

Working Together To Preserve Health Care Access



Health Care for Maine

HC4ME

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 7, 2025

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

2025 Health Care for Maine Steering Committee



8th Annual Health Care for Maine Conference

"Working Together to Preserve Health Care Access"

October 7, 2025, Augusta Civic Center

———— **AGENDA** ————

9:00 – 9:15 **Introduction and Welcome Remarks**

9:15 – 10:00 **Keynote Address:**

Anthony Wright, Executive Director, Families USA

10:00 – 10:45 **Plenary:** How New Federal Changes will Affect Coverage and Access in Maine

- Jeanne Lambrew, Director of Health Care Reform and Senior Fellow, The Century Foundation
- Michelle Probert, MaineCare Director, State of Maine
- Hilary Schneider, Director, Maine Office of the Health Insurance Marketplace

10:45 – 11:00 **Morning Break**

11:00 - 12:30 **Gubernatorial Candidate Forum**

Vision for Health Care Access in Maine

12:30 – 1:30 **Lunch, Networking**

12:30 – 12:45 **Media/Press Availability** with Anthony Wright, Families USA and Vincent DeMarco, Maryland Health Care for All

1:30 – 3:00 **Workshops**

- Tackling Rising Health Care Costs
- Engaging Consumers in Health Care Advocacy
- Initiatives to Improve Access to Primary, Behavioral, and Oral Health Care
- Critical Enrollment Updates for Maine Enrollment Assistors and Navigators

3:00 – 3:30 **Wrap Up**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Anthony Wright Executive Director Families USA, Washington D.C.

Before joining Families USA, Anthony Wright served 22 years as Executive Director of Health Access California, the statewide health care consumer advocacy coalition. Under Wright's leadership, Health Access California led state efforts to win patient protections, fight budget cuts, invest in the safety net, expand coverage, and advance equity and prevention.

Wright led California's coalition effort to help pass and later defend the Affordable Care Act, and for state policies to implement and improve the law to attain the biggest drop of the uninsured rate in the nation. He was responsible for numerous successful health care advocacy efforts to pass critical health reforms — such as nation-leading laws to stop surprise medical bills, ensure timely access to care, stop hospitals overcharging, and expand Medicaid regardless of age, assets, or immigration status.

A consumer advocate and community organizer quoted widely in state and national media, Wright's background also includes working for New Jersey Citizen Action, the Center for Media Education, The Nation magazine, and at the White House in Vice President Al Gore's office. Raised in the Bronx, he graduated from Amherst College magna cum laude in both English and Sociology.



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 is 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

Hilary Schneider is the Director of Maine's Health Insurance Marketplace, which operates Maine's state-based marketplace. Schneider has two decades of health policy experience, primarily in government relations and consumer advocacy. She has also worked in marketing, program evaluation, and economic and management consulting. She holds a BA in Economics from Bates College and a Master in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School.



Hilary Schneider
Maine Office of the Health Insurance Marketplace

GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE FORUM

Vision for Health Care Access in Maine

Candidates will share their vision for preserving access to health care in Maine
(all declared candidates were invited)

The Honorable Shenna Bellows

The Honorable Richard Bennett

Kenneth A Capron

Jason Seth Cherry

John Michael Glowa, Sr.

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson

Owen McCarthy

Alexander Kenneth Murchison

Kenneth Forrest Pinet

The Honorable Hannah Pingree

Robert J Wessels

HEALTH CARE HERO

BARBARA LEONARD, MPH

Barbara Leonard spent 16 years at Maine Health Access Foundation (MeHAF), beginning as a Senior Program Officer in 2007. She then served as MeHAF's Vice President for Programs from 2008 - 2016 and became the Foundation's second ever President & CEO in October of 2016, serving in that role until the end of 2024. As CEO, she has supported MeHAF's ongoing growth toward advancing equity and creating greater opportunities for community voice in planning and decision-making. She helped to initiate the foundation's pioneering work to advance integration of primary care and behavioral health. She has played a key role in Coverage and Payment Reform efforts, Oral Health, and Affordable Care Act and Medicaid expansion outreach and enrollment.



