

Medicaid in New York: Centering Communities Post-COVID

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Speaker Biographies

Susan Beane, MD, joined [Healthfirst](#) in 2009, bringing with her extensive professional experience in managed care. As executive medical director, Dr. Beane, a dedicated proponent of primary care and a board certified internist, promotes true partnership with providers and communities to facilitate an effective, efficient, equitable delivery system that promotes satisfying access for all. A graduate of Princeton University and Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, Dr. Beane leads Healthfirst in the collaboration with multiple stakeholders on the design, implementation, and dissemination of innovative, outcomes focused models of care. Her research contributions span the health of caregivers, obesity, community health collaboration, chronic care management, and maternal health. In particular, Dr. Beane is an expert in the benefits and challenges of the use of health insurance data to define populations and health outcomes. Prior to joining Healthfirst, Dr. Beane served as chief medical officer for Affinity Health Plan for five years—during which time she helped Affinity’s plan become a top performer in quality and member satisfaction. Before that, she worked at AmeriChoice and HIP USA, as medical director.

Anne Marie Costello currently serves as deputy center director for the [Center for Medicaid & Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\) Services](#) (CMCS) within the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Previously, Ms. Costello was director of the Children and Adults Health Programs Group (CAHPG) in CMCS. There, she directed CMS’s work on eligibility, enrollment, quality of care measurement, and quality improvement initiatives for children and adults served by Medicaid, the Children’s health Insurance program (CHIP), and the Basic Health Program (BHP), leading the development of national policy for low-income children and adults enrolled in Medicaid, CHIP, and BHP. She led the implementation of quality improvement initiatives on maternal and child health, children’s oral health and prevention, and special initiatives related to the Agency’s response to the Zika virus and the Flint water crisis. Ms. Costello is a nationally recognized expert on health policy and has extensive experience implementing Medicaid, CHIP, and BHP policies and operations at the federal and state levels. Before joining CMS, she held a number of leadership positions in state and local government and in the nonprofit sector. Ms. Costello also served as the director of the Bureau of Compliance at the New York State Department of Health. She was responsible for

oversight of Medicaid policy implementation in New York City and implementation of statewide outreach and enrollment initiatives. Ms. Costello holds a Master of Public Health degree from Hunter College.

Brett R. Friedman, Esq., is director of strategic initiatives and special counsel, New York State Department of Health, [Office of Health Insurance Programs](#). In this position, which he had held since 2019, Mr. Friedman reported to and supported the Medicaid Director on key Medicaid initiatives that involve the complex intersection of legal, regulatory, and policy issues and that have the potential to shape the future of the Medicaid program in New York State. Additionally, since June 2021, Mr. Friedman has assumed day-to-day responsibility for management and oversight of the Medicaid Program following the announced retirement of Donna Frescatore. Previously, Mr. Friedman was a partner in the health care group of Ropes & Gray LLP and co-head of the firm's Digital Health practice. In these capacities, he developed significant experience in advising governmental and non-governmental entities on a variety of complex transactional, enforcement and regulatory matters within the health care and digital health industries. Mr. Friedman received a Juris Doctor from The George Washington University Law School and graduated from Brandeis University.

Lisa Green is the senior vice president of Residential Services at [The Bridge](#), a non-profit social services agency serving vulnerable New Yorkers. Ms. Green oversees more than 1,500 units of supportive housing occupied by individuals with histories of homelessness and institutionalization, who have diagnoses of serious psychiatric and/or substance use disorders. Prior to specializing in the field of supportive housing, she was an attorney, with experience practicing in corporate law, legal services, and New York City government. Ms. Green received a Master in Urban Policy Analysis and Non-Profit Management from The New School; a Juris Doctor from the UCLA School of Law; and her Bachelor's degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara. She has presented and moderated panels at numerous conferences sponsored by organizations such as the Supportive Housing Network of New York and the Association for Community Living.

Ronald R. Lawson is the chief operating officer at [Care For the Homeless](#) (CFH). Ron has 20+ years of experience in the non-profit landscape, serving several senior management positions. Prior to his time at CFH, he worked as the director of Finance and Administration for the National Winter Activity Center. Previously, he served as the managing director of Lawson Consulting Associates (LCA), a provider of financial and strategic planning as well as board development and fundraising. Key clients included Columbia University, the Archdiocese of New York, and One Hundred Black Men Inc. Other past credentials include serving as the Assistant National Executive Director of Operations at the YWCA National Office, and as the director of Finance Administration for former NYC Mayor David Dinkins' re-election campaign. Mr. Lawson holds a Bachelor of Arts in

Political Science from The College of the Holy Cross, a Master of Science in Public Policy and Management from Heinz College at Carnegie-Mellon University, and a Certificate in Professional Accounting from Northwestern University's J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management. A passionate alumnus, Mr. Lawson sits on the Board of the Holy Cross Alumni Association.

Kishor Malavade, MD, is currently the vice chair and chief medical officer of the Department of Population Health at [Maimonides Medical Center](#). In this role, he has helped lead the Maimonides-led Performing Provider System Community Care of Brooklyn (CCB) under the New York State DSRIP program. Dr. Malavade has helped implement efforts to improve the quality of care for the Medicaid population in Brooklyn by engaging providers in practice transformation to better address the social and behavioral health needs of their patients, engaging community-based organizations to help meet these needs and address structural issues that result in health disparities, and utilizing care management to coordinate services for individuals with complex health and social problems. He was previously the vice chair in psychiatry at Maimonides. He was chief medical officer for a Health Care Innovation Award from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to Maimonides in 2012 that developed a model to coordinate care for individuals with serious mental illness through community-based care management. He completed his medical degree at Cornell University Medical College, and his residency training in psychiatry and a fellowship in forensic psychiatry at New York University School of Medicine. He was the director of Bellevue's Psychiatric Emergency Services before joining Maimonides in 2010.

