

CT Health Intern Academy 2013  
Speaker Biography

Patricia Baker

**President & CEO, The Connecticut Health Foundation** Baker was named president & CEO of the Connecticut Health Foundation (CT Health) in March 2002 after serving as executive director since CT Health was established in July 1999. Immediately prior, Baker served as the national program director for the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation and as director of Connecticut government programs at Oxford Health Plans. The long-time women's health advocate also served as executive director of Planned Parenthood of Connecticut, associate executive director of Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, and executive director of The Women's Center in southeastern Wisconsin.

Arielle Levin Becker

Arielle Levin Becker covers health care for The Connecticut Mirror. She previously worked for The Hartford Courant, covering health, education, criminal justice and municipal beats, and for the Home News Tribune in East Brunswick, N.J. Her first journalism job was at Real Change, a Seattle newspaper about and sold by the homeless. She is a graduate of Yale University.

Greg Bordonaro

Greg Bordonaro is the editor at the Hartford Business Journal. He joined the editorial team in May 2008 after graduating from the University of Connecticut with a degree in journalism and history. Greg has been recognized for his writing and reporting by the Alliance of Area Business Publications as well as the Connecticut Society of Professional Journalists. He is enrolled in the University of Hartford's part-time MBA program, where he will complete his degree this fall.

John Clark

John Clark is Director of the Budget and Financial Analysis Division of the CT Office of State Comptroller. The division performs the state's accounting and financial reporting functions. The division is responsible for posting, analyzing and reporting state expenditures and receipts by fund and account category inclusive of federal and other funding sources. The division computes and reports direct and indirect costs associated with major state programs, publishes two of the comptroller's annual financial reports, and is responsible for the management of the state's real and personal property for insurance and accounting purposes. John joined the Comptroller's Office in 1990. Previously he worked as a Senior Budget Analyst for the CT General Assembly's nonpartisan Office of Fiscal Analysis for seven years. In that position, he drafted fiscal notes outlining the financial impact of pending legislation and maintained agency budgets. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a Master's Degree in Economics/Public Finance from Georgetown University.

Kevin Galvin

Kevin has been a Connecticut Small Businessman for thirty years. Kevin owns and operates *Connecticut Commercial Maintenance* a Hartford based service business that currently employs four people.

Kevin Galvin is the founding chair of the *Small Business for a Healthy Connecticut* . Kevin is best known for his efforts as an advocate for the interests of small business in the reform of health care systems. Galvin participated in the national health care reform debate that culminated in the passage and signing of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in March 2010.

Along with being a leader in the advocacy movement here in Connecticut, Kevin has attended meetings at The White House, Congress and Dept of Treasury to discuss Health Care Reform at a National level and advocate for Connecticut's businesses.

Kevin continues to advocate for Small Business Kevin is presently a member of three of the four Advisory Committees to the CT Health Insurance Exchange and Board Secretary of HealthyCT, Connecticut first non-profit health insurance carrier.

### Bonita Grubbs

Rev. Bonita Grubbs has been Executive Director of Christian Community Action since December 1988.

Prior to that, she was employed as Assistant Regional Administrator in Region V (Northwest Connecticut) for the Department of Mental Health within the State of Connecticut.

She has served as a board member of the Hospital of St. Raphael, board member of the Greater New Haven Community Loan Fund, board member of International Festival of Arts and Ideas, a member of the Judicial Review Council for the State of Connecticut. Interim Pastor of Christian Tabernacle Baptist Church on Hamden, Connecticut, president of the CT Coalition to End Homelessness, Co-chair, Steering Committee of New Haven's Fighting Back Project, member of the Board of Trustees Mercy Center in Madison, Connecticut, Connecticut Center for School Change, the Quinnipiac Bank and Trust Company and Dwight Hall at Yale University.

Present board and voluntary involvements include board member of the Connecticut Voices for Children, the Connecticut Housing Coalition, and the Community Economic Development Fund She has served as a Lecturer in Supervised Ministries at Yale Divinity School.

Rev. Grubbs holds an undergraduate degree in Sociology and in the Afro-American Studies from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. She received two degrees from Yale University---a Master of Arts in Religion and a Master of Public Health. She received an honorary degree from Albertus Magnus College in 2001.

She was ordained to the Christian Ministry within the American Baptist Church in November 1987.

### Doug Hardy

Doug Hardy is both husband and business partner to Editor-in-Chief Christine Stuart, serving as business manager for CTNewsJunkie where he handles copy editing, advertising, promotional activities and anything else that comes up. As a new media entrepreneur and journalist, Hardy partnered with Lon Seidman of LocalOnlineNews.TV in 2011 to launch the Independent Media Network, a cooperative of Connecticut-based news sites and blogs with a goal of helping members reach sustainable business models. A career journalist, Hardy has worked as a reporter and editor at several newspapers and from 2004 to 2007 was a youth business manager and

journalism instructor at Our Piece of the Pie in Hartford, where he helped teens publish a quarterly print magazine called Echoes from the Streets.

