

THE UNFINISHED AGENDA

New England Women's Policy Conference, 2014

Speakers

This speaker list will be updated as we receive additional presenter biographies.

Jennifer Alford-Teaster, MA, MPH

Fellow

Gender Research Institute at Dartmouth (GRID), Bradford, New Hampshire

New Hampshire Women's Initiative (NHWI) board member and Gender Ambassadors Panel (GAP) Co-chair, Jennifer Alford-Teaster, MA, MPH was accepted into the inaugural class of the Gender Research Institute at Dartmouth (GRID) Fellowship program in 2013. The GRID Fellowship lecture series: "Seeds of Change: Gender, Scholarship, and Social Justice" brought to the Dartmouth campus some of the most well-known social activists from around the world. As a GRID fellow, Jennifer represented the voices of New Hampshire citizens that emerged from the contributions of NHWI listening sessions. The summary of the experience resulted in a collaborative paper released in September 2014 called "Understanding Equal Pay in New Hampshire: A review of numbers, citizen voices, and ideas for dialogue".



Jill E. Ashton

Director

Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, Boston, Massachusetts

Jill Ashton is the director of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, an independent state agency that is tasked with reporting on the status of women in the Commonwealth and making recommendations regarding policy that would facilitate their advancement and increase access to equality. She represents the Commission as a member of the National Association of Commissions for Women, where she serves as co-chair of the policy committee. Outside of commission work, Ashton joined the board of Mass NOW in 2006 and is currently serving as president of the state organization. She is a graduate of the Program for Women in Politics and Public Policy at UMass Boston and received her undergraduate degree from William Smith College. She serves on the board of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy and is a member of the member of the WAGE Project's Start \$mart Leaders Circle.



Catherine Bailey, J.D.

Legal and Public Policy Director

Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund, Hartford, Connecticut

Catherine Bailey, JD, is the Legal and Public Policy Director at the Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF) in Hartford, a statewide nonprofit organization that seeks to empower women and girls to achieve opportunities in their personal and professional lives. Her work includes overseeing the Legal Education Program, which addresses the civil legal justice gap by providing women and low-income individuals with access to legal information, advocacy, and resources. She also spearheads CWEALF's policy agenda, which includes leading the Campaign for Paid Family Leave, the Family Law Working Group, and participating in the Campaign for a Working Connecticut and the Coalition for Choice. After earning a B.A. from Boston College and a J.D. from Suffolk University Law School, Catherine held several positions in Massachusetts state government, including Assistant General Counsel to the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Deputy Chief Legal Counsel to the Massachusetts

State Police, and most recently as Deputy Legal Counsel to Governor Deval Patrick. Catherine is a founding Board member of Autism Families CONNECTicut, a nonprofit organization that provides recreational programs to children and teens with autism, and their families. She also serves on the Board of Directors for Greater Hartford Legal Aid and as a member of the Connecticut Bar Association's Pro Bono Committee and Women in the Law Section.



Elizabeth Barajas-Román, Ed.M., PMP
CEO

Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts, Easthampton, Massachusetts

Elizabeth Barajas-Román, CEO, the Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts. Elizabeth has been a leader in progressive movements including advocating at the national level for the health and rights of immigrant women and their families. Most recently she was a manager at The Pew Charitable Trusts where she directed a portfolio of partners that campaigned for state and federal policy change to improve government performance on issues that impacted children's health. Elizabeth brings a background in impactful philanthropy, data-driven strategy design, fundraising through philanthropic partnerships, and creating coalitions and mobilizing partners. Previously, as the Director of Policy at the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (NLIRH), Elizabeth directed the organization's Washington, D.C.-based office where she was instrumental in expanding the visibility of NLIRH on the national stage. Elizabeth is frequently invited to be a voice in national policy discussions in the media, at the White House, on Capitol Hill and in target states. In addition, Elizabeth's leadership has been recognized by several national fellowships including the Center for Progressive Leadership Executive Fellowship, the Rockwood Leadership Institute, and an appointment to the American

Public Health Association Committee on Women's Rights. She is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP), a graduate of Oberlin College, and received her master's degree in international policy from Harvard University.



