

Speaker Biographies



Philip W. Johnston
Chairman,
Massachusetts
Health Policy Forum

In 1984, Governor Michael S. Dukakis appointed Phil the Secretary of Health and Human Services in Massachusetts. As Secretary, he was responsible for the administration of seventeen state agencies in the health and human services field, which comprised over fifty percent of the state budget. Just prior to his appointment as Secretary, Phil had begun his fifth consecutive term as an elected State Representative from the Fourth Plymouth District of Massachusetts.

In 1991, Phil served as the Executive Director of Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, in Washington, D.C., an organization established by the Kennedy family to continue to carry on Robert F. Kennedy's work in the field of social justice and human rights in the United States and around the globe. 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. As the Administrator, Phil had supervisory responsibility for a multitude of federal Health and Human Services programs, including Medicare, Medicaid, Headstart, WIC and many other programs serving vulnerable populations in the six New England states. He reported directly to HHS Secretary, Donna Shalala. He served in that role until 1996 when he became a Democratic candidate for the US Congress in the 10th District of Massachusetts. From 2000-2007, Phil was twice elected Chair of the Massachusetts Democratic Party.

Phil was appointed in 2007 by Governor Deval Patrick as a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Massachusetts. He chaired the Search Committee for a new Chancellor at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. He also served as Chair of the Search Committee for the new UMass Amherst Chancellor. From 2013

to 2017, Phil served as Chairman of the University of Massachusetts Building Authority Board of Directors. He was recently elected Vice Chair of the University of Massachusetts Foundation.

Phil has served on the Board of Directors of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts since 1998. In 2002, he was appointed to Chair the Board of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, which has an endowment of \$115 million dollars and provides grants to Massachusetts nonprofit organizations, which work in the healthcare field on behalf of low-income citizens. In addition, 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 convenor of key players in the health field to address key health policy issues confronting the state and the nation. The Forum has a close affiliation with Brandeis University.

Phil also sits on the Boards of ConforMIS, the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights, the Carroll Center for the Blind, the Tramuto Foundation, Health eVillages, along with the Advisory Board for the Kenneth B. Schwartz Center. In 2012, Phil was appointed to the Advisory Board of the Taubman Center for State and Local Government at the Harvard Kennedy School. Most recently, Phil was named a trustee of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park, New York.

Phil founded and served 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. Currently, he serves on the Advisory Board of the Action Corps.

In addition to holding honorary degrees from the University of Massachusetts Boston, Bridgewater State College, and Curry College, 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.



**Marylou Sudders,
Secretary,
Executive Office of
Health and Human
Services**

Marylou Sudders serves as the Secretary of Health and Human Services for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, overseeing 12 agencies and MassHealth, with a combined budget of \$24 billion and 22,000 public employees delivering essential services that touch the lives of 1 in 4 state residents.

Since joining Governor Baker's cabinet in January 2015, Sudders has advanced strategic policy priorities, including: restructuring MassHealth into a population-based health coverage system, reforming the child welfare system, addressing the opioid epidemic, integrating physical and behavioral health care, and strengthening community-based services.

Sudders co-chairs the Governor's Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness, the Governor's Interagency Council on Aging, and chairs the Autism Commission and the board of Massachusetts Health Connector, the state's health insurance marketplace.

Sudders has held leadership roles across the public and private sectors, including serving as the Massachusetts Commissioner of Mental Health, a non-profit CEO, and associate professor and program chair at Boston College School of Social Work, a top ten nationally-ranked program.

Sudders holds a bachelor's degree with honors and a master's degree in social work from Boston University, and honorary doctorates from the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology and Bridgewater State University. She is the recipient of many civic, social work, and professional honors.



**Anna Maria
Siega-Riz, PhD
Dean and
Professor,
Departments of
Nutrition and
Biostatistics &**

**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 currently 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.



**Dayna Campbell, PhD,
MPH President, Board
of Directors and co-
Executive Director,
Women of Color
Health Equity
Collective, Assistant
Professor, American**

**International College in the School of Health
Sciences**

Dayna Campbell is an Assistant Professor at American International College in the School of Health Sciences, Public Health program in Springfield and Adjunct Instructor at Holyoke Community College in the Foundations of Health, Community Health Worker certificate program. She is currently the President of the Board of Directors and co-Executive Director of the Women of Color Health Equity Collective (formerly MotherWoman, Inc.) a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the empowerment and resilience of Women of Color, families and communities.

Dayna is a trainer in cultural humility and community-based participatory research and has

spent the last two decades training future public health professionals, especially in the areas of population health, health education and promotion, and program planning and development. Dayna is an experienced lecturer, trainer and researcher in the areas of diversity and inclusion, cultural humility, culturally responsive planning and evaluation and disparities in health status and outcomes. Women’s health has dominated her research, particularly as it relates to reproductive health and pregnancy outcomes. She received her Graduate degrees from the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina.



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

As Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Dr. Monica Bharel serves as the Commonwealth’s chief physician. She helps lead the state’s aggressive response to the opioid crisis and is dedicated to reducing health disparities and developing data-driven, evidence-based solutions for keeping people healthy. She was appointed to her position by Governor Charlie Baker in February 2015.

