



MAHP 2026 Annual Conference

Health Care Affordability: From Challenge to Action

Friday, December 11, 2026

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Conference Agenda

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Registration, Breakfast and Networking

8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

Introduction and Welcome

Lora Pellegrini, President & CEO, Massachusetts Association of Health Plans

8:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Greetings from the Commonwealth

Governor Maura Healey (Invited)

9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Solutions for Health Care Affordability

Ashish Jha, MD, Senior Fellow, Belfer Center, Harvard Kennedy School

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Break & Networking

10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

What Works: Evidence on Health Care Spending and Price Regulation

Anna Doar Sinaiko, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Health Economics and Policy, Department of Health Policy and Management, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Christopher Whaley, Ph.D., Associate Director, Center for Advancing Health Policy through Research; Associate Professor of Health Services, Policy and Practice; Brown University School of Public Health

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Affordability and Cost Containment – State Strategies for Success

Michael Caljouw, Commissioner, Division of Insurance

Senator Cindy Friedman, Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Health Care Financing

Representative John Lawn, House Chair, Joint Committee on Health Care Financing

Amy Rosenthal, Undersecretary of Health, Executive Office of Health and Human Services (Invited)

David Seltz, Executive Director, Massachusetts Health Policy Commission

Moderator: Jessica Bartlett, Medical Reporter, Boston Globe

12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch & Networking

1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Fireside Chat with Secretary Mahaniah & Undersecretary for MassHealth (TBD)

Kiame Mahaniah, MD, Secretary of Health and Human Services, Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Invited)

TBD, Undersecretary for MassHealth, Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Moderator: John McDonough, DrPH, MPA, Professor of Public Health Practice, Department of Health Policy & Management, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

State and Private Health Care Purchasers Respond

Shawn Gremminger, President & CEO, National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions

Eileen McAnney, President, Employer Coalition on Health

Kate McEvoy, Executive Director, National Association of Medicaid Directors (Invited)

Matthew Veno, Executive Director, Massachusetts Group Insurance Commission

Moderator: Zachary Gaumer, Managing Principal, Health Management Associates

2:45 p.m.

Wrap Up

Lora Pellegrini, President & CEO, Massachusetts Association of Health Plans