Executive Director’s Message

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank you for the work you do to improve and protect the health of the residents of Massachusetts and for your collective work as part of the Massachusetts Health Council.

Since its founding over ninety-seven years ago, the Health Council has been dedicated to fostering critical discussions and cooperative action among a broad group of stakeholders. Today, over 145 members convene to encourage policies and programs focused on prevention and wellness. The Health Council’s vision is that Massachusetts leads the nation in building healthy communities and promoting healthy lifestyles. Partnerships and cooperation are more important than ever to accomplish this.

Our member roundtables and educational forums provide an opportunity to discuss some of the most timely topics.

For this year’s annual policy conference we partnered with Let’s Talk About Food and Harvard University to hold a forum on children’s nutrition in and out of school. “Healthy Food Fuels Hungry Minds,” brought together nationally known nutrition and food policy experts Marion Nestle and Dariush Mozaffarian, as well as school food service directors from Boston and Houston to talk about how we can feed our children better in school and help them develop healthy eating habits for life. We convened school wellness committee members from across the state to share best practices and explore how to make school food nutritious for students.

Our 19th annual pharmacy symposium featured topics such as population health management for behavioral health patients, value-based pricing and contracting of drugs, sugary drinks and the role of the pharmacist and much more.


Member-only meetings with policy, legislative and health leaders kept us all informed.

In 2018 we will offer new programs and forums that continue our mission to foster a culture of health. Our priorities in the coming year include:

Leading a campaign to decrease the consumption of sugar sweetened beverages while encouraging the consumption of water. To this end, we will sponsor educational programs in schools across the Commonwealth; advocate for policies that increase the tax on sugar sweetened beverages and direct funds to critical public health projects including improved water access as well as infrastructure upgrades; and establish a “water in school” program to identify students’ level of access to clean drinking water and help schools improve where deficient.

Continuing in our efforts to address the opioid crisis. The Health Council will host regional conferences educating employers about protecting their employees and their businesses while eliminating the stigma of addiction.

Through programs, civic engagement, dialogue, and publication of critical trends, the Health Council encourages the best thinking and productive action among a broad set of stakeholders. Again, thank you for your work and for supporting the Massachusetts Health Council advance our collective mission to attain better health for all MA. residents.

Sincerely,

David Martin, Executive Director
Massachusetts Health Council
The Massachusetts Health Council has always been an important and influential advocate for policies and programs that advance health, wellness and preventative care. Over the last year, our efforts continued to gain value and visibility. In 2017, the Health Council released comprehensive data on health trends across the state, educated hundreds of pharmacists on timely public health topics, convened experts on nutrition and food policy to discuss making school food the best it can be and began a campaign to reduce consumption of sugary drinks.

The Council also hosted numerous public officials and content experts at its committee meetings to facilitate discussion and debate on significant health policy issues.

Our very successful annual awards dinner honored four exceptional individuals: Stuart Altman, PhD, Chair of the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission, Christina Economos, PhD and Peter Dolan of Tufts University’s Childobesity180, Raymond Tamasi, President of Gosnold Innovation Center as well as Bank of America for their model workplace wellness program. The award dinner allows us to recognize people and institutions who make our state the healthiest in the country while raising funds to host educational forums and to advocate for policies that make Massachusetts one of the healthiest states.

Looking forward to 2018, the Health Council will continue to convene members around improving health and wellness. Because there is conclusive evidence that sugary drinks contribute to obesity, diabetes and other chronic diseases, we will lead the effort to reduce consumption while improving access to clean drinking water so people in every community can make the healthiest beverage choices. In addition, we will continue our efforts to address the opioid epidemic with forums for the business community.

The members of the Council represent the most innovative leaders and thinkers in Massachusetts and our collaboration continues to support Massachusetts as the leader in building healthy, thriving communities for everyone.

Sincerely,

Charles T. Alagero, Esq., President
Massachusetts Health Council
Massachusetts Health Council Activity

The Health Council convenes member-only meetings, holds regular policy and educational forums and provides opportunities for members to network with decision-makers and leaders.

01/18/2017  19th Annual Pharmacy Public Health Policy Symposium

Massachusetts State House

2/21/2017  David Seltz, Executive Director | MA Health Policy Commission

3/29/2017  Brian Rosman & Alyssa Vangeli, Policy and Government Relations | Health Care for All
Eric Linzer, Government Relations | MA Association of Health Plans

04/18/2017  Ipek Demirsoy | Chief of Payment and Care Delivery Innovation MassHealth

05/17/2017  Mary Beckman & David Brill | Office of Attorney General Maura Healey

06/17/2017  Healthy Food Hungry Minds: Advancing Children’s Health In & Out of School
Harvard University

06/21/2017  Michael Botticelli, Executive Director | Grayken Center for Addiction Medicine, BMC
Annual Meeting, UMass Club