Ann Bookman
Director

Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, John W. McCormack School of Policy and Global Studies, University of Massachusetts Boston

Ann Bookman, a nationally known researcher and policy expert on women's issues, work-family balance and community engagement, is Director of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy at University of Massachusetts Boston. She has directed several university-based research centers, including the MIT Workplace Center at the Sloan School of Management. Bookman was a Presidential Appointee in the first term of the Clinton administration and served as Policy and Research Director of the Women's Bureau at the U.S. Department of Labor. She was also Executive Director of a bipartisan Commission that studied the impact of the FMLA on workers and employers. She was principal author of the commission's report to Congress, "A Workable Balance." She lives in Boston and is a Board member of several community-based organizations in the city, including Nurtury, an innovative early care and

education agency serving low-income children and their families in a number of Boston neighborhoods.



Ellen Bravo
Executive Director

Family Values @ Work, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Ellen Bravo directs the Family Values @ Work Consortium, a network of coalitions in 21 states working for policies such as paid sick days and family medical leave insurance. Before helping start FV@W, Ellen was the director of 9to5. Her most recent book is *Taking on the Big Boys, or Why Feminism is Good for Families, Business and the Nation*. Ellen has served on several state and federal commissions, including the bipartisan Commission on Leave that Congress appointed to study the impact of the Family and Medical Leave Act. She's a member of the leadership team of Caring Across Generations, and on the boards of Working America and the National Domestic Workers Alliance. Among her commendations are a Ford Foundation Visionary award, the Francis Perkins "Intelligence and Courage" award, and the Families and Work Institute Work Life Legacy Award. Ellen lives in Milwaukee with her husband; they have two adult sons. Her novel about acquaintance rape and politics will be published by SheWrites Press in August 2015.

Cary Brown, MPA
Executive Director
Vermont Commission on Women



Mary Johanna Brown
Chair
New Hampshire Women's Foundation

Mary Johanna Brown is Founder and President of Brown & Company Design, a strategic design firm established in 1992, and Big Brown Books, a publishing company established in 1997. As an active volunteer, Mary Jo has served on several New Hampshire nonprofit boards and is engaged in many community activities throughout the Granite State.

Currently she chairs the New Hampshire Women's Foundation, a merger born in October 2014 from the New Hampshire Women's Initiative & The Women's Fund of New Hampshire. Mary Jo was named to New Hampshire Magazine's "Remarkable Women" list in 2009 and to Business New Hampshire Magazine's "Influencer Index" in 2014. She

enjoys traveling, singing, and gardening with her nine-year-old daughter Haley.

Ellen A. Bruce
Gerontology Institute, UMass Boston
Pension Action Center



Sarah Buxton, J.D.
State Representative
Vermont House of Representatives, Tunbridge, Vermont

Rep. Sarah Buxton serves on Vermont's House Education Committee and lead the effort to establish universal access to publicly funded prekindergarten education in Vermont during the 2013-2014 legislative session. She graduated from Vermont Law School in 2010 and immediately launched her campaign for the Vermont House. She defeated the incumbent candidate by one vote, winning subsequent elections to continue her work on improving early childhood investments, and increasing access to employment, equal pay, and affordable education. Sarah was recently named "Legislator of the Year" by the top business trade association in Vermont for her work on pre-k and workforce development. She has served as a trustee on numerous boards - including the University of Vermont, Building a Local Economy (B.A.L.E.), and the Governor's Institutes of Vermont. In addition to her legislative position, Sarah works for Building Bright Futures - a quasi-public nonprofit that supports and advances early childhood policy and service delivery.

dee Clarke
Consultant and mentor
Homeless Voices for Justice and Preble Street Anti-Trafficking Coalition, Portland, Maine

My whole adult life has been fighting poverty either for myself or together with grassroots organizations like HVJ POWER PROP WELLness. Growing up in housing projects, foster care, in and out of juvenile detention, all pathed the way to being an easy target for predators. At age 12 I was trafficked, pimped. Like the youth I work with at the Teen Center, that herstory of neglect and vulnerability is a bull's eye on their forehead. Poverty exploitation access trauma girls women "economic security". I'm curious, hopeful and excited to watch what grows out of this "unfinished agenda".



Marcia Coné, PhD

Principal

Marcia Coné Consulting and Founding CEO, Women's Fund of Rhode Island, East Greenwich, Rhode Island

Marcia is Principal of Marcia Coné Consulting, a firm that has closely advised countless organizations through times of growth, development and transition. With more than 25 years of experience in nonprofit management, Marcia is a well regarded speaker and writer, who shares much of her expertise through keynote speaking engagements and panels across the country. Marcia remains a cutting edge leader in the Women's Funding movement and also served as an inaugural Vision 2020 delegate from 2010 through 2013. Marcia most recently served as Chief Executive Officer of Women's Fund of Rhode Island. During her years of service, the Women's Fund successfully advocated for the passage of paid family leave as well as passage of ordinances that guarantee pregnancy accommodations in the workplace in two cities, in addition to over 20 other legislative wins, on behalf of women and girls. Marcia holds a PhD and a Master's Degree from Boston College's Graduate School of Social Work.

