

Mending the Nation's Broken Healthcare System

TOWN HALL MEETING

Hofstra University
Student Center Theater
Sondra and David S. Mack Student Center,
North Campus

Thursday, September 25, 2008





As part of its Educate '08 series of year-long events, Hofstra University and the North Shore-LIJ Health System have invited the community and the university to examine one of the nation's most pressing and imploding issues: the cost, effectiveness and accessibility of healthcare.

An estimated 47 million Americans, including three million New Yorkers, are living without health insurance. Even those who are covered struggle to pay for their rising insurance premiums, physician co-pays and prescription drugs. Medicaid and Medicare recipients are experiencing greater difficulties finding doctors willing to treat them because of low reimbursements. The rising cost of health insurance is forcing many employers to discontinue coverage for their workers and jeopardizing the ability of others to compete in the global market. At the same time, hospitals struggle to stay afloat in the face of Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement cuts and in an increasingly competitive healthcare market.

This evening's public forum provides an opportunity to hear some of the nation's leading experts on healthcare policy discuss what's needed to mend the nation's healthcare system as well as a chance to join in the discussion.

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MODERATOR



Alvin Bessent

Editorial Page Editor, Newsday

In 14 years as a member of *Newsday's* editorial board, Mr. Bessent has covered a range of subjects, including healthcare, the race for the presidency, civil liberties in the war on terror, taxes, retirement security and the housing crisis. He began at *Newsday* as a reporter after stints as a college advisor, vocational rehabilitation specialist and legislative assistant for Michigan governor William Milliken.

Mr. Bessent has a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in journalism. He was a John S. Knight fellow at Stanford University where he studied globalization and international relations.



Sara R. Collins, PhD

Assistant Vice President, Program on the Future of Health Insurance, The Commonwealth Fund

Dr. Sara Collins is an economist whose responsibilities include survey development, research and policy analysis, as well as directing the Commonwealth Fund's national health insurance program. Since joining the Commonwealth Fund, Dr. Collins has directed or co-directed seven national surveys on health insurance, and authored or co-authored over 30 reports, issue briefs and journal articles. She has provided invited testimony before several Congressional committees and subcommittees.

Prior to joining the Commonwealth Fund, Dr. Collins was associate director/senior research associate at the New York Academy of Medicine, Division of Health and Science Policy. Previously, she was an associate editor at *U.S. News & World Report*, where she wrote articles on economics and healthcare. She was also a senior health policy analyst in the New York City Office of the Public Advocate.

She holds an AB in economics from Washington University, St. Louis, MO, and a PhD in economics from George Washington University, Washington, DC.



David M. Weiss, PhD

Associate Professor, Health Professions and Family Studies Department, Hofstra University

Dr. David Weiss' career has been one involving teaching, administration, research and community/advocacy service. Before coming to Hofstra, he was a professor in the Healthcare and Public Administration Department of Long Island University's (LIU) C.W. Post campus.

Dr. Weiss has also held several administrative positions. At LIU, he served as assistant vice president for academic affairs, as well as assistant dean for the faculty of business, public administration and accountancy, and the School of Business and Public Administration. At Hofstra, he directed the MHA program in health administration.

Dr. Weiss is a frequent public speaker and public television guest addressing such social concerns as healthcare reform, Medicare, Medicaid, and healthcare ethics.

Dr. Weiss received his bachelor's degree from LIU in Brooklyn, NY, his master's degree in sociology and social psychology from Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, and his PhD in medical sociology and health services research from the University of Pittsburgh.

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Panel Discussion

Panelists:

Richard J. Umbdenstock, FACHE
*President and CEO
American Hospital Association*

Mark T. Bertolini
*President
Aetna, Inc.*

Michael J. Dowling
*President and CEO
North Shore-LIJ Health System
Chairman
National Center for Healthcare Leadership*

Sara R. Collins, PhD
*Assistant Vice President, Program on the Future of Health Insurance
The Commonwealth Fund*

David M. Weiss, PhD
*Associate Professor, Health Professions & Family Studies Department
Hofstra University*

Moderator:

Alvin Bessent
*Editorial Page Editor
Newsday*

Question and Answer Session

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PANELISTS



Richard J. Umbdenstock, FACHE

President and CEO, American Hospital Association

Richard J. Umbdenstock is the president and chief executive officer of the American Hospital Association (AHA), and a past chair of the AHA board of trustees.

Prior to assuming this position, he was executive vice president of Providence Health and Services, an integrated healthcare system formed on January 1, 2006 through the merger of Providence Services and

Providence Health System. He served as president and chief executive officer of the former Providence Services, Spokane, WA.

Mr. Umbdenstock's career includes 11 years as an independent consultant for voluntary hospital governing boards in the United States and Canada. He is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Mr. Umbdenstock received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT, and a Master of Science degree in health services administration from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Mr. Umbdenstock was awarded a Doctor of Laws honorary degree from Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA.



Mark T. Bertolini

President, Aetna, Inc.

Mr. Bertolini has oversight and responsibility for all businesses and service operations across Aetna's broad range of healthcare products. Since May 2007, he was executive vice president and head of Aetna Business Operations. Prior to taking this position, Mr. Bertolini served as head of Aetna Regional Businesses, which included Aetna's individual, retiree, small group and middle market segments as well as numerous product, network and service areas.

Mr. Bertolini joined Aetna as head of Aetna Specialty Products in February 2003. He came to Aetna from Cigna HealthCare, where he served in several senior vice president positions. Before joining Cigna, he was executive vice president of NYLCare Health Plans and chief executive officer of SelectCare, Inc., a multi-lined managed care company.

Mr. Bertolini holds a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, and an MBA in finance from Cornell University.



Michael J. Dowling

*President and CEO, North Shore-LIJ Health System
Chairman, National Center for Healthcare Leadership*

As president and chief executive officer, Michael Dowling leads the North Shore-LIJ Health System, the largest integrated healthcare system in New York State and the nation's third largest, non-profit secular healthcare system with a total workforce of about 33,250 employees.

Prior to becoming president and CEO in January 2002, Mr. Dowling was the health system's executive vice president and chief operating officer. Before joining North Shore-LIJ in 1995, he was a senior vice president at Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

Mr. Dowling served in New York State government for 12 years, including seven years as state director of health, education and human services and deputy secretary to the governor. He was also commissioner of the New York State Department of Social Services.

Mr. Dowling earned his undergraduate degrees from University College Cork, Ireland, and his master's degree from Fordham University. He also has an honorary doctorate from Hofstra University.