

Behavioral Health Forum: Regional Challenges & Solutions



Featuring Sen. Maggie Hassan & Rep. Annie Kuster

November 20, 2023 - New Hampshire Institute of Politics

AGENDA

8:00 - 9:30 a.m. **Registration & Networking**

9:00 - 9:05 a.m. **Welcome Remarks**
James T. Brett, President & CEO
The New England Council

9:05 - 9:10 a.m. **Introductory Remarks**
Malisa Schuyler, Vice President of Government
Affairs, Beth Israel Lahey Health

9:10 - 9:55 a.m. **Fireside Discussion with Senator Maggie Hassan and
Congresswoman Annie Kuster**
Moderated by Neil Meehan, D.O., Chief Physician Executive,
Exeter Health Resources

9:55 - 10:05 a.m. **Break**

10:05 - 11:00 a.m. **Panel Discussion**

Moderator:

- Will Torrey, M.D., Chair of [Dartmouth Health Psychiatry Department](#)

Panelists:

- Jill Borrelli, Vice President of Behavioral Health, [Point32Health](#)
- Mary F. Brunette, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry, Community and Family Medicine, and the Dartmouth Institute, [Dartmouth Geisel School of Medicine](#)
- Georgia Maheras, SVP Policy and Strategy, [Bi-State Primary Care Association](#)
- Holly Mintz, M.D., Chief Medical Officer for Ambulatory Services, [Solution Health](#)
- Lori Sustek, Director of MA, ME and NH, [Youth Villages](#)



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SPEAKER & PANEL BIOGRAPHIES

U.S. Senator Maggie Hassan (D-NH)

Elected to the U.S. Senate in 2016, Senator Hassan has worked across the aisle to get results for Granite Staters. She is the second woman in American history to be elected both Governor and United States Senator, along with fellow New Hampshire Senator Jeanne Shaheen.

Senator Hassan is working to build a more inclusive economic future where all people who work hard to get ahead can stay ahead. She helped author and negotiate the bipartisan infrastructure package that is now law. It will repair New Hampshire roads and bridges, get affordable high-speed internet to communities, and get clean water into people's homes. The Senator has led additional efforts to create jobs and support innovative businesses, including by expanding COVID-19 relief to more small businesses in New Hampshire. Senator Hassan has also led efforts to combat climate change, which threatens our environment and our economy.

Senator Hassan has led bipartisan efforts to lower Granite Staters' health care costs, combat the substance use disorder crisis, and address the COVID-19 pandemic. She has worked across the aisle to pass legislation into law to help end the practice of surprise medical billing and increase access to lower-cost prescription medication. Since 2017, Senator Hassan has helped secure a nine-fold increase in funding to New Hampshire to help prevent and treat substance use disorder. And Senator Hassan has helped to negotiate and pass into law crucial COVID-19 relief packages.

In addition, Senator Hassan is working on a bipartisan basis to keep America safe, secure, and free and support veterans. Senator Hassan has successfully passed into law bipartisan legislation to strengthen terrorism prevention efforts at the Department of Homeland Security and improve cybersecurity at a federal, state, and local level. Senator Hassan is also committed to improving veterans' access to the care and services that they need and deserve. Senator Hassan has helped to pass into law bipartisan legislation to improve veterans' access to COVID-19 vaccines, eliminate barriers to care that many women veterans face, and strengthen veterans' access to mental health care.

Senator Hassan was drawn to public service as an advocate fighting to ensure that children like her son Ben, who experiences severe disabilities, would be fully included in their communities and have the same opportunities that all parents want for their children.

In 1999, then-Governor Shaheen asked her to serve on the Advisory Committee to the Adequacy in Education and Finance Commission. Her experience as a business attorney and as a parent of a child who experiences disabilities enabled her to provide a unique perspective as the commission did its work. Senator Hassan was first elected to the New Hampshire Senate in 2004, serving the people of the 23rd District, which included ten Seacoast towns.

