

Charting the Path to Resilience



Health Care for Maine
HC4ME

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 3, 2026**

Health Care for Maine HC4ME

Health Care for Maine (HC4ME) member organizations believe that every person in Maine should have access to high quality health care at a cost they can afford.

HC4ME members support:

- Access to the complete continuum of evidence-based health care services, including preventive, acute, chronic and long-term care, that is assured through comprehensive health care coverage
- Affordable health care coverage that is guaranteed for all, taking into account an individual's ability to pay
- Fostering greater transparency throughout our health care system to support informed decisions by consumers, providers and policymakers
- Developing public and private payment systems that reward quality evidence-based care and results while prioritizing preventive and primary care for all
- Ensuring a strong consumer voice in decision-making at all levels and in all forums
- Fostering and facilitating communication and collaboration with diverse interest groups and constituencies around common goals

2026 Health Care for Maine Steering Committee



AGENDA

- 9:00 – 9:15** **Introduction and Welcome Remarks**
- 9:15 – 10:00** **Keynote Address:**
- David Adler, DrPH, MPA, Associate Vice President for Policy, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- 10:00 – 10:45** **Opening Plenary: Update on Federal Changes to Coverage**
- *Overview of Changes in Access to Coverage Across the US*
Jeanne Lambrew, Director of Health Care Reform and Senior Fellow, The Century Foundation
 - *Update on Upcoming Changes to MaineCare Eligibility Including New Recertification, Work, and Community Engagement Requirements*
Michelle Probert, Director, Office of MaineCare Services
- 10:45 – 11:00** **Morning Break** | Visit exhibitors, get flu & Covid vaccines
- 11:00 – 11:20** **Employer and Consumer Experiences with Health Care Affordability in Maine – What the Data Shows**
- Trevor Putnoky, President and CEO, Purchasers Alliance of Maine
 - Kate Ende, Policy Director, Consumers for Affordable Health Care
- 11:20 – 11:45** **Gubernatorial Candidates Share Health Care Priorities**
- Honorable Hannah Pingree, Senator Rick Bennett and Bobby Charles Invited
- 11:45 – 12:45** **Lunch and Health Care Hero Recognition**
- Recognition of Governor Janet Mills & Joanne Rawlings-Sekunda
 - Visit exhibitors, get flu & Covid vaccines
- 12:45 – 1:00** **Break** | Visit exhibitors, get flu & Covid vaccines
- 1:00 – 2:15** **Workshops**
- **Health Care Professionals and Clinicians:** Preserving Coverage and Access for Patients
 - **Navigators, Assisters, and Brokers:** Marketplace Open Enrollment Updates
 - **Consumers and Advocates:** Safeguarding Coverage and Access During Challenging Times
- 2:15 – 2:30** **Return to Main Room for Exhibitors and Closing Plenary**
- 2:30 – 3:10** **Closing Plenary - Opportunities**
- *Rural Health Transformation Program Update*
Dr. Lisa Letourneau, Senior Advisor, Delivery System Change, Maine Department of Health and Human Services Commissioner's Office
 - *Office of Affordable Health Care, State of Maine*
Meg Garratt-Reed, Executive Director
- 3:10 – 3:30** **Raffle, Next Steps, and Evaluation**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



David Adler, DrPH, MPA

Associate Vice President for Policy,
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

David Adler, DrPH, MPA, is the Associate Vice President for Policy at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. In this role, he works across the Foundation, using policy to ensure that health is not a privilege but a right. Since joining the Foundation in 2008, Adler has worked on a variety of efforts to improve health.

He originally joined the Foundation as a Communications Associate working to reverse the childhood obesity epidemic in the United States. Adler's subsequent roles included leading communications efforts for the Foundation's coverage work and later serving as a Program Officer and Senior Program Officer, spearheading efforts to expand health care coverage and ensure that patient and consumer voices were represented in large-scale health system transformation efforts.

Before coming to the Foundation, Adler directed communications for The Food Trust in Philadelphia, where he helped to produce research reports that promoted increased access to healthy food in all communities. Adler's early career included teaching adult literacy at Philadelphia's Lutheran Settlement House and serving as a Program Coordinator of an initiative that allowed healthcare workers to advance in nursing careers as part of grant-funded program from the U.S. Department of Labor.

Adler received a BA from Swarthmore College, an MSt in Hebrew and Jewish Studies from the University of Oxford, an MPA from the University of Pennsylvania, and a DrPH in Health.

PLENARY

How New Federal Changes will Affect Coverage and Access in Maine

Jeanne Lambrew is the Director of Health Care Reform and a Senior Fellow at The Century Foundation. From 2019 to 2024, she served as the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Health and Human Services. As Commissioner, Lambrew helped expand and improve affordable health care to more than 100,000 people, bringing the state's uninsured rate to its lowest point ever; contributed to Maine's nation-leading COVID-19 response, including the highest vaccination rate of older residents and one of the lowest death rates in the country; and made historic investments in health and human services.



