



HEALTH AND THE ECONOMY SUMMIT

JUNE 9-10, 2021

Agenda

Wednesday, June 9, 2021

1:00 - 1:25 p.m. ET | Health and Wealth: The Path Forward

This fireside chat opened the Summit by examining how the intersection of personal finance, health care markets, and government budgets impact American health care choices and employment opportunities. Dean Katherine Baicker discussed early lessons learned from the pandemic and promising policy approaches that support the successful alignment of health and wealth.

Speakers:

- **Katherine Baicker, Ph.D.**, Dean and Emmett Dedmon Professor, The University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy
- **Sarah Dash, MPH**, President and CEO, Alliance for Health Policy

1:30 - 2:25 p.m. ET | Defining “Essential” in Essential Worker

“Essential workers” has taken many meanings during the pandemic. Frontline health care workers were critical to our public health response. Many other Americans, including grocery store, postal service, and public transit workers, among others, continued to ensure vital infrastructures and services were maintained over the past 15 months. Still, others found it personally essential that they continue to work, in potentially unsafe conditions, to provide for themselves and their families. At the policy level, states and localities also set their own definitions for which workers and what types of work were considered “essential” to keep local economies afloat, which led to significant differences between regions and challenges in enforcing lockdown measures.

Experts on this panel discussed the impact that different “essential worker” definitions had on various levels of government and economies, and explored how workforce policies may change or adapt post-COVID.

Speakers:

- **Evan Armstrong**, Vice President, Government Affairs, Retail Industry Leaders Association
- **Lisa Dubay, Ph.D., Sc.M.**, Senior Fellow, Health Policy Center, Urban Institute
- **Suzanne Hultin**, Program Director, Employment, Labor, and Retirement Program, National Conference of State Legislatures

- **Shayla Thompson**, Government Affairs Manager, National Employment Law Project
- **Kate Sullivan Hare, MHA**, Vice President of Policy and Communications, Alliance for Health Policy (*moderator*)

2:30 - 3:15 p.m. ET | Benefits to Benefit Health

Employee benefits have evolved significantly over time and can now include offerings such as health insurance, mental health programs, paid time off, student loan re-payment, and flexible work arrangements. Panelists discussed trends in employee benefits, current gaps in access to such assistance, and how policymakers measure their impact on various stakeholders. The speakers then explored the tradeoffs between access and affordability of employee benefits and insights on future policies in this space.

Speakers:

- **Scott Keefer, J.D.**, Vice President of Public Affairs Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota
- **Isabel Soto**, Director of Labor Market Policy, American Action Forum
- **Joel White**, President, Council for Affordable Health Coverage
- **Katie Mahoney, J.D., MHA**, Vice President, Health Policy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce (*moderator*)

Thursday, June 10, 2021

1:00 - 1:55 p.m. ET | Supporting Small Businesses to Support Health

Small businesses are often noted as the economic, cultural, and even health care pillars of communities. In this facilitated discussion, experts discussed the impacts of COVID-19 on small businesses and the communities that they support. Speakers examined how state and federal policymakers can reinforce local economies to improve health.

Speakers:

- **Khalid Pitts, MPH**, Small Business Owner, Cork Wine Bar and Market
- **Brian Rahmer, Ph.D., M.S.**, Senior Fellow, Well-being and Equity (WE) in the World, University of Delaware, Joseph R. Biden, Jr. School of Public Policy and Administration
- **Caryn York**, Chief Executive Officer, Job Opportunities Task Force
- **Rhett Buttle, MPP**, Founder and Principal, Public Private Strategies

2:00 - 2:55 p.m. ET | Policymaking Under Pressure: Balancing Immediate Need and Long-Term Impact

This panel reflected on the many policy approaches brought up throughout the Summit and offered insights on how the policy community can integrate personal finance, health care economics, and government spending moving forward. The experts also explored opportunities within the policymaking process itself and discuss the tradeoffs of addressing short-term needs while also buffering against long-term harms.

Speakers:

- **Mark Miller, Ph.D.**, Executive Vice President of Health Care, Arnold Ventures

- **Mike Murphy, MPA**, Chief of Staff, Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget
- **Hemi Tewarson, MPH, J.D.**, Executive Director, National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP)
- **Edmond Toy, Ph.D.**, Senior Economist and Budget Analyst, Colorado Office of State Planning & Budgeting
- **Dan Gorenstein**, Executive Producer and Host, Tradeoffs Podcast

3:00 - 3:55 p.m. ET | Governing to Improve Community Health

Closing keynote speaker, Hillary L. Shieve, Mayor of Reno, Nevada, since 2014, shared how the city organized and delivered text-based mental health services to residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. She provided insights about the successes, lessons, and challenges of the Talkspace program, how local leaders can support community health and economies, and how other stakeholders can leverage local leaders more.

Speakers:

- **Hillary Schieve**, Mayor City of Reno, Nevada
- **Sarah Dash, MPH**, President and CEO, Alliance for Health Policy