She has served as a faculty of St. Ambrose University Graduate School of Social Work and an adjunct faculty at Rhode Island College School of Social Work and American University School of Public Affairs. Currently she is Visiting Assistant Professor of Business and Management Studies at Wheaton.



Jacqueline Cooke

Regional Administrator, Women

U.S. Department of Labor, Boston, Massachusetts

Arianne Corrente

Vice Chair, Policy Chair

Women's Fund of Rhode Island Board of Directors

Arianne is an accomplished professional with a decade of experience developing, managing, and executing successful strategic communications initiatives. Previously she served as deputy chief of staff to Providence Mayor Angel Taveras, managing director of public affairs at Advocacy Solutions, and as director of the state relations and campaigns practice at Clarendon Group. Most recently Arianne founded and managed Gage Street Strategies where she built a robust communications consulting practice that served clients such as the The Aspen Institute, Providence Performing Arts Center, Teach for America, and others. Arianne currently works at Harvard University managing proactive communications strategies for Harvard Public Affairs and Communications. Arianne currently serves as vice chair and policy committee chair of the board of directors at Women's Fund of Rhode Island.



Lindsay DesLauriers
Vermont State Director
Main Street Alliance of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont

Lindsay is currently the State Director at Main Street Alliance of Vermont, a state affiliate of Main Street Alliance as of July 2014. Through her work as Campaign Director for the Vermont Paid Sick Days Campaign, Lindsay identified a need for organizing and focused advocacy within the business community to help support this and other state level policy work in Vermont. At present Main Street Alliance has built a coalition of 65 business owners in support of Earned Sick Days. Main Street Alliance of Vermont is also partnering on health care reform and early childhood efforts. Prior to working at Main Street Alliance, Lindsay worked in public policy as an advocate at Voices for Vermont's Children, a non-profit children's state policy organization. In that capacity, she worked on policy in early childhood, public education, juvenile justice, healthcare, and family economic security. Lindsay also served as Interim Director for the Vermont Early Childhood Alliance, a statewide coalition of early childhood professionals, parents, businesses, and strategic partners working to affect

positive policy change in the area of early childhood. Lindsay attended Sarah Lawrence College in New York, graduating in 2001 and subsequently received her Masters from the University of Vermont. Lindsay is committed to promoting positive social, educational, and economic policies that will enhance quality of life for all Vermonters.



Lindsay Farrell
Executive Director
Connecticut Working Families, New Haven, Connecticut

Lindsay Farrell is the State Director at Connecticut Working Families, where she leads the organization's growth and strategy on issue and electoral campaigns. Prior to becoming the State Director, Lindsay was the organization's Political and Legislative director. In that capacity, she led the coalition building and direct lobbying efforts to support the passage of Connecticut's first-in-the-nation paid sick days bill. Prior to coming to Connecticut, Lindsay designed and implemented field organizing plans for several successful New York State Senate races. Before that Lindsay worked as a Canvass Director at the New York Working Families Party, helping one of the nation's most respected year-round grassroots field operations. Lindsay graduated in 2003 from Vassar College with a degree in Political Science and Studio Art.

Deb Fastino
Co-Chair
Raise Up Massachusetts



Sylvia Ferrell-Jones
President and CEO
YWCA Boston, Boston, Massachusetts

Sylvia Ferrell- Jones is President and CEO of YWCA Boston. Sylvia joined YWCA Boston in January 2007, after 25 years in the fields of real estate investment management and non-profit governance and executive leadership. For twenty years she has focused on management of real estate-based assets, serving as a director at AEW Capital Management, headquartered in Boston, and as a principal investment officer with the State of Connecticut Trust Funds, with portfolios ranging up to \$2 billion. Subsequently, Sylvia served as Regional Director for Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, where she provided governance, management and fundraising consultations to a \$26 million portfolio of not-for-profit affiliates. In her 7 years as CEO of YWCA Boston, Sylvia has led the organization through financial, operational management and program transformations. Sylvia earned her bachelor's degree from Cornell University and her juris doctor from Yale Law School. She has held leadership roles with numerous community and professional organizations, including local, regional and

national real estate industry groups; the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ; United Church Funds, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America; Andover Newton Theological School, the Commonwealth Compact, and the Wellesley Centers for Women.



