

# Workshops

---

2019 Portland, OR Single Payer Strategy Conference

## Workshop Block A

Saturday October 19, 10:50AM-12:05PM

### **What is Single Payer and Why is it Important?**

[10:50AM-12:05PM, Main Sanctuary]

The Democratic presidential debates vastly expanded the number of people who have heard of Medicare For All and want to know what it is. This panel will describe the importance of Medicare for All becoming a national single payer program that removes private health insurance companies from their current role in shaping health insurance. The panel will also discuss why various public option proposals are flawed. *Facilitators: Peter Mahr, Samuel Metz, Michael Huntington, and Ken Rosenberg of Physicians for a National Health Program Oregon*

### **Winning Municipal Resolutions in Support of Medicare for All**

[10:50AM-12:05PM, 3rd floor Classroom]

Winning a local resolution in your town or county is a powerful step that you can take to build the movement for Medicare for All. In this workshop, we will learn about the exciting coalition effort to pass local resolutions in blue, red, and purple districts from coast to coast and share tools and ideas, including about the upcoming Week of Action October 28-November 3.

*Facilitators: Melinda St. Louis and Brittany Shannahan, Public Citizen; Kaytlin Gilbert, Physicians for a National Health Program*

### **Head Them Off At the Pass! Putting Together a Labor Posse**

[10:50AM-12:05PM, 2nd floor Classroom]

Our movement reached a watershed moment last winter when unions representing a majority of organized workers endorsed national Medicare for All legislation. Lately, however, there has been significant backpedaling on the part of some national union leaders and a number of unions in New York and elsewhere have emerged as active opponents of state legislation. What is causing this confusion? How strongly do union members support Medicare for All and how can we ensure that their voices are heard? This workshop will discuss ways to constructively engage with the leadership of our unions to move them into the forefront of the fight to take healthcare off the bargaining table by making it a right for all Americans.

*Facilitators: Gene Carroll (LCSP) with Martha Livingston (UUP/AFT), Jim McGee (ATU), Marva Wade (NYSNA), Susan Reardon (BMWED/IBT) and Joel Shufro (LCSP)*

### **Bird-Dogging for Medicare for All**

[10:50AM-12:05PM, Yoga room 108 1st flr]

“Birddogging” is the activist tactic of putting a policy maker on the spot in-person, in-public, and hopefully on camera, with inescapable, bullet-proof questions that win the room. A birddogger may decide to be perceived as a friend or foe, and birddoggers may come in groups small or large. This form of simple, targeted advocacy, when applied consistently, is amazingly effective. Please join national organizers from Birddog Nation for an advanced tactical training on how to get \*real\* commitments for the world we’re fighting for from candidates for office and elected officials. Facilitator: *Jennifer Flynn Walker, Center for Popular Democracy*

### **State of the States: Effective Coalition-Building Strategies**

[10:50AM-12:05PM, Fuller Hall]

One Payer States representatives from California, Colorado, Maine, New York, Oregon and Washington will share innovative strategies for solidifying traditional partnerships and creating new alliances to help propel the Single-Payer movement to victories at all levels. Brief presentations will be followed by panel conversation and panel-audience give-and-take. *Facilitators: Rachel DeGolia, Universal Health Care Action Network and Chuck Pennacchio, One Payer States*

### **How Will We Pay for Medicare for All?**

[10:50AM-12:05PM, Buchan]

Medicare for All will cost an estimated \$2.96 trillion. The taxes we pay now cover \$1.88 trillion, or two-thirds of the cost. We need to raise \$1.08 trillion to fund Medicare for All. This workshop will explore the massive shift of wealth to the top 1 percent over the past 30 years and the many ways we can take our wealth back to pay for Medicare for All. *Facilitators: Katherine Isaac, Debs-Jones-Douglass Institute; Kris Raab, Labor Institute*

### **Partnering with Businesses in Support of Medicare for All**

[10:50AM-12:05PM AND 1:05-2:20PM, Eliot Chapel]

The business voice will be necessary to build the Medicare for All movement across the country and essential to seeing legislation signed into law. No progressive movement can succeed without a helpful business message to counter the misinformation from the insurance industry and traditional business groups like the Chamber of Commerce. But business owners are motivated by a different set of talking points and recruitment tactics than citizen or labor activists. *Facilitator: Daniel Barlow, Business for Medicare for All*

# Workshop Block B

Saturday, October 19, 1:05-2:20PM

## **Taking on Big Pharma**

[1:05-2:20PM, 2nd floor Classroom]

