

2017 Student Forum Speaker Biographies

Michael Cannella, Esq.
Legislative Director, Office of
Senator James T. Welch,
Massachusetts State House

Michael Evan Cannella is the Legislative Director and Counsel to Massachusetts State Senator James T. Welch, Chairman of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing. Michael reviews and advises the Senator on healthcare legislation before the Committee and on other developments in state and federal healthcare policy. Michael is admitted to practice law in Massachusetts after graduating cum laude from Boston University Law School in 2014. He also received his MPH from Boston University School of Public Health in 2015 after serving as the Health Law and Bioethics Fellow. Upon completion of his MPH Michael was inducted into the Upsilon Phi Delta National Honor Society and was a recipient of the 2015 Allan R. Meyers Memorial Award for Excellence in Health Services. When not working on behalf of Senator Welch, Michael enjoys volunteering his time and skills. He serves as a community member on an Institutional Review Board at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and is a member of the Boston Bar Association's Health Law Education Committee.

Timothy O'Neill
Committee Director, Joint
Committee on Health Care
Financing, Massachusetts State
House

Timothy O'Neill is the Committee 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 Kate Hogan
House Chair, Joint Committee on
Public Health, Massachusetts
State House

Representative Kate Hogan is in her fourth term as State Representative for the 3rd Middlesex District. Kate is currently Chair of the Committee on Public Health, as well as the chair of the Public Library Caucus and a co-chair of the Elder Caucus. Prior to her first election in 2008, Kate spent over 25 years working in the publishing and print industry. As a legislator, Rep. Hogan has been a tireless advocate for building our local economy, a steward of our public libraries, and a voice for our elders and most vulnerable. Rep. Hogan believes her job is to create consensus, build alliances, and work toward solutions that will benefit her district & improve the quality of life for all citizens in this great Commonwealth.

***Senator James Welch
Senate Chair, Joint Committee on
Health Care Financing,
Massachusetts State House***

State Senator James Welch was sworn in January 2011 to represent Hampden District including Agawam, Chicopee, Springfield, and West Springfield. Senator Welch has lived in West Springfield his entire life; he graduated from West Springfield High School and continued his education at Springfield Technical Community College then transferred to Westfield State College to receive his B.S. in Business Management. In 2001 Senator Welch began his career in public service, by joining the staff of then 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. Senator Welch and his wife Kara (Flynn) reside in West Springfield with their two sons Tommy (4) and Christopher (2).

***Ray Campbell
Executive Director, Center for
Health Information and Analysis***

Ray Campbell is the Executive Director of the Center for Health Information and Analysis, an independent state authority charged with collecting data and conducting analyses on the Massachusetts healthcare system. Prior to joining CHIA, Ray was at the state's Group Insurance Commission in a variety of capacities, including acting Deputy Director and interim Executive Director. In addition to stints working as an independent consultant, from 2005 through 2012

Ray was the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Health Data Consortium, a multi-stakeholder non-profit comprised of virtually every organization in Massachusetts active in using health IT and health data to improve healthcare. While at MHDC he was involved in a wide range of public and private initiatives, both locally and nationally, relating to health IT, health information exchange, health data, administrative simplification, and payment reform. Ray's other public sector experience includes service as the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Corporation for Educational Telecommunications, as the General Counsel of the Massachusetts Information Technology Division, and the Director of Special Projects at the Massachusetts Executive Office for Administration and Finance. Over the years Ray has served on numerous public and private boards, committees, and workgroups. He has an MPA from the Kennedy School of Government, a JD from Suffolk University Law School, and a BA from Bates College.

***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
Former Executive Director
Group Insurance Commission***

Dolores Mitchell was, until this spring 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 420,000 people are covered by the GIC. Mrs. Mitchell served as executive director from 1987 - 2016, serving in the administrations of Governors Dukakis, Weld, Cellucci, Swift, Romney, Patrick and Baker. Mrs. Mitchell has had a long association with former Governor Dukakis, having served as his cabinet coordinator in his first administration.

Mrs. Mitchell also served as a member of a number of professional and community organizations, including the governing board of the Massachusetts Health Care Connector Authority, the Massachusetts Statewide Quality Advisory Committee (SQAC), and as a board member and former chair of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). She was also a board member of the National Quality Forum (NQF).

Mrs. Mitchell is a frequent speaker on health care, politics, women's career issues, and related subjects. She also has been appointed as a Senior Fellow to UMASS Boston.

***Dan Tsai
Assistant Secretary for
MassHealth and Medicaid Director
Executive Office of Health and
Human Services***

Daniel Tsai is the Assistant Secretary for MassHealth and Medicaid Director for the Commonwealth. Tsai was appointed in January 2015 by Governor Charlie Baker to oversee the

state's \$15 billion Medicaid program, which covers one in four residents in the Commonwealth. In his role, Tsai is responsible for ensuring a robust and sustainable MassHealth program. That includes developing new policies, payment models, and operational processes that improve the way health care is delivered to 1.8 million low- and moderate-income individuals and individuals with disabilities.