Karen D. Friedman
Executive Vice President and Policy Director
Pension Rights Center, Washington DC, District of Columbia

Karen Friedman is Executive Vice President and Policy Director of the Pension Rights Center, the nation's oldest consumer organization dedicated solely to protecting and promoting the retirement security of American workers, retirees and their families. Karen develops and implements strategies and solutions to protect and promote the retirement rights of consumers. Karen regularly represents PRC and the perspective of consumers at conferences, and in the media and has testified before the key tax-writing and labor committees in the House and the Senate. Karen has published numerous op-eds in such newspapers as the New York Times, the Philadelphia Inquirer and Newsday, is quoted regularly in national news outlets such as the Washington Post, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, and the Chicago Tribune and has also appeared on ABC World News Tonight, the CBS Evening News, CNN, NBC Nightly News, the NewsHour, Good Morning America, and the Nightly Business Report. She speaks regularly at forums and conferences across the country sponsored by unions,

businesses, universities and retiree groups. Karen coordinates Retirement USA, an initiative to promote the need for a new universal, secure and adequate pension system that supplements Social Security for future retirees. From 2001-2007, Karen directed the Conversation on Coverage, a national policy dialogue that developed innovative common ground proposals to expand pensions and savings for American workers. A graduate of Georgetown University, and a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance, Karen has more than 25 years of policy, communications, and advocacy experience.



Gayle Goldin
State Senator
Rhode Island, Providence, Rhode Island

As a newly elected state senator, Gayle Goldin championed the passage of Temporary Caregiver Insurance, making Rhode Island the third state in the country to create paid family leave and the first to do so with job protection. She is focused on common-sense legislation to strengthen our middle class. Senator Goldin graduated from McGill University with a B.A. in English Literature and earned a Master's degree in Public Policy from Tufts University. Her career has included conducting policy research, grant-making, and leading training programs, including the Women's Policy Institute. She began her career in Rhode Island working at a national organization focused on increasing access to health care for the uninsured and is now serving as a consultant to local and national nonprofit organizations. Senator Goldin is the recipient of a 2013 congressional Angels in Adoption Award, the 2014 Bell of Hope Award from the Mental Health Association of Rhode Island, and was named one of the Women's Campaign Fund's 40 national Game Changers of 2014.

Fatuma Hussein
United Somali Women of Maine

Ira A. Jackson
Dean
John W. McCormack School of Policy and Global Studies, University of Massachusetts Boston



Michelle Kang
Vice President of Client Relations
Bright Horizons Family Solutions, Watertown, Massachusetts

Michelle Kang is Vice President of Client Relations at Bright Horizons Family Solutions, which is headquartered in Watertown, Massachusetts. In her role, she works with senior and executive leaders at clients providing guidance and leadership in human resource strategy and development of dependent care programs to support the core missions of employers. Ms. Kang has been with Bright Horizons for over 11 years and has held several different roles in that time. She joined the company as Client Services Director working primarily with higher education organizations on dependent care strategy. After joining the client relations team in 2005, Ms Kang and her team have worked with clients representing many Fortune 500 companies and also include a diverse set of industries including government agencies, global financial services and pharmaceutical companies, universities, hospitals, and law firms. In addition to Ms. Kang's current role, she also serves as a member of the Inclusion Council at Bright Horizons and co-chairs the Asian Employee Resource Group. Prior to joining Bright

Horizons, Ms. Kang served as the Associate Director of Community Affairs at Harvard University. Ms. Kang holds a Master of Science in Industrial Relations and Human Resource Management from the Said Business School at the University of Oxford in England. Originally from Virginia, Ms. Kang also received a B.A. from The College of William and Mary and a M.Ed. in Education Policy from the University of Virginia. Ms. Kang currently resides in Maryland with her husband and three sons.

Annie Kuster
U.S. House of Representatives, (D-NH)

Sylvia B. Larsen
State Senator
New Hampshire

Latifa Lyles

Director

Women's Bureau, United States Department of Labor



Jessica Maurer, Esq.