Jeanne Lambrew
The Century Foundation

Michelle Probert has been the MaineCare Director for the State of Maine since 2019. Her prior experience in health services and policy includes Manager of Integrated Health Services at General Dynamics-BIW and Director of Strategic Initiatives within the Office of MaineCare Services. Probert served as Purchase of Service Pricing & Policy Manager and Policy Analyst for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as well as Director of Policy, Marketing & Training for the WIC Nutrition Program. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology/Anthropology from Carleton College and a Master's Degree in Public Policy from the University of California, Berkeley.



Michelle Probert
Maine DHHS MaineCare

— HEALTH CARE HERO AWARDS —

GOVERNOR JANET MILLS



Governor Janet Trafton Mills is the first woman governor of Maine. Following the will of Maine voters, Governor Mills issued an Executive Order on her first full day in office expanding Medicaid (MaineCare) in Maine, providing more than 100,000 Mainers with comprehensive health coverage. She protected the lives and livelihoods of Maine people through a global pandemic with nation-leading results, including one of the highest vaccination rates and one of the lowest death rates in the country.

Governor Mills cut the uninsured rate by more than any other state in the nation. She has protected coverage for preexisting conditions and access to reproductive health care, essential health benefits such as ambulance services, prescription drugs and pediatric care, and has signed into law measures to shield Mainers from medical debt.

JOANNE RAWLINGS-SEKUNDA

Joanne Rawlings-Sekunda was the Director of the Consumer Health Care Division of the Maine Bureau of Insurance. She was actively involved in a broad range of regulatory, consumer protection, and policy matters related to insurance for health, life, disability, and long-term care. During her 25 years at the Bureau, she worked on implementing both the Affordable Care Act and the creation of Maine's own state-based marketplace, on ensuring access to medical care during the COVID pandemic, and on Maine's many efforts to improve its healthcare financing system.



She was also a member of the Public Sector Advisory Council for the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). Prior to joining the Bureau, she worked for the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) and on health-related issues for United Way of Greater Portland. She retired August 1st.

Health Care for Maine HC4ME

9th Annual Conference

Welcomes the Following Exhibitors:

- Consumers for Affordable Health Care
- Disability Rights Maine
- Maine AllCare, Healthcare for All Maine
- Maine Children's Alliance
- Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention
- State of Maine; DHHS; Office of MaineCare Services
- Maine CDC / Breast and Cervical Health Program (MBCHP)

*Visit each exhibitor, get your card marked, and
enter the Maine Maple Syrup drawing today!*



Certificates of Attendance are available at the registration table.

Conference materials will be available online after the event:

<https://tinyurl.com/wrapupHC4ME2026>

WORKSHOPS

Health Care Professionals and Clinicians

Preserving Coverage and Access for Patients | 2nd floor Washington

- **Linda Sanborn, MD**, Co-Chair, Maine Medical Association Section on the Future of US Health Care
- **Courtney Pladsen, DNP, FNP, FAANP**, MaineCare Medical Director, State of Maine
- **James Jarvis, MD**, President, Maine Medical Association
- **Bobby Martin**, Sr. Director of Strategy & Partnerships, Maine Primary Care Association

Navigators, Assistors, and Brokers

Marketplace Open Enrollment Updates | 2nd floor Main Room

- **Chelsea Stephens**, Broker and Navigator Program Coordinator, Office of the Health Insurance Marketplace, Maine Department of Health and Human Services
- **Rachel Collamore**, Consumer Assistance Program Manager, Consumers for Affordable Health Care
- **Helen Roy**, Outreach and Education Coordinator, Consumers for Affordable Health Care

Consumers and Advocates

Safeguarding Coverage and Access During Challenging Times | 2nd floor York

- **Whitney Parrish Perry**, Government Relations Director, American Heart Assoc.
- **Kayla Sargent, MPH**, Associate Director of Strategic Planning & Communications, Office of MaineCare Services
- **Kathy Kilrain del Rio**, Advocacy & Programs Director, Maine Equal Justice
- **Bridget Quinn**, Advocacy and Outreach Director, AARP Maine
- **Julia MacDonald**, Director of Government Relations, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Maine