As president of The Leonard Group in 2005 - 2007, she consulted with organizations including the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors. She directed the Division of Community Health at Maine Bureau of Health from 2003 – 2005 and was a Policy Fellow at University of Southern Maine's Muskie School in 2006 – 2007. Ms. Leonard has served on state and national-level boards and advisory groups, including chairing the Maine Philanthropy Center and the Maine Women's Fund boards, and serving on the boards of the Maine Public Health Association and the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors.

She was a member of the National Advisory Committee for DentaQuest Foundation's Oral Health 2014 initiative and RWJF's Healthy Kids Healthy Communities program, also serving as a member of the Evaluation Advisory Committee. She holds an MPH from Yale University and BA from Colby College.

WORKSHOPS

Tackling Rising Health Care Costs

2nd floor Washington/York

- Marti Hooper, Actuary, Maine Bureau of Insurance
- Meg Garratt-Read, Director, Maine Office of Affordable Health Care
- Vincent DeMarco, President, Maryland Health Care for All
Update on Maryland's Prescription Drug Affordability Board
- Sharon Treat, Board Member, Maine Prescription Drug Affordability Board

Engaging Consumers in Health Care Advocacy

2nd floor Sagadahoc

- Patty Kidder, Maine People's Alliance
- Bridget Quinn, Associate State Director of Advocacy and Outreach, AARP
- Sana Osman, Member Engagement Manager at the Office of MaineCare
- Allinna Diaz, Organizing Director, Maine Equal Justice

Initiatives to Improve Access to Primary, Behavioral, & Oral Health Care

2nd floor Piscataquis

- James Jarvis, MD, President-Elect, Maine Medical Association
- Leslie Lorentzen, Workforce Program Manager, Maine Primary Care Association
- Tina Chapman, Senior Engagement Officer, Kennebec Behavioral Health
- Carla Stockdale, LCSW, Clinical Director, Kennebec Behavioral Health

Critical Enrollment Updates for Maine Enrollment Assistors & Navigators

2nd floor Augusta/Capitol/Pine Tree (Main Conference Room)

- Helen Roy, Outreach & Education Coordinator, Consumers for Affordable Health Care
- Patty Lovell, Health Care Program Manager, Western Maine Community Action Program
- Hilary Schneider, Director, Maine Office of the Health Insurance Marketplace
- Tierney Beauregard, Policy and Research Coordinator, Maine Office of the Health Insurance Marketplace

Conference materials will be available following the event at:

<https://tinyurl.com/HC4ME2025>



Maine Medical
Association



Medical Professionals Health Program
A PROGRAM OF THE MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
Monitoring • Support • Advocacy • Resources

MMA/
CENTER FOR
QUALITY
IMPROVEMENT



Hanley Center
for Health Leadership
& Education

**Working together to
advance the quality of
medicine in Maine and
promote the health of all
Maine people.**

**MMA
Website**



**MMA
E-News**



**MMA
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**Children's
Oral Health
Network
of Maine**

We improve children's health
by mobilizing partners and
communities to transform
oral health care in Maine



Scan this code to
join our mailing list
and find ways
to engage in our work!