Executive Director

Maine Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Augusta, Maine

Jessica L. Maurer, Esq. began work as the Executive Director of the Maine Association of Area Agencies on Aging in January 2011. She advocates for healthy aging at the national, state and local levels on behalf of Maine's five Area Agencies on Aging. She also assists the area agencies in strategic planning, program development and implementation. She provides leadership within Maine's aging network, including on the Maine Council on Aging and Maine Council for Elder Abuse Prevention, to advance public policy initiatives that support Maine's aging population. She is one of the lead authors of the 2012-2016 Maine State Plan on Aging and of Building a Collaborative Community Response to Aging in Place. She was the primary organizer for the Speaker's Round Table Discussions on Aging and the Maine Summit on Aging and is helping to lead the Maine Aging Initiative. A licensed Maine attorney, Jess worked for nearly 17 years in the Maine Office of the Attorney General. In her last 7 years in the Office, she served as a Special Assistant Attorney General, implementing

public policy and legislative initiatives for the Attorney General. Aging related policy initiatives included elder abuse and interpersonal violence, prescription drug pricing and end of life care. Jess is a graduate of the University of Maine School of Law and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.



Cathy E. Minehan

Dean

Simmons College School of Management and Chair, Boston Women's Workforce Council, Boston, Massachusetts

Cathy E. Minehan was appointed Dean of the Simmons College School of Management in August 2011. Ms. Minehan retired from the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston in July 2007, after 39 years with the Federal Reserve System, having served as the President and Chief Executive of the Boston Bank for 13 years and as a member of the Federal Open Market Committee from July 1994 on. She is considered an expert in the U.S. payment systems and was a key figure in the operation of and policy setting for the key payment and securities systems operated and regulated by the Federal Reserve System. Ms. Minehan is a director of VISA Inc., and the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company. She is also Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Massachusetts General Hospital, a Board Member of Partners Healthcare System and WGBH public broadcasting. Dean Minehan serves as Chair of the Boston Women's Workforce Council and Chairman of the Massachusetts Governor's Council of

Economic Advisors. Dean Minehan has received numerous awards and accolades throughout her career including an elected Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2009, named the 2002 "New Englander of the Year" by the New England Council, and received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Boston Chamber of Commerce in 2006. Minehan holds a B.A. from the University of Rochester, an M.B.A. from the Stern School at New York University, and a number of honorary degrees.

J. Keith Motley

Chancellor

University of Massachusetts Boston



Evelyn F. Murphy

Former Lt. Governor of Massachusetts, Founding President of The Wage Project, Inc.
The WAGE Project, Inc., Brookline, Massachusetts

Evelyn Murphy is President of The WAGE Project, Inc. (WAGE) a national, grassroots organization to eliminate the gender wage gap and author of *Getting Even: Why Women Don't Get Paid Like Men and What to Do About It.* WAGE has helped young women on 400 campuses in 49 states begin their careers paid fairly through highly interactive salary negotiation workshops. WAGE has also conducted salary negotiation workshops for working women at YWCAs; Mayor's and Governor's offices, and for women CPAs, lawyers, librarians, scientists, administrators, and executives. Evelyn Murphy earned a BA from Duke University in mathematics; a MA in economics from Columbia University; and a PhD in economics from Duke University. From 1975-1978, as Massachusetts Secretary of Environmental Affairs, she led the successful effort to block offshore oil drilling on the Georges Bank. As Secretary of Economic Affairs from 1983-1986, she initiated Centers of Excellence to advance biotechnology, marine sciences, photovoltaics, polymers and microelectronics. In 1986, Evelyn

Murphy was elected Lieutenant Governor on Massachusetts, becoming the first woman in the state's 200 year history to hold constitutional office. Prior to that, no woman had ever been elected Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Treasurer, Auditor, or United States Senator in Massachusetts. She is a Director of The Commonwealth Institute; and on the Advisor Board of the CWPPP, UMass Boston. Dr. Murphy is the recipient of eleven honorary degrees, a distinguished graduate alumni award of Duke University, and over one hundred national, state, and community awards.



Kate Murray

Former Chair, NH Women's Fund; Founder and co-chair, member of Policy & Research Committee
NH Women's Foundation

Kate Rushford Murray grew up in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont and attended Sacred Heart High School in Newport, VT. Her college career took her from the University of North Carolina to graduate schools at the University of Connecticut and the University of Illinois, where she earned a doctoral degree in Music Education, and then to Santa Clara University and the University of California at Berkeley, where she earned a second doctoral degree, in Religious Studies. She was an Assistant Professor of Music at the University of California at Los Angeles ('78 -'83), a software trainer for Frame Technology, and an independent consultant in Gilroy, CA, while raising the two Murray children, Hannah and Paul. She has written numerous articles and led frequent discussions in the fields of both music and religious art and has written the book, *Field Guide to the Saints*. She has served on a number of boards, including the Women's Fund of New Hampshire, the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (Piscataqua Region), The Music Hall in Portsmouth, NH, and the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester, NH. She currently is on the Planning Board and the Historic District Commission for the town of New Castle and is on the board of the Portsmouth

Historical Society. She also writes a weekly column for the Portsmouth Herald.