Before joining HHS, Tsai was a Partner and leader in McKinsey & Company's Healthcare Systems and Services practice. He has significant experience on design and implementation of innovative, state-wide health care payment systems for Medicaid, Medicare and Commercial populations, and has worked closely with multiple state Medicaid programs, private payers, and health services companies. He received a Bachelor of Arts in applied mathematics and economics from Harvard University.

Assistant Secretary Tsai and his wife live in Cambridge. He volunteers at a local community health center in Boston's South End.

***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.

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.

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. 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.

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

Dr. DeMaria serves as Medical Director of the Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences in the

Massachusetts Department of Public Health. He is also the 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 and the Boston University School of Medicine. Prior to joining the Department of Public Health in 1989, he was an infectious diseases consultant in private practice and prior to that on the staff of The Maxwell Finland Laboratory for Infectious Diseases and Section of Infectious Diseases, Boston City Hospital and Boston University School of Medicine. Dr. DeMaria is a Fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America and of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America, serves on multiple committees of the Massachusetts Medical Society and as Secretary on the board of The Public Museum. He is Past President of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists and of the Northeast Branch of the American Society for Microbiology.

Jennifer J. Barrelle, J.D., Chief of Staff, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Jen Barrelle is the Chief of Staff at the Department of Public Health. Upon graduating from law school, Jen took a position within the Legislature as the Chief of Staff to the Chairman of Third Reading overseeing legislation that went before the House for a vote. Taking advantage of an opportunity to work for the Vice Chair of Ways and Means, Jen used her position as Budget and Policy Director to help pass the Autism Insurance law mandating coverage for all individuals

with an autism diagnosis. Rounding out her tenure in the State House, Jen worked as legal counsel for the Committee on Municipalities before landing at DPH.

In 2013, Jen began working at DPH moving from Director of Constituent Services to Director of Policy and Regulatory Affairs. Upon Governor Baker taking office and declaring the opioid epidemic one of his top priorities, Jen became the department's point person on opioids working to implement the Governor's Task Force on Opioid's recommendations, sober home certification, the Prescription Monitoring Program, the Good Samaritan Law and the STEP law. In August 2016, Jen became the Interim Director of Substance Abuse Services, continuing the implementation of key initiatives while overseeing the bureaus. In December, Jen became chief of staff of the department.

Scott Zoback, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Scott Zoback is the Director of Strategic Initiatives at the Department of Public Health, where he is managing efforts to launch the new Office of Population Health. Zoback previously served as the Director of Communications for DPH, as well as the Manager of Communications for the Medical use of Marijuana Department. Zoback has over ten years of experience in government, policy, politics, communications, and media, and is a 2004 graduate of Clark University, where he also received his Masters in Public Administration in 2005.

Joan Mikula
Commissioner
Department of Mental Health

Joan Mikula was appointed Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health in May, 2015. She has served the Department for more than 30 years, most recently as Deputy Commissioner for Child and Adolescent Services. She has dedicated her career to ensuring that children, youth, families and adults have every opportunity to participate in their recovery and achieve their mental health goals. 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. She is expert in the areas of systems of care development; strengths based interventions in the context of family practice; youth and family voice; and of the linkage between behavioral health and primary care. Her expertise has guided the Department's efforts around children and their families and her commitment to interagency partnerships with families and youth have resulted in many cutting edge initiatives in the Commonwealth.

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 law, policy, and management at the Boston University School of Public Health, where he has taught since 1983. His courses on health finance, policy, planning, and management have won twelve awards. He directs the School's certificate program in health policy and law.

In 1979, he designed a "time banking" method of mobilizing voluntary aid for disabled citizens by creating a parallel economy of good deeds. Volunteers could contribute time by helping others and then withdraw it when they needed support.

His ongoing analyses of hospital closings in 52 U.S. cities over 75 years have shown that neighborhood race and hospital size predict survival but efficiency does not. Closings undermine access while boosting cost.

He suggests that U.S. prescription drug prices can and should be cut, to make needed meds affordable for all Americans—and that this can be done while spurring drug makers to innovate.

Alan Sager holds an undergrad degree in economics from Brandeis and a doctorate in city planning from MIT.

***Martha Bebinger,
Reporter, WBUR***

Martha Bebinger covers health care and a few odds and ends at WBUR, Boston's NPR News Station. She is the mother of three adventurous teenagers.

***Brian Rosman
Government Relations and Policy
Director, Health Care for All***

Brian Rosman is the Government Relations and Policy Director of Health Care For All. HCFA is the leading consumer health advocacy organization in Massachusetts.

Brian's work focuses on policy advocacy and analysis related to Massachusetts and national health reform, health delivery system reform and other policy issues. He also teaches health policy to Masters of Public Policy students at Brandeis University, and to advanced nursing students at Regis College.

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. Before that, he worked at the Massachusetts state legislature, as counsel to Health Care, and Senate Ways & Means committees.

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.

***Representative Jeffrey Sánchez
Chair of Joint Committee on Public
Health Massachusetts State House***

Representative Jeffrey Sánchez serves as Massachusetts State Representative for the 15th Suffolk District of Boston and Brookline. As House Chairman of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing, Rep. Sánchez has worked with his colleagues on several major pieces of legislation in healthcare, life sciences, and economic and infrastructure development.

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. He currently has an instructorship at the Center for Public Health Leadership at the Harvard University T.H. Chan School of Public Health.