

Wednesday, May 20, 2026 | 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. | Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel

# AGENDA

- 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.**      **Registration, Networking & Sponsor Exhibits**
- 9:00 – 9:15 a.m.**      **Welcome & Opening Remarks**
- Neal Leshar, Director of Government Affairs, PA Chamber
  - Highmark Inc.
- 9:15 – 10:00 a.m.**      **Federal Healthcare Policy in 2026**
- Erin Delaney, Senior Director, Health Policy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- 10:05 – 11:00 a.m.**      **Expanding Access and Opportunity in Rural Healthcare**
- James Case, Principal, KPMG
  - Patricia Jackson-Gehris, President, UPMC North Central PA and UPMC Williamsport
  - Alex Gilroy, MBA, PA Healthcare Director, Genentech
  - Secretary Valerie Arkoosh, Department of Human Services
- 11:00 – 11:15 a.m.**      **Networking Break & Sponsor Exhibits**
- 11:15 – 12:15 p.m.**      **Breakout Session #1**
- Track One**              **AI in Healthcare: Innovation, Regulation & Risk**
- Christina Duty, Moderator, Of Counsel, McNees Wallace & Nurick
  - Rep. Arvind Venkat, PA House of Representatives District 30
  - David Vega, MD, MBA, Chief Medical Officer, WellSpan Medical Group, Senior Vice President, WellSpan Health
  - Rebecca Stamet, D.Ed., M.P.H., Vice President, Digital Transformation, Geisinger
- Track Two**              **Building the Healthcare Workforce of Tomorrow: Challenges, Innovation & Partnerships**
- Tina Fitzgerald, Penn State Health's Senior Director for Talent Acquisition, Penn State Health
  - Sonal Parekh, Moderator Associate, Health Law Department, Lamb McErlane PC
  - Susan Biggs, Executive Director, Healthcare Education, HACC, Central Pennsylvania's Community College
- 12:15 – 1:15 p.m.**      **Networking Lunch & Sponsor Recognition**
- Breakout #1**
- 1:15 – 2:15 p.m.**
- Track One**              **Community Engagement Work Requirements and Maintaining Insurance Coverage**
- Joseph Glinka, Director, PA HealthChoices, Highmark
  - Jen Swails, Regional Vice President, Sellers Dorsey
  - Anita Colon, Vice President, Revenue Cycle, Temple University
- Track Two**              **How to Reduce Employers' Healthcare Costs**
- Kate McCale, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and Compliance, Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania
- 2:15 – 2:30 p.m.**      **Networking Break**
- 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.**      **Afternoon Keynote**
- 3:30 – 3:45 p.m.**      **Closing Remarks & Policy Takeaways**

# ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



## **Neal Leshner, Director of Government Affairs, PA Chamber**

Neal Leshner joined the PA Chamber as a Government Affairs Director in October of 2022.

Prior to joining the PA Chamber, Leshner served in senior leadership positions with the state House of Representatives, including serving as Chief of Staff to the Speaker of the House and as the Director of Policy and Communications for the Appropriations Committee Chairman. He also has executive branch experience, serving as the Legislative Director for the Governor's Budget Office under the Corbett Administration. Leshner also worked for the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) as their Legislative Director.

Leshner has lived his whole life in central Pennsylvania and graduated from Susquehanna University in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in Political Science.



## **Erin Delaney, Senior Director, Health Policy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce**

Erin Delaney is Senior Director of Health Policy at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, where she helps lead and shape the Chamber's policy and advocacy agenda for the Health Policy Division. In this role, she develops policies and advances strategies that strengthen the employer-based coverage system, accelerate innovation in care delivery, expand prevention and chronic disease management, and support the thoughtful integration of digital health solutions. She also manages coalition-building efforts, directs strategic advocacy campaigns, and engages with Congress and federal agencies to ensure employers and the business community are effectively represented.

Before joining the Chamber, Erin was Director of Health Care Policy at the Progressive Policy Institute (PPI), where she focused on advancing policies to lower health care costs, improve affordability for working families, and encourage innovation in care delivery. Prior to joining PPI, Erin served as the Health Care Program Manager at Center Forward, where she advanced health policy objectives and built relationships with Members of Congress and their staff, state policymakers, and other key stakeholders. Earlier, she was a member of the legislative affairs team at America's Essential Hospitals and worked in the United States Senate for Senator Bob Casey (D-PA).

Erin holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia. She resides in Washington, D.C.