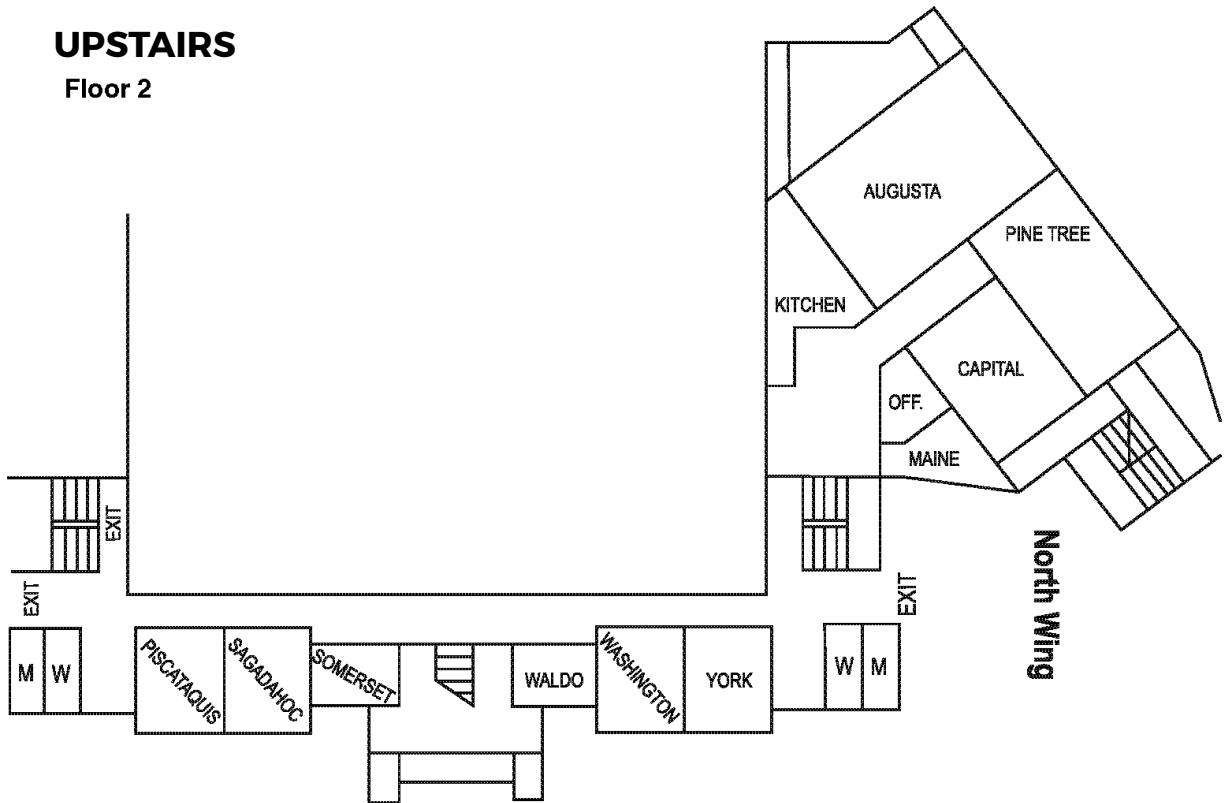
**Conference materials will be available
following the event at:**

<https://tinyurl.com/wrapupHC4ME2026>

FACILITY MAP

UPSTAIRS

Floor 2



Your Opinion Matters!

All online evaluations submitted TODAY will be entered into a drawing for a “Box of Maine”.

<https://tinyurl.com/HC4MEevaluation2026>

NOTES

MaineCare, Marketplace, Gap Filling
and other trainings available!



Trainings for health insurance professionals



**Consumers for
Affordable
Health Care**

**1-800-965-7476
mainecahc.org**

 MaineCAHC.org



 @mainecahe

 @mecahe

 @mecahe

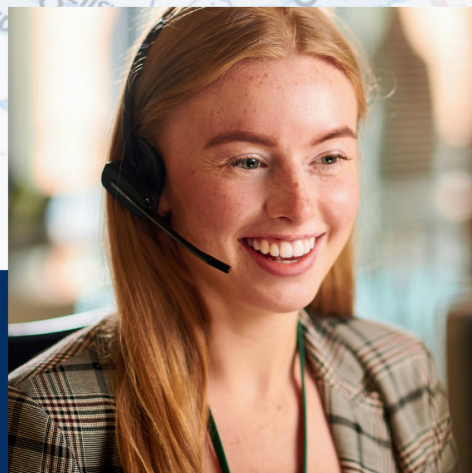
**Never outsourced.
Never automated.**
**Just Mainers helping Mainers
understand their health coverage options.**



1-800-965-7476



**Consumers for
Affordable
Health Care**



Special thanks to our sponsors!

MeHAF

MAINE HEALTH ACCESS FOUNDATION



American
Heart
Association



**Consumers for
Affordable
Health Care**

Don't forget to visit exhibitors & get vaccines!

**Get stamps from all
exhibitors for a chance
to win the drawing!**