Dr. Bharel oversees a public health workforce of nearly 3000 and an expansive department comprised of eight bureaus and offices responsible for a range of programs, from environmental health to infectious diseases, injury prevention, to maternal and child health. In addition, the department licenses health professionals and facilities that impact public health, and operates the state public health laboratory and four public health hospitals.

Under Dr. Bharel's leadership, the Department was awarded national accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board and, in 2017, Massachusetts was named the healthiest state in the nation by America's Health Rankings Annual Report which cited among other measures, the state's low prevalence of obesity and high vaccination rates. Massachusetts is one of few states to experience a decrease in opioid overdose deaths following multiple new initiatives including its Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, creation of core competencies to enable medical students with enhanced training regarding prescription drug misuse, and expanded access to medication-assisted addiction treatment and enhanced recovery support services.

Also in 2017, Dr. Bharel spearheaded creation of the Public Health Data Warehouse, a unique state-of-the-art tool involving multiple linked data sets across state government. This tool, developed within the newly created Office of Population Health, has proven invaluable for helping combat the opioid epidemic, garnering national attention as a model for the use of data to better understand complex health issues.

Dr. Bharel has been a voice for effective health policy, advocating for raising to 21 the age for tobacco and e-cigarette sales to reduce teen smoking and vaping; and passage of new regulations for testing blood lead levels in young children. She has led the transformation of community health investments to increase healthful opportunities for all.

Dr. Bharel has practiced general internal medicine for more than 20 years including at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston Medical Center, in neighborhood health centers, the Veterans Administration, and at nonprofit organizations. She has served on the faculty of Harvard Medical School, Boston University Medical School, and Harvard School of Public Health, and has been recognized for her passionate dedication to underserved and vulnerable populations. Prior to becoming

Commissioner, she served as the Chief Medical Officer of Boston Health Care for the Homeless, the largest nonprofit organization for homeless individuals in the country.

She received her Master of Public Health degree through the Commonwealth Fund/Harvard University Fellowship in Minority Health Policy. She holds 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.



**Matilde Castiel, MD,
Commissioner of
Health and Human
Services City of
Worcester**

Mattie Castiel, M.D. has always held a professional and personal mission to work with the underserved. She was born in Camaguey, Cuba and immigrated to the U.S. in 1962 as part of Operation Peter Pan. Raised and educated in California, she completed her medical training at the University of California-San Francisco. She moved to Worcester 32 years ago, and has practiced as a Board certified physician in Internal Medicine in the Worcester community for both Family Health Center and UMass Memorial. She is also an Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, Family Medicine and Psychiatry at UMass Medical School.

In 2009, Dr. Castiel founded the Latin American Health Alliance (LAHA), a nonprofit organization in Worcester dedicated to combating homelessness and drug addiction and at present she continues to serve as its Medical Director. LAHA's programs consist of the Hector Reyes House a substance abuse treatment facility for LatinX males and 2 transitional houses. In 2015 LAHA opened Café Reyes on Shrewsbury Street, an innovative jobs training program for

the residents at Hector Reyes House and transitional houses.

In September of 2015, Dr. Castiel was appointed as the City of Worcester's Commissioner for Health and Human Services, where she oversees the divisions of Public Health, Youth Services, Human Rights and Disabilities, Veterans Affairs, and Elder Affairs, and Homelessness along with advancing important new initiatives that fall under the scope of youth violence and the current opioid crisis.

Most recently she has been awarded in 2019-2020 the UMass Medical School Chancellor's Medal for Distinguished Service, the Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Award, Family Health center Healthy Communities Award and, LIFT Community Hero award and WBJ Hall of fame.



Robert Finberg, MD
Distinguished
Professor of Medicine,
University of
Massachusetts
Medical School,
Worcester

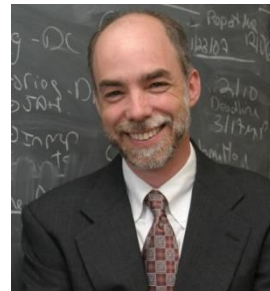
Robert W. Finberg is a physician scientist specializing in infectious diseases.

Dr. Finberg's career has focused on studies that define the interactions between viruses and mammalian hosts. He has participated in basic and clinical studies of the growth and spread of viruses that infect the respiratory tract. Dr. Finberg is the site investigator for the Pfizer vaccine study for COVID-19 at UMass and has been a national leader in COVID-19 treatment trials.



Thomas Mountain,
Vice Chair, Republican
Party

Tom Mountain (Brandeis '85) is the Vice Chair of the Massachusetts Republican Party and the founder and Vice Chair of the Massachusetts Republican Jewish Committee. He was a 2016 and 2020 Massachusetts Republican National Convention Delegate as well as a 2020 RNC Platform Committee Member.



Michael Doonan, PhD,
Executive Director,
Massachusetts Health
Policy Forum

Michael Doonan, PhD 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.