

Healthcare-NOW Single Payer Conference - 2018
June 22-24
Minneapolis, MN
Summary compiled by Tom Gottlieb

Go to: [https://wiki.healthcare-now.org/Our Political Moment %26 the Pathway to Victory](https://wiki.healthcare-now.org/Our%20Political%20Moment%20the%20Pathway%20to%20Victory)

Note:

1. Michael Lighty – Our Political Moment Speech
 - a) Current politics unites the SP healthcare movement
 - b) We cannot win without being part of the general social justice movements
 - c) Politicians continue to support incremental reform because entitlements are not sustainable – this is morally not viable
 - d) Medicare movement must include guaranteed access to health care, a single standard of care, and no barriers to care.
 - e) Build a multi-racial movement that is rooted in justice
 - f) This is a political movement, door to door. It must be done in the next two years.
2. Rep. Keith Ellison – Keynote Speech
 - a) Medicare for All is gaining traction (HR, governors races, gen population wish, etc.)
 - b) Re ACA (the Romney Plan) - No concession that you give these people is good enough
 - c) Every congressional district needs a conversation of Medicare for All (a political movement)
 - d) Engage the artistic community, i.e. move the people in the heart
 - e) Need to convince people that they have a right to health care
 - f) In memory of Paul Wellstone
3. Rep. Pramilla Jayapal – It’s Time for Medicare for All
 - a) Only advanced nation in the world without SP
 - b) Now our party can promote a solution, Medicare for All
 - c) This movement is political
 - d) Now promotes a state based universal health care act – facilitates a stream of money from the feds.
4. Workshop: Taking on Big Pharma
Facilitators: Alex Lawson, Social Security Works; Dr Brian Yablon, Physicians for a National Health Program Minnesota; Justin Mendoza, Public Citizen. *Description: The pharmaceutical industry is one of the largest groups of profiteers standing between the American people and their healthcare. This workshop will discuss the Physicians Proposal for Pharmaceutical Reform in the U.S. and Canada and other approaches and remedies. We will talk about how this issue impacts our organizing work and how it opens up opportunities to reach out to new allies. No video available*
5. Workshop: Follow the Money: Facilitators: Donna Smith and Wendell Potter. Follow the Money: Big Money and the Politics of Healthcare Reform – Facilitator: Donna Smith, Progressive Democrats of America; Wendell Potter, whistleblower and tarbell.org; Jeff Clark, Move to Amend. *Description: The producers of the movie FixIt have just released a short film, “Big Money—Democracy on the Brink” that explores how the corruption of politics by monied interests undermines the efforts to pass single payer legislation. This workshop will discuss how that corruption takes place, how we can use this new movie as an organizing tool and how groups that advocate for getting money out of politics are crucial allies in the fight for healthcare justice.*
6. Workshop: Long Term Care, Disability Rights and the Single Payer Movement – Facilitator: Henry Moss, PNHP NY Metro Chapter; Susan Aarup, ADAPT and Illinois Single-Payer

Coalition; Sumer Spika, SEIU Healthcare MN; Eagan Kemp, Public Citizen (Norway 1)

Description: Long-term personal care is inadequately addressed in the single-payer community but is an essential part of health care. Millions of older adults and younger adults with disabilities rely on such care for a decent quality of life. Yet caregiving is insufficiently valued in our society. Millions of unpaid family caregivers, mostly women, forego employment, reduce hours, or leave jobs to care for loved ones. Paid caregivers, mostly women of color, suffer low pay and poor working conditions. Disabled younger adults often forego higher education and quality careers to stay poor enough to qualify for public services. HR 676 includes long-term care as a core benefit. We can use this to bring older adults, younger adults with disabilities, and caregivers into the movement with the only program that makes access to long-term care a universal benefit: Expanded and Improved Medicare for All.

7. Workshop: OPS – Report from Colorado – Bill Semple and Donna Smith