## **Patricia Jackson-Gehris, President, UPMC North Central PA and UPMC Williamsport**

Patricia "Patti" Jackson-Gehris is market president of UPMC North Central Pa. and president of UPMC Williamsport. Patti is responsible for the overall management of UPMC's facilities that provide essential services to some of the state's most rural communities, which include UPMC Williamsport, a Level II Trauma Center, and three critical access hospitals – UPMC Muncy, UPMC Wellsboro, and UPMC Cole (Coudersport), and dozens of outpatient clinics and centers including UPMC Hillman Cancer Centers in Williamsport and Wellsboro and Pennsylvania's only Outpatient Emergency Department in Lock Haven.

Patti has worked in health care for over 30 years. She joined UPMC in 2015, then Susquehanna Health, and served as vice president of Market Development and Communications and then vice president of Strategy and Business Development before being named chief operating officer of UPMC North Central Pa. and president of UPMC Williamsport. In her time with UPMC, Patti has established strategic initiatives to launch, align, and integrate services in north central Pa. with the quality, brand, and operational standards of UPMC, and achieved impressive results developing UPMC Williamsport into a regional center of excellence and furthering the strategic outreach and footprint of UPMC in the region.

Patti currently serves as a board member for Lycoming County United Way, Lycoming College, and the Williamsport Lycoming Chamber of Commerce.

Prior to joining UPMC, she served as a senior leader at Brandywine Hospital, part of Community Health Systems, and provided consulting services for major healthcare systems and organizations in the Philadelphia area including Temple University Health System, Main Line Health, and The Renfrew Center.

Patti earned her master's in health administration from St. Joseph's University and bachelor's degree in in communications and advertising from Temple University.



**Christina Duty, Of Counsel, McNeese Wallace & Nurick**

Christina Duty is a healthcare regulatory and compliance attorney serving healthcare providers including hospitals, health systems and physician practices as well as health insurance companies. She specifically delivers guidance on:

- Health Care Integrated Delivery and Finance System (IDFS)
- Corporate compliance programs
- Healthcare reimbursement and payment
- Healthcare mergers and acquisitions
- Medical staff
- Credentialing and peer review
- Healthcare privacy and security
- Fraud and abuse issues, including Stark and anti-kickback laws

She also provides representation to clients faced with government agency investigations, audits and reviews. Christina is well-versed in responding to regulator requests and preparing for Medicare Advantage/Part D audits, Affordable Care Act audits, state market conduct and financial exams, Medicaid External Quality Reviews (EQRs), Service Organization Control (SOC) 1 and SOC 2 assurance reports and similar inquiries.

Christina most recently served as the Director of Risk Intelligence and Case Management at a national health insurance and healthcare provider system, where she led a team of compliance professionals, including attorneys and auditors, dedicated to the intake and implementation of new guidance impacting hospitals and providers. In addition, she led a team responsible for coordinating audits, regulator requests, reporting submissions and attestations. Over her nine-year career there, Christina also served as Manager of Government Compliance, a senior compliance consultant and a senior compliance analyst.

Previously, Christina practiced in the Medicare compliance group of a Pittsburgh-based law firm, where she provided legal guidance and trainings on all aspects of Medicare compliance as required under the Medicare Secondary Payer Act.



**Rep. Arvind Venkat, PA House of Representatives District 30**

Rep. Arvind Venkat, an emergency physician, was elected to serve his first term in the state House of Representatives in November 2022. He is the first Indian American to be elected to the state House and the first physician to serve in the General Assembly in nearly 60 years.

He serves as State Representative for the 30th Legislative District, which includes part of Hampton Township, and all of McCandless, Franklin Park, Ohio Township, Emsworth, Ben Avon, Ben Avon Heights, and Kilbuck.

Rep. Venkat is a fighter for accessible and affordable healthcare, investing in our first responders, protecting reproductive rights, curbing gun violence, expanding access to the ballot box for all voters, and getting more people back into the workforce.

His parents immigrated to the United States, and it was their hard work and commitment to service that inspired him to become a physician.

Rep. Venkat completed his undergraduate and graduate education at Harvard University, his medical education at Yale University, and his emergency medicine residency at the University of Cincinnati/University Hospital. He served as a member of the Board of the McCandless-Franklin Park Ambulance Authority and is a former president of the state emergency physicians organization.

Rep. Venkat currently lives in McCandless with his wife and three children.



**Alex Gilroy, MBA, PA Healthcare Director, Genentech**

Alexandra (Alex) Gilroy is a Healthcare Director at Genentech, where she oversees account and population health relationships across Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey, Northern West Virginia, Delaware, and Western Maryland. An 18-year veteran of the company, Alex has built a diverse career spanning regulatory affairs, marketing, operations, sales, and account management across various therapeutic sectors such as oncology and rare disease.

