



Midwestern Legislative Conference

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

MLC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

InterContinental Saint Paul Riverfront | Saint Paul, Minnesota

Agenda

Rep. Anna Moeller, Illinois, Co- Chair | Rep. Taylor Rehfeldt, South Dakota, Co-Chair | Rep. Brett Barker, Iowa, Vice Chair

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30 | COMMITTEE MEETING | GREAT RIVER I AND IV, FIRST LEVEL

9:30 – 9:40 a.m. Introductions & Updates on Committee Work

9:40 – 10:30 a.m. **A New Era in Medicaid Policy and Finance: Key Considerations for Leaders**

States face big challenges and questions about the future of this public health insurance system, particularly amid coming changes under federal law as well as overall trends in health spending and state fiscal conditions. What options and innovations are available to states? That question will be the focus of presentations and interactive discussions among legislators and policy experts.

***Speakers/Panelists:** Robin Rudowitz, Senior Vice President and Director, Program on Medicaid and the Uninsured, KFF; Sean Stone, Public Policy Manager, The Council of State Governments; and John Connolly, Temporary Commissioner and State Medicaid Director, Minnesota Department of Human Services*

10:30 – 11 a.m. Roundtable Legislative Discussion & Committee Business

OTHER SESSIONS ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

MONDAY, AUGUST 31 | LEARNING LAB | STATE SUITE III, LOWER LEVEL

2-3 p.m. Farmer Mental Health in the Midwest: Challenges and Community and Policy Solutions

MONDAY, AUGUST 31 | LEARNING LAB | STATE SUITE I, LOWER LEVEL

3:15-4:15 p.m. Safe at Home: Strategies to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect

(See back for additional sessions)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 | PLenary SESSION | MINNESOTA BALLROOM, LOWER LEVEL

9 – 10 a.m.

Healthcare and AI in 2026: From Novelty to Normalcy

This year marks the transition of AI in healthcare from promising pilots to operational reality. In this talk, Dr. Robert Wachter, author of the new book "A Giant Leap: How AI is Transforming Healthcare and What That Means for Our Future," will offer a clear-eyed view of this inflection point and what lies ahead for health leaders, consumers, and policymakers.

***Speaker:** Dr. Robert Wachter, Physician, Author, and Chair of the Department of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco*

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 | CONCURRENT SESSIONS

10:15 – 11:30 a.m.

Healthcare Cost Containment

Participants will learn about the factors driving up costs for health consumers, explore the role of state policy in controlling those costs, and discuss recent laws and other strategies.

***Speakers:** Alex Caldwell, Director, Minnesota Center for Health Care Affordability; Randa Deaton, President and CEO, Employers' Forum of Indiana; and Michelle Wilson, Agency Policy Specialist, Minnesota Department of Health*

***Room:** Kellogg I, Lobby Level*

Healthcare Challenges and Opportunities for the Rural Midwest

Examine policies tied to access, health outcomes and the stability of rural hospitals.

***Speakers/Panelists:** Dr. Jason Caron, President and CEO, Sanford Health Bemidji; Alyssa Meller, COO, National Rural Health Resource Center; Sean Slone, Public Policy Manager, The Council of State Governments; and Andrea Swenson, CEO, Kittson Healthcare*

***Room:** Great River I and IV, First Level*

Protecting the Privacy and Data of Consumers — in Healthcare and Beyond

Learn about legislative trends and discuss options for policymakers looking to respond to constituents' concerns about privacy and how their data are being collected and used.

***Speakers/Panelists:** Rep. Steve Elkins, Minnesota; Jordan Francis, Senior Policy Counsel, Future of Privacy Forum; and William McGeveran, Dean, University of Minnesota Law School*

***Room:** State Suite I, Lower Level*

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 | LEARNING SITE TOUR

10:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Visit to the Minneapolis American Indian Center

State-tribal partnerships, including an early-intervention initiative for young families, will be highlighted. Participants also will visit the center's museum and enjoy an Indigenous-inspired lunch for everyone. ***Note:** Contact Laura Kliever to register (no cost) and secure a spot in this learning site tour: lkliever@csg.org. Or visit <https://csgmidwest.org/mlc26>.*