The pharmaceutical industry is the most hated in America, yet, it continues to maintain a stranglehold over their exorbitant profits and against the health of the American people. This workshop will discuss the grassroots movement to lower prescription drug prices, the incorporation of pharmaceutical reform in the Medicare for All Act, along with the outlook for bolder actions to lower prices moving into the 2020 election cycle. *Facilitators: Alex Lawson, Social Security Works; Melinda St. Louis, Public Citizen, Dr. Becca Spain, Physicians for a National Health Program; Justin Mendoza, Families USA*

## **Reimagining a Just Transition**

[1:05-2:20PM, room]

An estimated 1.8 million insurance and administrative jobs will be lost with the implementation of Medicare for All. In addition, the jobs of health care workers will be impacted. This workshop will discuss what a worker-centered Just Transition would look like and who sets the terms of how existing jobs will change? We will explore why most workers don't trust the promise of a just transition, historical precedents, and how our movement could help set the terms of the broader debate about workers' interests in economic transitions driven by changes in social policies. *Facilitator: Katherine Isaac, Executive Director, Debs-Jones-Douglass Institute; with Jed Dodd, Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division-IBT; Gordon Lafer, Professor, Labor Education and Research Center, University of Oregon, Michael Lighty, National Union of Healthcare Workers*

## **Building a feminist, multi-racial, pro-immigrant, accessible movement for Medicare for All: Why and how?**

[1:05-2:20PM, 3rd floor Classroom]

Winning Medicare for All requires us to make sure that the communities hardest hit by healthcare injustices are fully involved in winning changes and developing solutions, but that is much easier said than done. Poor and working-class people, immigrants, people of color, women and trans people, and people with disabilities and chronic diseases, among others, are often struggling to survive and can't easily jump into organizing. What strategies can we use as we work to organize in, support, and follow the leadership of these communities? In this workshop we will share stories, lessons and strategies from our campaigns as we work to combat sexism, racism, and xenophobia and build leadership and coalitions across race, nationality, gender, class, age, health status, geography, and other lines of difference. *Facilitators: Roona Ray and Yuling Koh Hsu, Campaign for New York Health; Darius Gordon, Center for Popular Democracy; Sofia Sepulveda, Texas Organizing Project; and Jose La Luz, Deb Jones Douglass Institute*

### **We Must Win: Basebuilding Is How We Do It**

[1:05-2:20PM, Fuller Hall]

We are power in numbers, and healthcare affects everyone. What do we have that the opposition does not? People. The only way to win is to grow our movement. Whether by scaling across our states, recruiting through targeted outreach, or deep relational community organizing, we must activate everybody. Join leaders from Western Mass, PNHP New York Metro, and Healthcare4AllPA as they share their basebuilding keys to success and facilitate an audience discussion to find out what's working, what's not working, and what it takes to win.

*Facilitators: Noah Levinson, Healthcare4AllPA; Ursula Rozum, PNHP New York Metro; and Jon Weissman, Western Massachusetts Medicare for All*

### **Know Your Enemy: Opposition Research**

[1:05-2:20PM, Main Sanctuary]

In this workshop we'll explore how to use research on the insurance, hospital, and drug industries to sharpen our campaign strategies and communications. We'll study how other health justice movements have employed opposition research in their campaigns, how we can use knowledge about healthcare profiteers to focus our efforts and advance our goals, how to identify good research questions, where to look for information, how to conduct research, and how to communicate our findings powerfully and effectively. We'll dissect a case study of NESRI's research on how the insurance industry manipulated the public discourse on single-payer and health policy, and will explore ways that anyone can build opposition research into their toolbox of strategies. *Facilitators: Ben Palmquist, NESRI; Wendell Potter, Business for Medicare for All*

### **Lessons from the Field: Two Years of Building Pressure and a Base with the Democratic Socialists of America**

[1:05-2:20PM, Yoga room 108]

In January 2018 DSA's national Medicare for All campaign launched our national field operations with a team of regional organizers, an organizing guide, and a vision of a long-game, base building effort. From there chapters across the country hit the ground running with canvasses, town halls, educational events, many of them tying the fight for single payer to local issues or to candidates running for electoral office. Since then DSA has used old fashioned pressure tactics to knock doors, build local grassroots connections and constituencies, and to demonstrate that there is a constituency for Medicare for All, and an increasingly powerful one at that. The results have been clear: city council resolutions passed across the country, improved conditions won for workers in several states, and a host of congressmembers newly committed to single payer legislation. Please join us as we discuss the lessons gained from this time in the field, the model we are developing, and the implications of its success for the future of our movement-building organizing. *Facilitator: Christie Offenbacher, DSA*