



Conference Agenda

Covering the Uninsured: Costs, Benefits, and Policy Alternatives for New England December 5, 2006

How can government ensure that its citizens have access to adequate health care? According to the U.S. Census Bureau, an increasing share of Americans does not have health insurance, leaving 47 million people in the U.S. without health care coverage as of 2005. This increase has occurred despite expansions in public health care coverage and greater employment among the uninsured. Currently, each of the six New England states is grappling with this issue, with legislatures either proposing or pursuing policy changes aimed at addressing the rising ranks of the uninsured.

The goal of this day-long conference is to foster a frank and productive dialogue regarding the challenges of expanding health insurance coverage in New England as well as the potential policies and funding mechanisms that have been proposed to solve the problem. Each session will begin with a brief synthesis of the latest research on the issue presented by a health policy expert, followed by a panel of practitioners or policymakers who will discuss their views on the topic. An open discussion among the attendees lasting approximately one hour, moderated by a well-known researcher or practitioner, will conclude each session.

8:00-8:45 *Arrival and registration*
Continental breakfast

8:45-9:00 *Opening remarks given by*
Cathy E. Minehan, President and CEO
Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

Session I: Defining the problem: Who are the uninsured and why are they uninsured?

9:00-9:30 *Presentation given by*
Katherine Swartz, Professor of Health Policy and Economics
Department of Health Policy and Management
Harvard School of Public Health

9:30-10:00 *Open discussion and questions for the speaker moderated by*
Lynn E. Browne, Executive Vice President and Policy Advisor
Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

10:00-10:15 Break

Session II: Setting the goal: The costs and benefits of expanding health insurance coverage

10:15-10:35 *Presentation given by*
John Holahan, Director
Health Policy Research Center
The Urban Institute

10:35-11:35 *Panel discussion moderated by*
Nancy Turnbull, President
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation

Panelists:

M. Beatrice Grause, President, Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems
Erin Hoeflinger, President, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Maine
Jon Kingsdale, Executive Director, Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector
John McDonough, Executive Director, Health Care for All
Joe Quinn, Director, State Health Care Policy, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
Tess Stack Kuenning, Executive Director, Bi-State Primary Care Association
John J. Thyng Jr., Campaign Director, New Hampshire for Health Care

11:35-12:30 *Expanded discussion among all conference participants*

12:30-12:45 Break: Please proceed to the Harborview Dining Room on the 31st floor for lunch

Luncheon, Harborview Dining Room

12:45-1:45 Lunch

1:15-1:45 *Luncheon address given by*
Dr. James Mongan, President and CEO
Partners HealthCare

Introduction of luncheon speaker by
Paul M. Connolly, First Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

1:45-2:00 Break: Please proceed back to the New England Room on the fourth floor



Session III: Reaching the goal: Evaluating the policy alternatives

2:00-2:20 *Presentation given by*
Alicia Sasser, Economist
New England Public Policy Center
Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

2:20-3:20 *Panel discussion moderated by*
Alan R. Weil, Executive Director and President
National Academy of State Health Policy

Panelists:

Patricia Leddy, Chief of Staff, Dept. of Mental Health and Retardation, Rhode Island
Kevin P. Lembo, State Healthcare Advocate, Connecticut
Amy Lischko, Commissioner, Division of Health Care Finance and Policy, Massachusetts
Trish Riley, Director, Office of Health Policy and Finance, Maine
Paul Spiess, Policy Team Chair, Governor's Office, New Hampshire
Representative John Tracy, Chair of House Committee on Health Care, Vermont

3:20-4:00 *Expanded discussion among all conference participants*

4:00-4:15 *Concluding remarks given by*
Katherine Swartz, Professor of Health Policy and Economics
Department of Health Policy and Management
Harvard School of Public Health

4:15 Break: Please proceed to the reception in the gallery on the first floor

Reception, Gallery Space

4:30-6:00 Reception for all conference participants