In 2013, she was sworn in as the 81st Governor of New Hampshire. Throughout her two terms as Governor, she responsibly balanced the state budget; created a business-friendly environment that encouraged innovation and saw New Hampshire's unemployment rate drop to among the lowest in the nation; worked across party lines to establish and reauthorize Medicaid expansion; worked to implement a comprehensive, hands-on approach to the heroin, fentanyl and opioid crisis; and froze in-state tuition at state universities for the first time in 25 years while lowering tuition at community colleges.

Maggie Hassan was born on February 27, 1958. She earned her B.A. from Brown University and her J.D. from the Northeastern School of Law. She and her husband, Tom, live in Newfields and are the proud parents of two adult children, Ben and Meg.



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U.S. Representative Annie Kuster (D-NH)

Annie Kuster was born and raised in Concord, New Hampshire to a family that taught her the values of kindness and empathy. Growing up, Annie helped her late mother, State Senator Susan McLane, who served in the NH House and Senate for over 25 years and was a pioneer for women in New Hampshire politics. Through that experience, Annie gained an appreciation for the good that government can do for communities and people, and a deep desire to help create positive change for Granite Staters. Her late father, Malcolm McLane, was Mayor of Concord, a New Hampshire Executive Councilor, and served as a prominent attorney for over 50 years.

Kuster is a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, where she serves on the Health Subcommittee, Energy Subcommittee, and the Oversight & Investigations Subcommittee. She is also the Chair of the New Democrat Coalition – a group of nearly 100 commonsense Democrats working to break through the partisan gridlock and get things done for the American people.

Since taking office in 2013, Annie has prioritized efforts to facilitate the creation of good jobs and to increase economic opportunity for every New Hampshire family. Annie knows small businesses serve as the backbone of our local economy, and she's advanced critical legislation to support New Hampshire businesses including the Community Energy Savings Program (CESP) Act, the Invest in American Railroads Act, and the National Apprenticeship Act of 2021. In the 116th Congress, Annie released her 2020 Jobs and Opportunity Agenda, a blueprint of legislative proposals that Annie is pushing in Congress to help New Hampshire businesses grow and create more jobs.

In Congress, Annie is focused on bringing Granite State voices to Washington. As the founder and co-chair of the Bipartisan Addiction and Mental Health Task Force, she is working across the aisle to address the substance use crisis in New Hampshire and throughout the country and advance evidence-based approaches to end the opioid epidemic once and for all.

A survivor of sexual assault herself, Annie knows that assisting survivors is truly a matter of life or death, especially in times of crisis. That's why she founded and co-chairs the Bipartisan Task Force to End Sexual Violence to ensure survivors have a voice in Congress. Annie has worked to deliver real results for survivors, including introducing and co-sponsoring legislation like the Empowering Olympic, Paralympic, and Amateur Athletes Act, and the Hold Accountable and Lend Transparency on Campus Sexual Violence Act. She has continued the important conversation around sexual violence by hosting roundtables to discuss and address sexual and domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the racial disparities in access to care for survivors. Rep. Kuster also sent a letter urging President Joe Biden's administration to create a Special Advisor on Sexual Violence position at the HHS and one to Education Secretary Cardona imploring him to reverse former Secretary DeVos's horrific final Title IX rule. Annie is committed to survivors and will keep fighting for their safety and wellbeing in Congress.

The daughter of a WWII veteran who was shot down during the Battle of the Bulge and spent the final years of the war in a Nazi POW camp, Annie is also dedicated to providing the necessary resources so our nation's veterans have the support they need to make a smooth and successful transition back to civilian life. As a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Annie advanced a number of legislative initiatives to improve the lives of veterans across the country, including the Protecting Business Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2019, the VA Mission Telehealth Clarification Act, and the Military Family Violence Prevention Act.

