

Panelist Biographies

Jon Kingsdale, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority

Jon Kingsdale is the Executive Director of the Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority, an independent authority established under Massachusetts' landmark health reform legislation of 2006, to promote coverage of the uninsured. He works with a broadly representative Board of Directors to develop key elements of the health care financing policy in Massachusetts, develop and implement new programs, and build a capable organization.

As a senior executive at the Tufts Health Plans for almost twenty years, he was responsible for strategic planning, product development, public affairs and government relations. He led major product initiatives including the development of various new HMO benefits for the group market (including tiered-network HMO and POS plans), New England's largest Medicare + Choice HMO, and consumer-directed health plans.

His work experience also includes executive roles in strategic planning and reimbursement at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, research on hospital finances at the Harvard School of Public Health, policy issues consulting in Washington, D.C., and reporting for Forbes Magazine.

He received a doctorate in economic history from the University of Michigan and a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania. He has taught at the Harvard School of Public Health and the Boston University School of Public Health.

James J. Mongan, M.D.

President and Chief Executive Officer, Partners HealthCare

James J. Mongan, M.D., chairs the Commission on a High Performance Health System. He is president and chief executive officer of Partners HealthCare, a position he assumed on January 1, 2003. He is also professor of health care policy and professor of social medicine at Harvard Medical School. From 1996-2002, Dr. Mongan served as president of Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), the largest and oldest teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School. Before his tenure at MGH, he served for 15 years as executive director of the Truman Medical Center in Kansas City and as dean of the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine. Prior to that, he spent 11 years in Washington, DC. He served as a staff member of the Senate Committee on Finance for seven years, working on Medicare and Medicaid legislation, and he served in the Carter administration as deputy assistant secretary for health and then at the White House as associate director of the domestic policy staff. Dr. Mongan is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. He chairs The Commonwealth Fund Health Care Reform Program Advisory Committee. He has served on the board of trustees of the American Hospital Association and the Kaiser Family Foundation, and was a member of the Prospective Payment Assessment Commission established by Congress. A native of San Francisco, Dr. Mongan received his undergraduate education at the University of California, Berkeley and Stanford University, and his medical degree from Stanford University Medical School. He completed his internship at Kaiser Foundation Hospital in San Francisco and served two years in the public health service.

Diane Rowland**Executive Vice President of the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and the Executive Director of the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured**

Diane Rowland is the Executive Vice President of the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and the Executive Director of the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. She is also an adjunct Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Bloomberg School of Public Health of the Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Rowland has directed the Kaiser Commission since 1991 and overseen the Foundation's health policy work since 1993. She is a noted authority on health policy, Medicare and Medicaid, and health care for poor and disadvantaged populations and frequently testifies as an expert witness before the United States Congress on health policy issues. Her federal health policy experience includes service on the staff of the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment of the Committee on Energy and Commerce in the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress, as well as senior health policy positions in the Department of Health and Human Services in the Office of the Secretary and the Health Care Financing Administration (now Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services). Dr. Rowland is a nationally recognized expert with a distinguished career in public policy focusing on health insurance coverage, access to care, and health care financing for low-income, elderly, and disabled populations.

Dr. Rowland is a member of the Institute of Medicine, a founding member of the National Academy for Social Insurance, Past President and Fellow of the Association for Health Services Research (now AcademyHealth), a Senior Fellow of the Brookdale Foundation and a member of the Board of Grantmakers in Health. She is also co-chair of the Public Policy Advisory Group for the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unwanted Pregnancy, and a member of the Campaign's Board. Dr. Rowland has served as a national expert on the Governor's Health Reform Task Force in Louisiana, the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality, and the Commonwealth Commission on the Future of Health Insurance and Commission on Women's Health.

Dr. Rowland holds a Bachelor's degree from Wellesley College, a Masters in Public Administration from the University of California at Los Angeles and a Doctor of Science in health policy and management from the Johns Hopkins University.

Amy Whitcomb Slemmer**Executive Director, Health Care for All**

Amy Whitcomb Slemmer is a health care attorney who brings more than twenty years of health policy and management experience in national and local arenas to Health Care For All. During her career, Ms. Slemmer has earned a reputation for her commitment to social justice, her ability to foster collaborations and partnerships, and for leading with vision and passion.

Prior to joining Health Care For All, Ms. Slemmer was the Executive Officer of Biomedical Services for the American Red Cross in Washington, DC, which is responsible for supplying nearly half of the nation's blood supply. As President of Slemmer & Associates Grassroots Advocacy she provided advice and counsel to a diverse group of health care organizations as they negotiated the federal legislative process. During her tenure as Executive Director of DC Vote, Ms. Slemmer gained national recognition

and attention for her advocacy efforts on behalf of DC residents' fight to gain full voting rights in Congress.

Ms. Slemmer has served as Legislative Counsel for the National Association of People with AIDS and as Director of Public Education for the Health Care Reform Project. She began her health policy career as a member of Senator Edward M. Kennedy's Health Staff.

Ms. Slemmer graduated with honors from Wheaton College with a Bachelors of Arts degree and earned a Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center. She is admitted to the Massachusetts Bar. Slemmer is a member of the Washington Interfaith Network, an IAF affiliate, a founding member of Project Northstar Homeless Tutorial Project and a Board Member of the National Episcopal AIDS Coalition.

Ms. Slemmer's work has been published by a number of organizations, including the American Red Cross, the Poverty & Race Research Action Council, the Washington Post, and the National Association of Public Hospitals.

Michael J. Widmer

President, Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation

Michael J. Widmer has been President of the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation since 1992. He joined the Foundation in 1990 after more than 20 years of management and political experience in both the public and private sectors in Massachusetts. He held a variety of senior-level positions at Cabot Corporation between 1979 and 1990, first as Director of Public Affairs and later as Vice President for Human Resources.

During the 1970s Mr. Widmer served with the Sargent administration as Special Assistant to the Secretary of Human Services and in the first Dukakis administration as the Governor's Director of Communications and Deputy Chief Secretary. Earlier in his career Mr. Widmer worked as a reporter for United Press International.

A cum laude graduate of Princeton University, Mr. Widmer holds M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in political science from Harvard University.

Celia Wcislo

Assistant Division Director, 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East

Celia Wcislo has worked to improve the quality and delivery of healthcare to Boston's low-income and underserved neighborhoods for more than 30 years. Serving as president of a local healthcare workers union, she has also worked with healthcare providers to develop innovative job training and education programs, and raised industry working standards for thousands of hospital, nursing home, and homecare workers throughout the Commonwealth.

Ms. Wcislo currently serves as the Assistant Division Director of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, a union of over 300,000 healthcare workers. 1199SEIU represents nurses, technicians and other caregivers in every facet of the hospital, nursing home and homecare industries in Massachusetts, Maryland, Washington D.C. and New York. The mission of 1199SEIU is to achieve affordable, quality healthcare for all.

Ms. Wcislo served on the Governor's Health Care Task Force under both Governor Weld and Governor Swift. She was also a member of the Attorney General's advisory panel during the Harvard Community Health Plan trusteeship, and the Mayor's Commission overseeing the merger of BostonCity Hospital and University Hospital.

A founding member of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, Ms. Wcislo is a frequent lecturer on labor-management partnerships, improving access to healthcare for underserved and immigrant populations, and the importance of workforce development within the healthcare industry.

Ms. Wcislo is a member of the Boston Public Health Commission and is an active leader in the FirstParish Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington. She holds a B.S. in Labor Studies from U-Mass/Boston and is a graduate of the Harvard Trade Union Program.