Cynthia Nimmo

Interim CEO

Women's Funding Network, San Francisco, California

Suzanne B. Peters

Vice President

The Fund for Women and Girls/Fairfield County's Community Foundation, Norwalk, Connecticut



Thomas J. Putnam

Director

John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Boston, Massachusetts

Thomas J. Putnam is Director of the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. Putnam first joined the Kennedy Library in 1999 and held several major management positions prior to the position of director, including Director of Education and Deputy Director. As Director of the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Putnam has responsibility for the Library's core function of collecting, preserving and making available to the public the documents, audiovisual material and memorabilia of President Kennedy and his administration. A graduate of Bowdoin College and the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University, Putnam's career has bridged the fields of education and government including earning a Watson Fellowship to examine education policy in Quebec and a Fulbright Scholarship in Senegal. Before coming to the Library he directed a federally funded Upward Bound program that helped low income high school students to be the first in their families to attend college.



Marcy Reed

President

National Grid of Massachusetts, Waltham, Massachusetts

Marcy L. Reed is President of National Grid in Massachusetts. She is responsible for the financial, operational, and customer service performance of the business in Massachusetts and manages the relationships with regulators, government officials and the communities National Grid serves. Marcy joined National Grid over 25 years ago and has held various positions in finance, merger integration, and corporate affairs. She also spent 3 years living in London as the National Grid Head of Investor Relations. Marcy sits on the Boards of the New England Council, the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, The Partnership, the Massachusetts Business Roundtable, the Federal Reserve Bank Advisory Council and CityYear. She is the global executive sponsor for National Grid's Women in Networks employee affinity group. Marcy is a graduate of Dartmouth College and holds a Masters degree from Northeastern University. Married with two children, she lives in Concord, MA.



Elizabeth H. Roberts

Lieutenant Governor

State of Rhode Island

After 10 years of service in the Rhode Island Senate, including as Chairwoman of the Health and Human Services Committee, Elizabeth Roberts went on to be elected to two terms in the Lieutenant Governor's office. She is the first woman to serve in that office in Rhode Island history. Lieutenant Governor Roberts has been a strong leader in many areas, and particularly in the area of health care. In the Senate, she led reform efforts to bring accountability, affordability, and accessibility to the health care system, including creation of the office of Health Insurance Commissioner. She has been steadfast in her work in the Lieutenant Governor's Office, working with small businesses, emergency management, and long-term care. She continues to lead on health reform efforts as chair of the Rhode Island Healthcare Reform Commission, the body in state government tasked with implementation of the federal health reform law

Sarah Ruef-Lindquist, Esq., CTFA
CEO
Maine Women's Fund

Sarah Ruef-Lindquist, Esq., CTFA CEO, Maine Women's Fund As CEO, Sarah works with the Board and staff to develop and implement long-term strategies to increase the Fund's philanthropic assets and grow the Fund's impact and influence throughout Maine. In less than three years under her leadership, the fund's assets have grown 52%, and the annual fund 60%. Sarah has extensive experience in fundraising, grant making and building organizations' fiscal efficiencies. She served as the senior gift planning consultant at Planning for Good, a Maine-based consulting practice she founded, and her law practice focused on estate and trust planning. She was vice president for Southern Maine at the Maine Community Foundation, and later served for over five years as vice president and senior administrative trust officer at Union Trust Company in Ellsworth and Camden, Maine. She has served on the boards of many organizations in Maine and New Hampshire. She is a current trustee of Unity College, Maine Planned Giving Council and West Bay Rotary. In 2014 she was appointed to Maine's Permanent Commission on the Status of Women and she serves on the Report Committee. Sarah received her B.A. from Southern Methodist University and her J.D. from Franklin Pierce Law Center, now the University of New Hampshire School of Law. She is a graduate of the Institute for Civil Leadership in Portland, Maine and attained her Certified Trust and Financial Advisor designation from the Institute of Certified Bankers of the American Bankers Association.