As a lifelong Granite Stater, Annie recognizes the importance of family farms and healthy forests to our economy. In Congress, she has championed Granite State priorities like conserving natural resources, cutting wasteful subsidies, supporting organic farming, and fighting childhood hunger. During her first term in office, Annie helped pass into law a bipartisan Farm Bill that included many measures she championed, including provisions to support local Granite State farms, protect wildlife habitats, promote the domestic maple syrup industry, and invest in renewable energy.



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Annie is also committed to protecting the programs Granite State seniors count on, such as Medicare, Social Security, and medical research funding for diseases that affect older Americans. With her late mother, who suffered from Alzheimer's Disease, Annie co-authored a book entitled "The Last Dance: Facing Alzheimer's with Love and Laughter." Before taking office, Annie and her father toured the state speaking out about Alzheimer's Disease and the burdens it places on families and caregivers. In Congress, Annie has championed legislation both to increase funding for research on finding a cure to this deadly disease and to provide vital support for caregivers who work full-time looking after their loved ones.

Annie graduated from Dartmouth College in 1978 as part of the College's third class that included women students, and from Georgetown University Law Center in 1984. Annie is a member of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys, and before her election to Congress, she maintained a private adoption practice in which she helped hundreds of New Hampshire families adopt children.

Annie and her husband Brad, an environmental lawyer, now live in Hopkinton where they raised their two sons, Zach and Travis.

Moderator

Neil Meehan, D.O.
Chief Physician Executive
Exeter Health Resources

Dr. Neil Meehan, DO, FACEP, is the Chief Physician Executive for Exeter Health Resources and its affiliated companies – Exeter Hospital, Core Physicians and Rockingham Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice. Dr. Meehan has long led numerous efforts to ensure access to substance use disorder treatment in hospital and community settings.

Dr. Meehan received his medical degree from Michigan State University, and completed a residency in emergency medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center. He also has a master's degree in health care management from Harvard University's School of Public Health, and obtained additional training in clinical biomedical informatics from Oregon Health Sciences University. Dr. Meehan is board certified in emergency medicine.

He also served as the Chief Medical Officer at Lawrence General Hospital in Lawrence, Massachusetts.



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Panel

Moderator:

William C. Torrey, M.D.

Chair, Department of Psychiatry

Dartmouth Health and Geisel School of Medicine

William C. (Will) Torrey, MD, was named chair of the Department of Psychiatry for Dartmouth Health and the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth in March 2023, after holding the role on an interim basis since 2020.

This appointment came in the midst of a national and regional mental health and addiction care crisis. Torrey's wide-ranging experience in addressing psychiatric population health needs through advocacy, clinical programming, educational initiatives, and research, combined with his drive for improvement, will advance Dartmouth Health and the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth's positions as leaders in education, care delivery, and research in the field of psychiatry.

Torrey has responsibility for the overall strategic direction, clinical operations and management of the Department of Psychiatry, and the delivery of psychiatric services across the Dartmouth Health system. In addition, as the Department's academic leader, Torrey is responsible for the growth and development of Psychiatry's already extensive research offerings as well as advancing its educational offerings, which include teaching and training medical students, residents, fellows, psychologists, psychiatric nurse practitioners, masters prepared licensed mental health clinicians, faculty development and community education.

Torrey majored in religion at Dartmouth College and graduated from Harvard Medical School before coming back to the Upper Valley to train in Psychiatry at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. Torrey joined the Geisel faculty upon graduation in 1989. Torrey took over the leadership of the Department of Psychiatry's clinical services in 2003, serving as Vice Chair for Clinical Services until 2020. As part of that role, he had the experience in 2020 of partnering with state leaders to safe-guard the health of patients at New Hampshire Hospital, New Hampshire's only state hospital, as COVID rolled into the state. Torrey began his career at West Central Behavioral Health, the region's academic community mental health center, serving as its Medical Director from 1994 until 2007.

