



Establishing a National Health Insurance Exchange **July 20, 2009**

Co-sponsored by Kaiser Permanente Institute for Health Policy

8:30 Continental Breakfast

9:00 Introduction: The Role of a National Insurance Exchange

Dr. Altman will outline the rationale for establishing a national insurance exchange that will facilitate coverage for uninsured Americans and its potential roles in improving access to affordable health care.

Presenter: Stuart Altman, Ph.D., Professor, Brandeis University

9:15 Case Study: Massachusetts' Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector

Massachusetts is the only state in the nation with a health insurance exchange that offers coverage for the uninsured, and for participants in the individual and small group markets. This session will provide a case study of key policy decisions during the Connector's implementation phase. It will then examine ongoing policy and operational challenges for the Connector in sustaining affordable access to healthcare.

Speaker: Jon Kingsdale, Ph.D., Executive Director, Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector
Responders: Nancy Turnbull, Associate Dean for Educational Programs, Harvard School of Public Health

10:30 Break

10:50 Policy Considerations for a National Health Insurance Exchange

This session will identify and evaluate the principal design choices that federal policy makers will need to consider for a national health insurance exchange under a system of mandatory health insurance coverage.

Speaker: Len M. Nichols, Ph.D., Director, Health Policy Program, New America Foundation

11:45 Break

12:15 Lunch Panel: Addressing the Key Policy Considerations

Panel member will discuss and debate specific design considerations for a national health insurance exchange as well as other potential mechanisms for achieving key policy goals.

Moderator: Murray N. Ross, Ph.D., Vice President and Director, Kaiser Permanente Institute for Health Policy

Panel: John McDonough, Dr.PH., M.P.A., Senior Advisor to Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Senate HELP Committee
Alissa Fox, Senior Vice President, Office of Policy and Representation, Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association
John Bertko, F.S.A., M.A.A.A., Adjunct Staff, The RAND Corporation and Brookings Visiting Scholar
Stuart M. Butler, Ph.D., Vice President, Domestic and Economic Policy Studies, The Heritage Foundation
Walt Francis, Expert in Advising Consumers on Health Plan Choices

2:00 Meeting adjourns