09/13/2017  Paul L. Jeffrey | Director of Pharmacy, MassHealth
1115 Waiver & MassHealth Pharmacy Program Changes

09/19/2017  Choose H2O Campaign

10/10/2017  2017 "Dining with the Stars" Annual Awards Gala

11/30/2017  Julia Harvey, MassHealth Payment and Care Delivery and Innovation

12/19/2017  Dr. Jennifer Childs-Roshak, President and CEO | Planned Parenthood League of MA
Michael Curry, Legislative Affairs Director and Senior Counsel | Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers
Lora M. Pellegrini, President and CEO | Massachusetts Association of Health Plans
Brian Rosman, Director of Policy and Government Relations | Health Care for All
The 2017 Annual Awards Gala “Dining with the Stars” was an overwhelming success in Executive Director David Martin’s second year! For 97 years the Health Council has celebrated outstanding individuals for the contributions they have made to promote and protect health and wellness in the Commonwealth and beyond. Co-Chairs Ralph Fuccillo, Senior Advisor, Delta Dental of MA and Donna Latson Gittens, Founder & CEO, MORE Advertising were wonderful supporters of the Health Council at this annual fundraiser. By sharing the importance of Massachusetts Health Council work with colleagues and associates; friends in and outside of health care, Ralph and Donna helped us exceed our fundraising goal!

2017 Honorees representing the best and the brightest in healthcare were:

**Stuart Altman PhD**, Chair, Massachusetts Health Policy Commission and Sol. C. Chaikin Professor of National Health Policy at Brandeis University The Heller School for Social Policy and Management

**Peter Dolan**, Chairman, ChildObesity180 and Chairman, Tufts University Board of Trustees

**Christina Economos, PhD**, Vice Chair & Director, ChildObesity180, New Balance Chair in Childhood Nutrition, and Professor, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University

**Raymond V. Tamasi**, President & Founder, Gosnold Innovation Center

The Corporate Award for Outstanding Workplace Wellness was received by the well-deserving Bank of America!

Congratulations to all our honorees!

Over 500 guests enjoyed amazing appetizers during the Health Council’s signature cocktail reception, the “Best of the Best” Chef Competition. All Chef Teams put their heart and soul into planning, preparing and presenting beautiful, healthy food for our healthcare guests to enjoy.

Participating in 2017 were Atria Senior Living; Benchmark Senior Living; Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; Brigham and Women’s Hospital; The Northbridge Companies; Signature Healthcare Brockton; St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center (A Steward Family Hospital), UMASS Memorial Medical Center and Unidine Corporation.

Congratulations to our “Best of the Best” Winners! 1st Place Atria Senior Living; 2nd Place and Manar Alsebai Chef’s Choice Award Winner Signature Healthcare Brockton and 3rd Place UMass Memorial Medical Center!

Well-known Celebrity Chef Roger Berkowitz and Richard Vellante of Legal Sea Foods, delighted the crowd with an amazing 5 star dinner to cap off the evening and the Award Presentations. Our honorees were gracious in their remarks and inspiring to all in attendance. Mallika Marshall WBZ-TV News Medical Reporter was the Mistress of Ceremonies and kept the festivities moving and on time. It was a fun, inspirational evening for all which benefited the Health Council’s continuing work to improve health status while creating a culture of health for all Massachusetts residents.

Thank you for your support!
Healthy Food Fuels Hungry Minds: Advancing Children’s Health In & Out of Schools | June 7, 2017

Objective: Make kids’ nutrition in Massachusetts the best in the nation

The Health Council partnered with Let’s Talk About Food and Harvard University Dining Services for this banner event! 250+ attendees heard from an impressive slate of experts on the following topics:

Taxing Sugar: Why and How
Marion Nestle, PhD, MPH, Paulette Goddard Professor of Nutrition, Food Studies, and Public Health at New York University

Key Focus Areas for Child Health In and Out of School
Spotlight on Sugar Sweetened Beverages
Dariush Mozaffarian, MD, Dean Tufts Friedman School of Nutrition Science & Policy

Marketing Food to Kids
Steve Gortmaker, Professor of the Practice of Health Sociology. Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Prevention Research Center on Nutrition and Physical Activity, Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health

A Conversation on Big City School Food
Betti Wiggins, Officer of Nutrition Services, Houston Independent School District
Laura Benavidez, Executive Director of Food and Nutrition Services, Boston Public Schools

Fringe School Food
After school, nights, weekends, and alt operations
Joanne Lennon, Food Service Director, Chicopee Public Schools
April Laskey, Food Service Director, Billerica Public Schools
Lynn Petrowski, Food Service Director, Hanover Public Schools
Lauren Cook/Grace Lichaa and Jeffery Greenberg, Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston

