

# Healthcare Affordability and High Hospital Prices

March 17, 2022

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## Speakers

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**Marilyn Bartlett** narrowed her focus as a CPA to healthcare financial management, serving as Controller for a national health insurance carrier, CFO for a regional TPA, and health management positions within the Montana State Government.

Marilyn took the helm of the State of Montana Employee Benefit Plan in late 2014, moving the Plan from projected reserves of -\$9 million to \$112 million in less than 3 years. She disrupted the status quo by implementing reference-based contracting with all Montana hospitals; transparent, pass through pharmacy benefit; enhanced primary care on-site health clinics; and elimination of non-value-added products and services.

For her work in the healthcare financial arena, Marilyn was selected as #13 of the World's 50 Greatest Leaders by Fortune Magazine.

Marilyn currently serves as a Senior Policy Fellow for the National Academy of State Policy (NASHP), where she supports the NASHP Hospital Cost Tool. Using Medicare Cost Report data, the tool calculates selected financial metrics for over 6,500 hospitals spanning 10 years. The tool provides states, employers, and other purchasers of hospital care critical data to support cost containment measures.

**Claire Brockbank** is the CEO of Peak Health Alliance, a healthcare purchasing cooperative that has lowered health insurance premiums by over 30% for its members.

Claire led the initial efforts to develop legislation to permit the creation of employer purchasing alliances in Colorado and was the lead consultant with Peak Health Alliance in developing healthcare purchasing cooperatives in Colorado. Prior to this initiative, Claire led the strategic development and implementation of Pinnacle Assurance's groundbreaking initiative that offered integrated worksite wellness to its workers' compensation clients. Claire has had longstanding professional relationships with the Centers for Disease Control and several national employer purchasing coalitions.

Claire gained her broad perspective on healthcare through work for the U.S. Congress and state governments, with national and local insurance carriers and health plans, and as an executive with an employer coalition and several healthcare start-ups. She is well versed in reimbursement strategies and protocols as well as evolving quality and accountability metrics. Claire is also an unabashed lover of translating data and analytics into practical business impact metrics. She has authored a number of research articles in peer reviewed journals.

Claire received an MS in Health Policy & Management from Harvard University and her undergraduate degree from Stanford University.

**Suzanne Delbanco** is the executive director of Catalyst for Payment Reform, an independent, non-profit corporation working to catalyze employers, public purchasers and others to implement strategies that produce higher-value healthcare and improve the functioning of the healthcare marketplace. Suzanne also serves on the advisory board of the Source on Healthcare Price and Competition at UC Hastings. Previously, Suzanne was the founding CEO of The Leapfrog Group. Suzanne holds a Ph.D. in Public Policy from the Goldman School of Public Policy and a M.P.H. from the School of Public Health at the University of California, Berkeley.

**Howard Rothschild** serves as President of the Realty Advisory Board on Labor Relations, Inc. For almost four decades he has represented the real estate industry in labor negotiations and has participated in thousands of arbitrations in addition to representing employers in matters before the State and Federal Courts. He has also represented employers before numerous federal, state, and local administrative agencies regarding a variety of employment and labor issues, including unfair labor practice cases and discrimination claims. Notably, he also was counsel of record in *Pyett v. 14 Penn Plaza* before the Supreme Court of the United States, a seminal labor case that cemented arbitration's place as a foundation of organized labor relations. He is also a regular speaker to industry and legal professional groups.

Howard serves as an officer and trustee on the SEIU, Local 32BJ Funds, Local 94, IUOE Funds and Committees, and is active in the Funds' governance. In 2010, the International Foundation awarded Howard the designation of Master Trustee.

Howard volunteers extensively to further the interests of the community. In 2013, he was appointed to the Board of Directors of The Outreach Project, which provides treatment for adolescents struggling with alcohol and drug abuse; The Bridge in 2012 and its Executive Committee in 2017, which provides services for adults with mental illness and Children-At-Play in 2010, a preschool program for children with disabilities. He previously served on the Board of Trustees of the Solomon Schechter Day School of Raritan Valley (SSDSRV) for ten years and its Executive Committee for five years. Howard has been honored by Project Outreach, The Bridge, and SSDSRV for his commitment and devotion to these organizations. He has been the recipient of the NYARM Peace Prize, Diabetes Research Institute Query Award, Empire Whole Health Hero's Award, "City and State," 50 over 50 Most Distinguished Public Servants, and Real Estate Power 100.

A graduate of Hofstra Law School, he is admitted to practice law in New York State, as well as the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and the Supreme Court of the United States. Howard is also member of the New York State Bar Association, and the Real Estate Board of New York.

**Naomi Zewde** is an Assistant Professor in the Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy at the City University of New York and holds an appointment as a fellow at the Roosevelt Institute. She is formerly a post-doctoral scientist at the Columbia University School of Social Work, a member of the research staff at the Penn Wharton Budget Model, and a visiting researcher at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Naomi's research centers on inequalities in access to health insurance and in household wealth. Her work examines the ability of public policies to reduce these inequalities. Research includes studies of the economic impacts of public healthcare coverage, including impacts on poverty and rates of home eviction, and impacts of high-deductible health insurance on consumer wellbeing. Other research includes policies to address racial wealth inequality, including publicly-funded trust funds termed "Baby Bonds." Naomi's research has been published in academic outlets including *Health Affairs* and the *Journal of Risk and Insurance*, and featured in popular press outlets including the *New York Times*, *Ms. Magazine*, and *PBS Newshour*.