For the past three years, Alex has spearheaded rural health initiatives across the Northeast. Her work focuses on bridging network gaps and identifying synergies to ensure that geography never dictates the quality of a patient's care. Through a sustained community presence, she is dedicated to uncovering and addressing the unique healthcare challenges faced by rural populations.

Alex holds a degree in Bioengineering from Lehigh University and an MBA in Healthcare Management from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.



**Sonal Parekh, Associate, Health Law Department, Lamb McErlane**

Sonal Parekh is an associate in Lamb McErlane's Health Law Department.

Sonal's practice is focused on health care transactional matters and a broad range of health care regulatory-related issues on behalf of health care systems, physicians, dentists, veterinarians, chiropractors, podiatrists, behavioral health providers, group practices, and other health care professionals and health-care related entities. Sonal has experience in:

- Drafting, reviewing, and negotiating a myriad of health care related contracts, including employment and service agreements, confidentiality disclosure agreements, shareholder agreements, partnership agreements, separation and severance agreements, collaborative practice agreements, and clinical study agreements;
- Drafting, reviewing, and negotiating various agreements and governance documentation related to mergers, acquisitions, joint ventures, strategic transactions, corporate restructuring, buy-ins and buy-outs of partnership interests, and general corporate matters;
- Filing motions and appeals relating to Needs Exception Allowances and Insurance Benefits and Coverage; and
- Filing applications and certificates relating to Entity Formation and Dissolution, Licensure, Recognition of Tax Exemption under Sections 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) of the IRC, Medicare and Medicaid Enrollment, Provider-Based Attestations, and Tax Clearance Certificates. In addition to her legal practice, Sonal actively engages in numerous professional organizations. Sonal is a member of the American Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division (YLD), where she served as Chair of the Health Law Committee, a Liaison for the Health Law Section, and an Early Career Representative for the Life Sciences Interest Group. She is also a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, Chester County Bar Association, Philadelphia Bar Association, South Asian Bar Association, and American Health Lawyers Association. Sonal is a monthly contributor to the Legal Intelligencer, co-authoring Health Law articles.

She is admitted to practice law in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Sonal is based at the firm's West Chester, PA location.



**James Case, Principal, KPMG**

James Case is a Principal in the Mid Atlantic Healthcare Solutions practice at KPMG. James specializes in hospital and physician reimbursement, and financial planning. He brings deep experience across strategic and business planning, third party reimbursement, and compliance services—helping healthcare organizations navigate complex payment and regulatory environments through initiatives such as total cost of care strategy, interim budget and reimbursement leadership, financial and demand modeling, clinical service line planning, and provider compensation scenario development. He has also supported the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission with related reimbursement and revenue reporting work, including review of HSCRC revenue reporting compliance and participation in policy and methodology development such as; case rate development; efficiency measurement; uncompensated care funding; and annual reporting. Most recently, James has been heavily involved with the Rural Healthcare Initiative—supporting rural health transformation work with state and related stakeholders.

James holds a B.A. from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and an M.H.S. degree from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health where he also currently serves as a preceptor. He is also an active member in professional organizations including HFMA and ACHE.



**David Vega, MD, MBA, Chief Medical Officer, WellSpan Medical Group, Senior Vice President, WellSpan Health**

David Vega, MD, MBA, Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer with WellSpan Health, has led numerous successful initiatives in driving improved quality, safety, and access while also reducing cost of care. Innovative approaches to this work, in combination with a focus on care team wellbeing, has also led to national recognition of the WellSpan Medical Group for work across the domains of the quadruple aim.

David joined WellSpan in 2002, when he began his residency in Emergency Medicine at then York Hospital following completion of medical school at Penn State University College of Medicine. David remained at WellSpan York Hospital after his residency, serving in leadership roles in the residency program, and later as medical director and department chair of the emergency department in York. He served as vice president of medical affairs with WellSpan Ephrata Community Hospital prior to moving into his role as senior vice president and chief medical officer with WellSpan Medical Group, the WellSpan's employed practice division.

David has served on a number of boards for healthcare-related and nonprofit organizations, including the American Academy of Emergency Medicine and the American Medical Group Association Foundation. He has an extensive bibliography of scholarly activity, including numerous publications and presentations at regional and national levels.

In addition to his medical training, he obtained an MBA from the University of Massachusetts and completed the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's Improvement Scholars Program as part of the inaugural class in that program.



**Kate McCale, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and Compliance, Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania**

Kate McCale joined HAP during 2022. Kate leads HAP's regulatory advocacy and works to ensure member hospitals' interests are represented when new regulations or changes to existing regulations are contemplated by agencies of oversight - primarily the Pennsylvania Department of Health and CMS. She supports HAP members by providing important policy and regulatory updates impacting hospitals and facilitating stakeholder feedback through any and all available pathways.