Current Outlook on Food Policy & Funding In and Out of Schools
Emma Clippinger, Clinical Fellow, Food Law & Policy Clinic, Harvard Law School
Teaching Health Habits in Schools that Carry out of the Classroom/Culinary Literacy
Janice Watt, SNS, Food Service Director, Foxborough Public Schools
Jeanne Reilly, Food Service Director, Windham Raymond Maine Schools
Laurent Adamowicz, Eradicate Childhood Obesity Foundation

Changing Perceptions & Attitudes About School Food
Helping advocates and champions understand both the challenges but also the ways they can HELP their school food program tout their successes
Janice Watt, SNS, Food Service Director, Foxborough Public Schools
Mara Fleishman, CEO, Chef Ann Foundation

Increasing Breakfast Participation, The Massachusetts School Breakfast Report Card
Andrea Silbert, President, Eos Foundation

Understanding school food funding for non-SN Directors
Maria Hall, Food Service Director, Walpole Public Schools
Jeanne Sheridan, Food Service Director, Acushnet & Blackstone Schools
Kristin Morello, Food Service Director, Reading & Wakefield Schools

School Wellness Committee Engagement
Sandra Widland, Parent
Rob Leshin, Director of Nutrition Programs, MA Dept. of Education
Deb Spinelli, Superintendent, Foxboro Public Schools
Liz Murphy, Principal, Sharon Public Schools

Getting to the State House - Turning Ideas into Policy
Senator Jason Lewis, Democrat - Fifth Middlesex
Allyson Perron Drag - Senior Government Relations Director, American Heart Association and American Stroke Association
Catherine D’Amato - President & CEO, The Greater Boston Food Bank

Town Hall Discussion: Sugar Sweetened Beverage Tax Discussion
Where should the money go? How can we all be involved?
The Massachusetts Health Council is leading a campaign to improve access to clean drinking water in schools. Initially focused on communities that have persistent health inequities, we aim to create a statewide movement whereby state and municipal resources are dedicated to water infrastructure.

We piloted the Access to Water campaign at the Brennan Middle School in Attleboro, Massachusetts on September 19, 2017. The working group consisted of the middle school principal, the parent advisory committee, the school wellness committee, assistant superintendent and the local YMCA. Financial support from a local foundation enabled the installation of five new, modern water filing stations and 500 water bottles were distributed to the students. This kickoff Choose H2O event was held during curriculum day at the school. Our volunteers from the YMCA explained why water should be the drink of choice, the principal of the school unveiled the new water filing stations and we distributed the water bottles. Our pilot in Attleboro is ongoing. The Choose H2O campaign continues with guest speakers in health classes, student-designed posters encouraging water consumption, game show activities and more.
300 attendees participated in this annual educational program of the Massachusetts Health Council's Pharmacy Committee held at the Westin Waltham Hotel. The public health issues addressed at this conference included:

Population Health Management for Behavioral Health Patients
- Emma Stanton, BM, MRCPsych, MBA, Chief Medical Officer, Beacon Health Options

Overview of an Integrated Care and Medication Management Program Model to Address Uncoordinated Care
- Mary Kay Owens, PharmD, RPh, Executive Director, Institute for Healthcare Innovation Strategies

Is the U.S. Ready for Value-based Pricing and Contracting of Drugs?
- Sonya Khan, MPH Program Director, Midwest CEPAC, Institute for Clinical and Economic Review
- James Kenney, PharmD, RPh, Manager, Specialty and Pharmacy Contracts, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care
- Saumil Pandya, Senior Director, Policy & Research, PhRMA

Rethink Your Drink – Pharmacists Helping Customers Make Healthy Choices
- Michael Gonyeau, BS Pharm, PharmD, MEd, FNAP, FCCP, BCPS, RPh, Clinical Professor, Acting Chair, Department of Pharmacy and Health Systems Sciences, Northeastern University School of Pharmacy, Clinical Pharmacist: Integrated Teaching Unit, Brigham and Women’s Hospital

MassPAT, MassHealth and Mass BOP Practice Standards Update
- Paul Jeffrey, PharmD, RPh; Deputy Director, Office of Clinical Affairs, Commonwealth Medicine, Director of Pharmacy, MassHealth
- David Sencabaugh, RPh, Executive Director, Massachusetts Board of Registration in Pharmacy
- Eric Sheehan, JD, Bureau Director, Department of Public Health, Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality

Closing Remarks
- David Zgarrick, PhD, FAPhA, RPh, Acting Dean, Northeastern University School of Pharmacy
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Mass. Medical Society Alliance
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Mass. Pharmacists Association
Mass. Podiatric Medical Society
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The Dimock Center
The Disparities Solution Center
The Health Foundation of Central MA
The New England Council
The Strategy Group
Tobacco Free Massachusetts
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