<https://www.maineconh.org/get-involved>



Trainings for health insurance professionals

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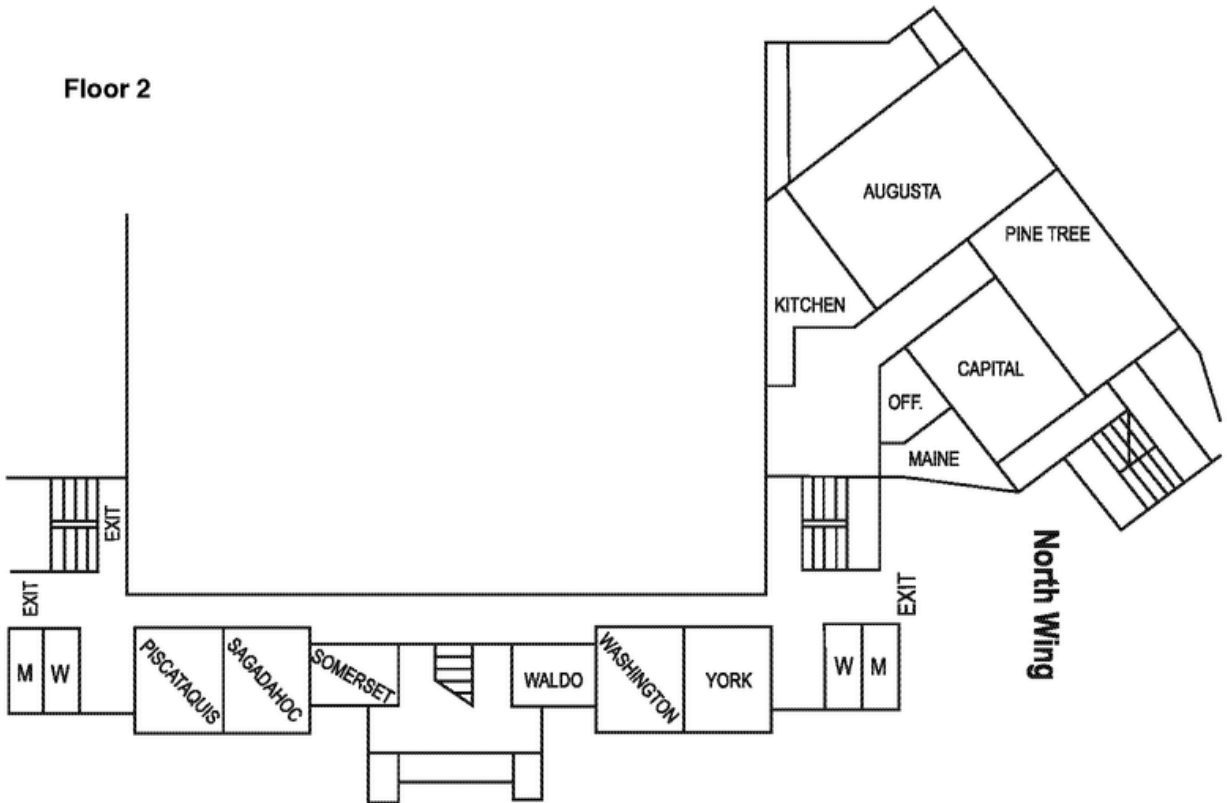
Need help exploring your health coverage options?
Call Maine's Health Insurance Consumer Assistance Program



**Consumers for
Affordable
Health Care**

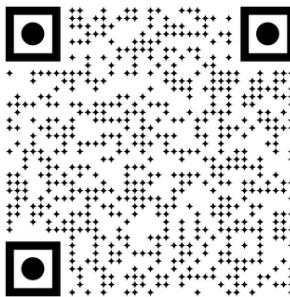
1-800-965-7476
mainecahc.org

— FACILITY MAP —



Your opinion matters!

All online surveys submitted TODAY will be entered into a drawing a \$50 Visa gift card!



<https://tinyurl.com/25HC4MEsurvey>



Special thanks to our sponsors!



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Consumers for
**Affordable
Health Care**



Certificates of Attendance will be available at the registration table.

Conference materials will be available following the event online:

<https://tinyurl.com/25HC4MEconf>



Get the family caregiving help you need with resources in Maine.

The AARP Family Caregiver Resource Guide for Maine helps family caregivers access key programs, services and agencies in their community.

To order a copy of the guide, call the AARP Family Caregiving Resource Line at **1-877-333-5885** and request the AARP Family Caregiver Resource Guide for Maine. Or view it online at **aarp.org/CaregiverResources**.

Find us at **aarp.org/me** | **me@aarp.org** | **[@aarpmaine](https://twitter.com/aarpmaine)**