Stefany Shaheen
Portsmouth City Councilor and Chief Operating Officer
City of Portsmouth, New Hampshire and Good Measures, LLC, Portsmouth, New Hampshire



Emily K. Shea
Commissioner
Commission on Affairs of the Elderly, City of Boston, Boston, Massachusetts

Emily K. Shea has been serving as Commissioner on Affairs of the Elderly for the City of Boston since April 2011 and was reappointed by Mayor Martin J. Walsh in January 2014. The Commission serves as Boston's Area Agency on Aging and Boston's Council on Aging. Prior to her work for the City, Ms. Shea's work focused on meeting the needs of older adults in Boston, first in her role as the Executive Director of the Robert Wood Johnson funded initiative the Boston Partnership for Older Adults, and then in her most recent role as Director of Elder Services for Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD), Boston's anti-poverty agency. Before coming to Boston, Ms. Shea spent 6 years as the Executive Director of Windsor House Adult Day Health programs in Cambridge, Somerville, and Framingham. She also served as the President of the Massachusetts Adult Day Services Association. Ms. Shea received her MSW, MPH and Certificate in Gerontology from Boston University and her BA from St. Michael's College.



Kristin Smith, PhD
Research Associate Professor of Sociology and Family Demographer at the Carsey School of Public Policy
University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire

Kristin Smith is a research associate professor of Sociology and family demographer at the Carsey School of Public Policy at the University of New Hampshire. Her research is focused in the areas of family demography, work and family, economic sociology, gender inequality, and public policy. She is co-editor of Economic Restructuring and Family Wellbeing in Rural America. Her research has been published in academic journals, including American Sociological Review, Demography, Monthly Labor Review, Social Science Research, and Family Relations, and has also been reported in the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, the Washington Post, the Boston Globe, and numerous online and local media outlets, and she has appeared on National Public Radio.



Marie St. Fleur

President and CEO

Bessie Tart Wilson Initiative for Children, Boston, Massachusetts

Marie St. Fleur joined nonprofit research and advocacy organization Bessie Tartt Wilson Initiative for Children as the President and CEO in November 2013. Ms. St. Fleur came to her new position after a long career in public service, where she was known as a tireless advocate on behalf of children and families. Her current role allows her to use her experience as an attorney, legislator, and senior leader in municipal government to support grassroots research on early education and care systems, advocate for change, and expand outreach and engagement of families, providers, policymakers, and government agencies and the public in support of this sector. Marie was appointed by Mayor Thomas M. Menino on June 13, 2010, as the Chief of Advocacy and Strategic Investment for the City of Boston. In that capacity Ms. St. Fleur led the Mayor Menino Circle of Promise Initiative and oversaw the Department of Intergovernmental Relations, The Office of New Bostonian, The Small and Local Business/Boston Jobs For Boston Residents Policy, and his Diversity and Reentry

Initiatives. Former State Representative Marie St. Fleur was first elected to serve in the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1999, and is the first Haitian-American elected to state office in the United States. As the House Chair of the Joint Committee on Education, Arts and Humanities, Representative St. Fleur championed two-way bilingual education and alternative education and led the establishment of the new Massachusetts Board and Department of Early Education and Care.



Eliza Townsend

Executive Director

Maine Women's Policy Center, Augusta, Maine

Eliza Townsend is the Executive Director of the Maine Women's Lobby and the Maine Women's Policy Center. Eliza represented Portland for four terms in the Maine House of Representatives. During her tenure, she served on the Human Resources and Appropriations & Financial Affairs committees. As the House Chair of Appropriations, she helped to establish the Fund for a Healthy Maine, directing the state's share of the tobacco litigation settlement to investments in the well-being of Mainers. Eliza went on to become the first executive director of the Maine League of Conservation Voters, a position she held for six and a half years before joining the Maine Department of Conservation, first as Deputy Commissioner and later as Commissioner. Eliza is a graduate of McGill University and received her Master of Fine Arts degree from Carnegie-Mellon University. She has two sons and lives in Portland.