Jill Borrelli

Vice President of Behavioral Health

Point32Health

Jill (she/hers) is responsible for the behavioral health program at Point32Health and in leading the execution of the organizational vision to provide best in class behavioral health benefit delivery through a "whole person" integrated care approach. Jill also leads the community health worker and health education and wellness teams.

Jill has worked at Tufts Health Plan for 20+ years in various leadership positions. Prior to her current role, she served as the Vice President of Quality and Medical Policy where she was responsible for the clinical quality, medical policy, quality measurement and performance as well as the quality accreditation and regulatory compliance programs. Earlier in her career, she worked as a child and family therapist, as well as a clinical director of a treatment program for adolescent girls.

She received a B.A. in sociology from Miami University and a M.S.W. from Boston University and is a licensed social worker. She currently services as the vice chair of the board of directors at Samaritans.



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Mary Brunette, MD

Professor of Psychiatry and Community & Family Medicine and of The Dartmouth Institute Dartmouth Geisel School of Medicine

Dr. Mary F. Brunette is Professor of Psychiatry and Community & Family Medicine and of The Dartmouth Institute at Dartmouth College. As a board-certified addiction psychiatrist, she has been involved with research and clinical care of patients with severe mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders for over 15 years. She has been active with both psychosocial research and clinical trials studying treatments for people with these co-occurring disorders. In the past few years, she initiated a program of research on smoking cessation for people with severe mental illnesses. With Dr. Joelle Ferron and her research group, she has developed a web-based, motivational decision support system that is tailored for smokers with severe mental illnesses, who typically have cognitive deficits and low computer experience. Several pilot studies indicate that this tool improves engagement in evidence-based treatment. Her future work related to technology will involve using technology to engage people into treatment, improve treatment outcomes, and disseminate evidence-based treatments, with a focus on people with severe mental illnesses in general and nicotine addiction in particular. Dr. Brunette loves to garden, ski, cook and eat great food.

Georgia Maheras

SVP Policy and Strategy

Bi-State Primary Care Association

Georgia Maheras is Bi-State's Senior Vice President of Policy and Strategy. She previously served as Bi-State's Vermont Director of Public Policy. Prior to joining Bi-State Primary Care Association, Georgia was the Deputy Director of Health Care Reform and the Vermont Health Care Innovation Project Director for Governors Shumlin and Scott. She previously served as the inaugural Executive Director of the Green Mountain Care Board. Her current work focuses on leading Bi-State's New Hampshire and Vermont programmatic and public policy efforts including: achieving better care, smarter spending, and healthier populations.

Georgia has held numerous leadership positions in health care as an advocate, manager, and business owner. Prior to relocating to Vermont and as the Private Market Policy Manager for Health Care for All, a consumer advocacy organization in Massachusetts, Georgia focused her expertise to increasing health insurance coverage and quality. Georgia served as counsel of record on an Amicus brief to the United States Supreme Court in an effort to uphold Vermont's confidentiality law respective to such practices. Georgia has served as a consumer representative to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC).

Georgia is a graduate of Suffolk University Law School and holds a Masters in Theological Studies from Boston University's School of Theology.

Holly Mintz, M.D.

Chief Medical Officer for Ambulatory Services

Solution Health

Holly Mintz, MD, MBA, is a Pediatrician, and Chief Medical Officer of Ambulatory Services of the Elliot Health System. She has been practicing pediatrics in NH since completion of her residency at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh in July 1996. She has committed her career to helping improve the well-being of patients in every aspect of their health. Dr. Mintz has a passion for improving access to care for all within both medical and behavioral health, and has led various efforts to ensure patients are able to receive the care they need in a timely manner.

She earned her medical degree at Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, NY, and completed her Master of Business Administration in 2022 from University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She is committed to fostering efforts to ensure that behavioral health problems are addressed and treated as any other medical problem, and increasing resources available to ensure that care can be provided.



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