Prior to joining HAP, Kate spent nine years working with hospitals on an array of issues including quality improvement, corporate compliance and workforce with hospital associations in New York State. She has bachelor's degree in biology from the State University of New York at Cortland and a Master of Public Health from Drexel University.



**Secretary Valerie Arkoosh, MD, MPH, Department of Human Services**

"Having the privilege to serve our Commonwealth as Secretary of Human Services is an opportunity to draw upon my experiences at each stage of my career, and I am honored to lead an agency whose work I am so passionate about. I am incredibly grateful to Governor Shapiro for his trust, and I promise to use this work and opportunity to fight for and advance the health, wellbeing, economic self-sufficiency, and safety of all Pennsylvanians."



**Rebecca A. Stametz, Vice President for Innovation & Strategy, Geisinger**

Rebecca A. Stametz is the vice president for Innovation & Strategy at Geisinger.

Rebecca is an accomplished healthcare transformation executive with over 15 years of experience focused on strategic design, development, and deployment of end-to-end consumer digital strategies. Rebecca serves as the executive leader for the Geisinger Innovation Institute, accountable for transforming high-impact ideas and opportunities into actionable, value-driven programs. She leads innovation efforts across the organization, including the development of new products, services, and processes overseeing the Digital Transformation Office and the Intelligent Automation Hub.

Rebecca joined Geisinger in 2010. She is a recognized leader and is a national speaker and author of numerous peer-reviewed manuscripts. She earned her Doctor of Education from Pennsylvania State University, a Master of Public Health from East Stroudsburg University and a Bachelor of Science in exercise science from Bloomsburg University. She has also completed



**Joe Glinka, Director, HealthChoices, Highmark Wholecare**

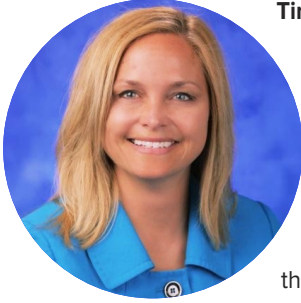
Joe serves as Director, HealthChoices at Highmark Wholecare, a leading Medicaid and Medicare Advantage Dual Eligible Special Needs managed care organization (MCO) serving more than 325,000 Pennsylvanians in need.

Currently, Joe is Highmark Wholecare's Pennsylvania (PA) Medicaid managed care plan administrator – driving overall accountability to their agreement with PA's Department of Human Services (DHS). Previously, he served as the organization's Government Affairs Director to achieve objectives conducive to Highmark Wholecare's long-term viability as well as the integrity within the government-sponsored managed care segment. Joe's 31-year tenure at Highmark Wholecare began as a marketing representative enrolling over 22,000 PA Medicaid beneficiaries into then, Gateway Health's Medicaid MCO over a 10-year period. He has also effectively served in other strategic roles including:

- Board member of Medicaid Health Plans of America (MHPA).
- Chair of MHPA's Federal Government Relations Committee.
- Board President of the PA Association of Medicaid MCOs (PAMCO).
- Vice Chair of Pennsylvania's Medical Assistance Advisory Committee (MAAC).
- Chair of the PA MAAC's Managed Care Delivery System Subcommittee (MCDSS).

Prior to joining Gateway Health (now Highmark Wholecare), Joe successfully served in the commercial health insurance segment, surpassing new business objectives at US Healthcare and Aetna Health Plans of Western PA.

Joe holds a B.S. degree in Industrial Management with an emphasis in Managerial Economics from Carnegie Mellon University (CMU). At CMU, Joe was a four-year letterman and All-Conference performer in football. Since then, he has earned the designation of Professional from the Academy of Healthcare Management (PAHM) as well as professional certification in Strategic Management: Competitive and Corporate Strategy from the University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School of Business.



**Tina Fitzgerald, Penn State Health's Senior Director for Talent Acquisition, Penn State Health**

Tina Fitzgerald is the Senior Director of Talent Acquisition and Recruitment Operations at Penn State Health, where she leads enterprise-wide strategies to attract, hire, and retain a high-performing healthcare workforce. With more than 10 years at Penn State Health, she brings deep operational expertise and a strong understanding of the evolving healthcare labor market.

Tina oversees recruitment strategy across nursing, allied health, providers and executive leadership, in addition to leading preboarding, recruitment operations and incentive recovery. She has been instrumental in streamlining hiring processes, enhancing the candidate experience, and implementing data-driven approaches that improve speed, quality, and retention.

Her work is focused on building sustainable workforce pipelines through academic partnerships, innovative training programs, and internal mobility strategies that reduce reliance on contract labor while strengthening long-term talent stability.