Carolyn Treiss

Executive Director

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, Connecticut

As Executive Director of the Connecticut Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, Carolyn Treiss is responsible for administration, major strategic initiatives, budgeting, and mandate compliance, and is the Commission's main liaison to other State agencies and branches of government. Treiss, who holds a J.D. from the University of Connecticut School of Law, an M.S.W. from the University of Connecticut School of Social Work and a B.A. in political science and Russian from Bates College, brings to the PCSW a background in public policy, social services and grassroots advocacy. Her passion for women's rights activism was sparked after college as a volunteer for NARAL Pro-Choice CT, and her commitment to women's rights issues grew during a graduate school internship in which she advocated in the Connecticut General Assembly for victims of sexual assault. Since then, Treiss has served as director of NARAL Pro-Choice CT, Chief of Staff at the Office of Health Care Access, Legislative Program Manager for the Department of Social Services, and

most recently as Policy Director for the Connecticut Senate Democratic Caucus. Believing in public service to her community, she has served on both her local Town Council and Board of Education. As a mother of two school-aged sons, she is committed to teaching her boys about the breadth and depth of women's roles at home, in the workplace and in the community.



Carolyn Villers

Executive Director

Mass Senior Action Council, Dorchester, Massachusetts

Carolyn Villers is the Executive Director of Mass Senior Action Council. Before assuming the E.D. position in May, 2009, she held the MSAC Boston Community Organizer position for three years, specializing in issues relating to affordable housing. Prior to joining Mass Senior Action, Carolyn was an experienced professional with over 11 years of experience in community-based organizations, and 15 years of experience in the field of Social Justice, working, among other things, as a community activist around issues concerning the prison industry. Carolyn has a Bachelors degree in Sociology from Simmons College and resides in Dorchester, MA



Martin J. Walsh

Mayor
City of Boston

Mayor Martin J. Walsh, an accomplished advocate for working people and a proud product of the city of Boston, was sworn in as the City's 54th Mayor on January 6, 2014. In 1997, Mayor Walsh won election to the Massachusetts House of Representatives, representing the 13th Suffolk District in Boston. During his 16 years in the House, Mayor Walsh established himself as a leader on job creation and economic development. He authored landmark public construction law reforms, helped pass "smart growth district" legislation, and was a strong supporter of infrastructure and zoning improvements. A co-founder and former board member of the Neighborhood House Public Charter School, Mayor Walsh has long been an aggressive advocate for strong public schools. A champion for civil rights, Mayor Walsh was a vocal early advocate for marriage equality and he compiled a strong record in support of communities of color, immigrants, and seniors. He also became known as the State House leader on substance abuse and recovery issues. From 2011 to 2013, Mayor Walsh served as head of the Building and Construction Trades Council of the Metropolitan District. In partnership with the Boston Housing Authority, he created Building Pathways, a pre-apprentice program connecting building trades jobs and opportunities with those traditionally underrepresented in the industry, mainly women

and people of color. Mayor Walsh lives on Tuttle Street in Dorchester and is a graduate of Boston College. He shares his life with his longtime partner, Lorrie Higgins, and her daughter, Lauren.



Joan Wasser Gish, JD, MA

Massachusetts Board of Early Education and Care and Principal,
Policy Progress

Joan Wasser Gish works at the nexus of academic research, policymaking, law and advocacy. Twice appointed by the Governor of Massachusetts to the state's Board of Early Education and Care, Joan chairs the Board's Committee on Policy & Research. Joan is also Principal at Policy Progress, a public policy consulting firm. She has worked in the U.S. Senate as a Senior Policy Advisor to former U.S. Senator John Kerry, as Director of Research & Policy at Strategies for Children, and as an attorney at a large Boston law firm. She holds a B.A. from Brown University, a J.D. from Columbia University School of Law, and an M.A. from Teachers' College at Columbia University.

Katie Wells Wheeler

Former State Senator
New Hampshire

MarDee Xifaras

Board of Trustees
UMass Boston, New Bedford, Massachusetts

Margaret D. Xifaras ("MarDee") is a longtime community and political organizer. She originally came to Massachusetts for graduate school following two years in the Peace Corps. She has a graduate degree from the Fletcher School at Tufts, an MBA from the University of Massachusetts/Dartmouth Campus, and a law degree from Boston University. She has served as a Regional Administrative Assistant for former Congressman Gerry Studds, and as a Special Assistant to Governor Michael S. Dukakis, for over forty years has been a member of the Democratic State Committee, and for twenty-eight years a member of the Democratic National Committee. Currently, Attorney Xifaras serves on the University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees.



Teresa C. Younger

President and CEO

Ms. Foundation for Women, Brooklyn, New York

Teresa C. Younger is the president and CEO of the Ms. Foundation for Women, the first national fund dedicated to empowering all women. Teresa has been on the frontlines of some of the most important battles for women's rights. She most recently served as the executive director of the Connecticut General Assembly's Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, where she successfully spearheaded campaigns for women's health, safety and economic empowerment.