MASSACHUSETTS
HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION

2026 HEALTH CARE COST TRENDS HEARING

THE AFFORDABILITY IMPERATIVE: SECURING A SUSTAINABLE HEALTH CARE FUTURE

Tuesday, November 10, 2026
8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Suffolk University Law School
Boston, MA

Livestream
MassHPC.gov/2026-cth

8:30 AM	**REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST**
9:00 AM	**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME** **Deborah Devaux,** HPC Board Chair **David Seltz,** HPC Executive Director
9:15 AM	**OPENING REMARKS** **The Honorable Andrea Joy Campbell,** Attorney General
9:30 AM	**RESEARCH PRESENTATION** **The Affordability Imperative: From Research to Reform** **David Seltz,** HPC Executive Director
10:00 AM	**PANEL 1** **Beyond the Numbers: Real World Perspectives on Health Care Challenges** *Moderator: Sandra Cotterell* – **Leslie Diaz,** HelpLine Director, Health Care For All – **Mimi Gardner, MPH, MA,** Vice President and Chief of Community Partnerships and Health Impact, NeighborHealth – **Victoria Selser,** Epidemiologist, City of Fitchburg Health Department – **Joseph Szczechowicz,** President, SLS Outdoor Living & Landscaping – **Michael Wilson, PharmD,** Pharmacist and Owner of Crawford Drug; President of the Board, Massachusetts Independent Pharmacists Association
11:00 AM	**PANEL 2** **A Sustainable Safety Net: Focus on Access, Coverage, and Equity** *Moderator: Martin Cohen* – **Peter D. Banko,** President and CEO, Baystate Health – **Alastair Bell, MD, MBA,** President and CEO, Boston Medical Center Health System – **Brenda Rodriguez, MBA,** CEO, Lynn Community Health Center – **Ryan Schwarz, MD, MBA,** Massachusetts' Medicaid Director and Assistant Secretary for MassHealth

12:00 PM — **LUNCH BREAK**

12:45 PM — **PANEL 3**

The Right Care in the Right Place: Innovative Partnerships for Better Outcomes and Lower Costs

Moderator: Ashley Blackburn

RIGHT CARE, RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE

- **Susan Coakley,** President and CEO, Aspire Health and Community Services
- **William W. Tollefsen, MD, MSc, MBA, FAEMS,** Chair, Department of Emergency Medicine, EMS and MIH Medical Director, South Shore Health

HPC PATHWAYS INVESTMENT PROGRAM

- **Lisa Felci Jimenez, MSN, RN, LSW,** Director of Clinical Services, Mystic Valley Aging Services
- **Chris Mauro, LICSW, CCM,** Director of Social Work and Case Management, MelroseWakefield Hospital

1:30 PM — **RESEARCH PRESENTATION**

Data Insights on Health Care Cost Drivers and Dynamics

David Seltz, HPC Executive Director

1:45 PM — **PANEL 4**

Responding to Health Care Cost Growth: Trends, Tradeoffs, and Policy Solutions

Moderator: Christopher Leibman

- **Niyum Gandhi,** Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, Mass General Brigham
- **Patrick Gilligan**, President and CEO, Point32Health
- **Joseph M. Shields, Esq.**, Founder and President, Transparency Rising
- **Michael Valenta,** Chief Strategic Customer Officer, Johnson & Johnson
- **Matthew Veno,** Executive Director, Massachusetts Group Insurance Commission

3:00 PM — **PANEL 5**

A Call to Action: A Leadership Agenda for Health Care Affordability

Moderator: Deborah Devaux

- **Sarah Iselin,** President and CEO, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts
- **Audrey Morse Gasteier,** Executive Director, Massachusetts Health Connector
- **Diana Richardson,** President and CEO, Merrimack Health
- **Christina Severin,** President and CEO, Community Care Cooperative (C3)

4:00 PM — **REFLECTIONS AND DISCUSSION**

HPC Board of Commissioners, Office of the Attorney General, Center for Health Information and Analysis

4:15 PM — **PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

For more information and to sign up to testify, visit: www.masshpc.gov/2026-cth

4:30 PM — **ADJOURNMENT**

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