springfield Housing Authority, as a legal intern at a national non-profit in San Francisco, and as a volunteer for the Western Massachusetts chapter of the ACLU. Prior to joining Senator Welch's office, she was the Alumni Recruiter for Western New England University School of Law.

A communications major, Erika earned her bachelor's degree in 2006 from UMass Amherst. In 2012 she earned her Juris Doctorate from Western New England University School of Law with a concentration in gender and sexuality studies. She is licensed to practice in Massachusetts and New York and is the co-chair of the Boston Bar Association's Health Law section public policy committee. Erika is a board member of UMass Women into Leadership, an organization that helps launch UMass alumnae into public leadership and service. She is also a longtime volunteer and member of Family Equality Council's Outspoken Generation speakers bureau, who speak across the nation on behalf of children of LGBT parents.

***Monica Bharel, MD, MPH
Commissioner
Department of Public Health***

Monica Bharel, MD, MPH, became Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in February of 2015. As Commissioner, she is responsible for spearheading the state's response to the opioid crisis, as well as leading the Department's implementation of health care cost containment

legislation, Chapter 224, reducing health disparities, finding public health solutions for health care reform, finding innovative solutions using data and evidence-based practices, and other health care quality improvement initiatives.

Dr. Bharel comes to DPH widely recognized for her dedication to health care for underserved and vulnerable populations, including ensuring that state and national health care reform efforts enhance the care for homeless individuals, without inadvertently widening health care disparities.

She previously served as the Chief Medical Officer of Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, the largest nonprofit health care organization for homeless individuals in the country. Under her leadership, the organization provided health care to over 12,500 homeless men, women and children in the greater Boston area at over 70 different sites.

In the public service sector, Dr. Bharel was a gubernatorial appointment to the Behavioral Health and Primary Care Integration Task Force under the Massachusetts health care payment reform initiative. She has also participated on the Massachusetts Medicaid payment reform policy committee and Primary Care Payment Reform Initiative operations committee. Additionally, she served on the National Quality Forum expert panel on Risk Adjustment for Socioeconomic Status.

Dr. Bharel has served on the faculty of Harvard Medical School, Boston University Medical School, and Harvard School of Public Health. She was previously at Massachusetts General Hospital and Boston Medical Center. She has practiced general internal medicine for 20 years in neighborhood health centers, city hospitals, the Veterans Administration, university hospitals and nonprofit organizations.

She received her Master of Public Health degree through the Commonwealth Fund/Harvard University Fellowship in Minority Health Policy, with a concentration in health care policy and management. She received her medical degree from Boston University School of Medicine and completed a residency and chief residency in internal medicine at Boston City Hospital/Boston Medical Center.

***Lydie Ultimo
Director, Bureau of Substance
Abuse Services, MA Department of
Public Health***

Lydie Ultimo is the Director of the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Lydie has been working with the BSAS since 2008, previously serving as the Deputy Director, where she was charged with overseeing adult treatment, regional operations and rate setting. During her tenure with BSAS, she has also served as Regional Manager for contracted services. Lydie co-chairs the Health Equity Learning Collaborative (HELC), an

initiative that aims to strengthen capacity and build infrastructure among agencies providing services for substance use disorder, that are mission-driven to serve historically underserved populations in the Commonwealth. She is a member of the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors as the National Treatment Network representative. Prior to joining BSAS she worked to develop programs that provide educational opportunities and social support for at risk-youth. Lydie earned her MSW from Boston College Graduate School of Social Work.

***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.

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.

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.

***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.

***Joan Mikula
Commissioner
Department of Mental Health***

Joan Mikula was appointed Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health (DMH) on May 11, 2015.

Commissioner Mikula has worked for DMH since 1985, serving as Deputy and Assistant Commissioner of the Department's Child and Adolescent Services Division. She has dedicated her career to ensuring that children, youth, families and adults have every opportunity to participate in their growth and recovery and to be successful in their homes, schools and communities.

Passionate about consumer voice and choice, Commissioner Mikula's experience in education, child welfare and juvenile justice as well as mental health administration in the private sector is significant and has guided the Department during her tenure. She brings a strong foundation of building collaborative partnerships throughout the human services community which ensures that individuals across the lifespan, along with their families, receive appropriate treatment and supports for behavioral health conditions.

***Marissa Woltmann
Associate Director of Policy and
ACA Implementation Specialist,
Massachusetts Health Connector***

Marissa Woltmann is the Associate Director of Policy and ACA Implementation Specialist at the Massachusetts Health Connector. In this role, she is responsible for a broad variety of policy initiatives to support implementation of both Massachusetts and federal healthcare reform. In particular, her work focuses on state and federal policies related to the individual mandate, as well as individuals' eligibility for benefits through ACA Marketplaces such as the Health Connector. In addition to over 10 years of experience in the public sector, Ms. Woltmann has a Master's degree in Public Policy from the Heller School at Brandeis University and a Bachelor's degree in English from Hartwick College.

Alan Sager, Ph.D.
Boston University School of Public Health

Alan Sager is a professor of health policy and management at the Boston University School of Public Health, where he has taught since 1983. His courses on health finance, planning, and administration have won twelve awards and he received the School's teaching prize in 1998. He directs the Health Reform Program (www.healthreformprogram.org).

His analyses of Massachusetts health care have shown it to be the costliest in the world, and that no cost controls attempted thus far have succeeded. Roughly one-half of current spending is wasted. Urging simultaneous pursuit of care for all and cost controls, and recognizing that physicians' decisions control almost 90 percent of health spending, he has developed a physician-centered reform that integrates finance with care delivery.

His research on prescription drug reform has shown that a combination of lower prices and higher volumes could inexpensively finance needed medications for all Americans while motivating and enabling drug makers to invest in innovative research.

Analyzing closings among 1,200 hospitals in 52 U.S. cities since 1936, Dr. Sager has found that hospitals located in minority neighborhoods have been substantially more likely to close; that greater efficiency bestows no survival value; and that - since a free market for hospital care is lacking - targeted public support for needed but endangered hospitals is required

to protect essential hospitals, their physicians, and their patients.

In 1979, Dr. Sager designed a "time banking" method of mobilizing voluntary aid for disabled citizens. It creates a parallel economy of good deeds. Individuals volunteer to help others when convenient. Contributed time is banked or used to pay time-premiums. Those who had helped others could themselves obtain aid, when needed, by exchanging their banked time for the time of a new volunteer.

Alan Sager holds a B.A. in economics from Brandeis and a Ph.D. in city and regional planning (specializing in health care) from MIT. He served as a trustee of the former Waltham Hospital.

Liz Kowalczyk,
Reporter, The 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.

Marylou Sudders
Secretary
Executive Office of Health and
Human Services

Appointed as Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) by Governor Charlie Baker in January 2015, Marylou Sudders leads the largest executive agency in state government, a \$21 billion state budget with 22-thousand dedicated public servants, and oversees critical services that touch almost one in four residents of the Commonwealth. Professionally trained as a social worker, Sudders has dedicated her life to public service and to some of our most vulnerable citizens. She has been a public official, provider executive, advocate and college professor.