Bonnie Mohan is co-founder and executive director of [The Health & Housing Consortium](#). Under her leadership as executive director, the Consortium has grown to over 60 member organizations, cultivated innovative partnerships, and emerged as a go-to thought leader on health and housing in New York City. Since 2018, Ms. Mohan has worked with NYU Langone Health to successfully expand the Consortium in Brooklyn. Ms. Mohan has spent the past 15 years navigating the worlds of housing and health care, learning how they intersect, and identifying ways they can become more integrated in order to better serve people with complex health and housing needs. Ms. Mohan began her career in affordable housing at the University Neighborhood Housing Program (UNHP) in the Northwest Bronx, moved on to homeless services at BronxWorks, and then made the leap to health care, serving as assistant director of the Bronx Lebanon Health Home during its implementation. In 2011, she helped found the Bronx Health & Housing Consortium. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies and Political Science from Fordham University and served for two years in Ethiopia in the United States Peace Corps.

Jeffannie O’Garro is an aspiring epidemiologist who has been conducting [Participatory Action Research](#) (PAR) in Brooklyn for the past four years. She is currently interning with Brooklyn Communities Collaborative (BCC), where she assists the staff and board in the implementation of the recommendations that have been generated by the PAR studies. Ms. O’Garro led a team of 25 students in conducting a “rapid PAR” in January 2021 and co-authored the study’s report, Barriers to Covid-19 Testing and Vaccination. Community health-based research has driven her passion for pursuing an MPH. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Medgar Evers College and will be pursuing a Master of Public Health at Columbia University in Fall 2021.

Anthony Shih, MD, MPH, was appointed president of [United Hospital Fund](#) in August 2017. Previously, Dr. Shih held senior executive positions at several leading non-profits, including executive vice president of the New York Academy of Medicine, executive vice president for programs at The Commonwealth Fund, and chief quality officer at IPRO. He began his medical career at a community-based mental health clinic serving immigrant and refugee families in Oakland, CA. He is nationally recognized for his expertise in health policy, health system performance improvement, quality improvement, and population health, as well as for his commitment to serving historically underserved and disadvantaged populations. Board-certified in preventive medicine and public health, Dr. Shih earned a Bachelor of Arts in economics from Amherst College; a Doctor of Medicine from the New York University School of Medicine; and a Master of Public Health from Columbia’s Mailman School of Public Health.

Shari Suchoff is vice president for population health policy and strategy at Maimonides Medical Center and executive director of [Brooklyn Communities Collaborative](#) (BCC). Ms. Suchoff has played a key role developing and implementing population health initiatives for over a decade at Maimonides, spearheading efforts related to addressing social determinants of health by engaging a large and diverse network of partners. As the founding executive director of BCC, she leads work with founding members including the City University of New York, Maimonides, One Brooklyn Health, and other key community, labor union, and government partners to leverage their collective economic power to drive economic change in communities throughout Brooklyn. Prior to joining Maimonides, Ms. Suchoff served as senior policy advisor on health care issues to Senator Kirsten Gillibrand during the consideration and passage of the Affordable Care Act, and as a health and welfare policy advisor to Majority Leader Charles Schumer. She has a Master of Public Policy and Bachelor of Arts in Government and Politics degree from the University of Maryland.

Debra Lesane Watson, over her 40-year career, has held administrative and executive level positions for a variety of health and social service providers throughout New York City. Until June 2021, Ms. Watson was the director of

programs at the [Caribbean Women's Health Association, Inc.](#), where she was responsible for a variety of services to support women and their families throughout New York City, including HIV Testing and Prevention Education and Maternal and Child Health Programs. As a community health advocate, Ms. Watson has been invited to serve on several advisory boards, including the Downstate Hospital Community Advisory Board, the New York City HIV Prevention Planning Group, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's HIV Women's Advisory Board, and the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee. Ms. Watson's health advocacy efforts in New York City have been recognized by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, City Council Member Annette Robinson, and Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams.

Van Yu, MD, is chief medical officer of the [Center for Urban Community Services](#) (CUCS) and its health care affiliate, [Janian Medical Care](#), which provides on-site psychiatric and primary care to people with lived experience of homelessness at outreach programs, shelters, and safe haven and supportive housing programs. From 2007-2013, Dr. Yu served as medical director of the Manhattan Outreach Consortium. Previously, he was an attending psychiatrist in the Bellevue Hospital Center Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program for two years prior to becoming assistant director, a position he held from 2001-2003. Dr. Yu also joined the Project for Psychiatric Outreach for the Homeless, the precursor to Janian Medical Care, as a staff psychiatrist from 2001-2003. Dr. Yu is a clinical assistant professor at the New York University School of Medicine, where he has held a faculty appointment since 1998. He earned his Doctor of Medicine from the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 1995, and completed a residency in psychiatry in 1999, including serving as a chief resident at the New York University Medical Center.