### Mickey Herbert

- Worked with Paul Ellwood, MD, 1971-1976
- Started and ran Physicians Health Services, 1976-1998
- Chaired 2 managed care national trade associations, 1992-1994 and 1996-1998
- CEO of ConnectiCare, 2005-2010
- Co-Chaired Connecticut Health Insurance Policy Council, 2006-2007
- Director, America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) Board, 2006-2010
- Director, Connecticut Public Health Insurance Exchange, 2011-2012
- Leading Expansion of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care into Connecticut, December 2012

### Lou Mangini

Lou Mangini is a Hamden native who now resides in New Haven along the Quinnipiac River in the old Yale Brewery building. A graduate of the University of Connecticut, he has spent most of his professional life in the political field working in both the state and federal arenas. For the past twelve years he has been a Congressional Aide to Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro in her New Haven Office where he holds the titles of Senior Staff, Constituent Services Manager, Emergency Response Coordinator and Labor Liaison. Under those titles fall the issues of outreach, economic development, transportation, labor, FEMA and an occasional stint as driver. When not in the office Lou can be found on stage and behind the scenes as an actor/producer for A Broken Umbrella Theater, a New Haven based ensemble that creates site specific original works based on New Haven history.

### Cara Passaro

Cara Passaro is a policy analyst for the House Democrats Caucus. In that role, she monitors, researches and develops legislation related to public health, human services and insurance policy. Cara has worked on legislation to expand health insurance coverage, establish Connecticut's Health Insurance Exchange, implement the state's human services budget, and expand access to mental health services. Prior to working as a policy analyst, Cara served as a legislative assistant to three state representatives, providing research support and managing their constituent casework. Before joining the staff of the House Democrats Caucus, Cara worked as a freelance writer, a circulation auditor and a legal assistant. She is pursuing her master's in Public Health at the University of Connecticut. She holds a bachelor's in Government from the College of William and Mary.

### Deb Polun

As Director of Government Affairs/Media Relations at the Community Health Center Association of Connecticut (CHCACT), I help fulfill CHCACT's mission to advance the common interests of Connecticut's federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) in providing quality health care. Improving access to primary care for all Connecticut residents requires a strong commitment on the part of elected and appointed policymakers, both at the state and federal level. My role is to educate policymakers, stakeholders, the media and the public in

order to build awareness of and support for CHCACT's work and that of the health centers. I also represent CHCACT on statewide task forces, testify at public hearings of the legislature and meet with public officials - ensuring that health centers and their patients have a voice in public policymaking in our state.

Prior to CHCACT, I spent thirteen years working for the Connecticut General Assembly. For nine of those years, I worked for the Senate Majority Office as a senior policy analyst and Special Assistant to the Senate President Pro Tempore. My specialty areas were health, human services and issues related to children and the elderly. During my time in the Senate Majority Office, I facilitated the passage of numerous significant pieces of legislation; my time there was "bookended" by Connecticut's passage of our nation's first mental health parity law in 1999 and a major health reform package in 2007.

My next role was as the Legislative Director for the Connecticut Commission on Aging, a nonpartisan legislative office. The Commission on Aging is the major driver behind the reform of long-term care in our state, working to "rebalance" the system to provide choice, independence and dignity as we age. My policy areas also included economic security, Medicaid, and heating and food assistance, as well as being the main point of contact for policymakers about issues facing Connecticut as our population of older adults surges.

I have been with CHCACT since February, 2012 and am so thrilled to be able to share my legislative and policy expertise, and my passion for helping all of Connecticut's residents. The mission of the organization dovetails perfectly with my experiences and I look forward to helping our community health centers grow and thrive, particularly in this time of great change in health care.

I have an M.A. from the University of Connecticut in Social Psychology, where I focused on the psychology of long-term disease prevention, and completed additional coursework towards a PhD. I also hold a Bachelors of Science in Psychology and Sociology from Tulane University in New Orleans. I am a mentor in the West Hartford Public Schools, and I volunteer with the League of Women Voters and with my synagogue.

### Jeffrey Shaw

Jeffrey Shaw is the Director of Public Policy for the Connecticut Association of Nonprofits (CT Nonprofits). He leads the policy team in a variety of capacities including policy development, advocacy, research and membership recruitment. Shaw is also the project director of the Nonprofit Human Services Cabinet. Shaw is particularly proud of his role in the annualization of a 1% COLA in the new, two-year state budget. By working with legislative leaders who he has known in his former capacity at the Connecticut General Assembly, Jeff was able to convey the importance of this policy decision.

Shaw's particular interest is in public health, with an emphasis on creating a culture of wellness that is practical and sustainable. (Think sidewalks, farmer's markets, open space, "Smart Growth", rails-to-trails, etc.) Through his graduate work, Shaw devoted many hours toward identifying food policies that best tackle obesity, which eventually became his thesis. While in graduate school, he developed CLAS legislation with the Connecticut Commission on Health Equity and served as a member of the MOR (mentoring) Committee, Connecticut Public Health Association. Shaw was also President of the Public Health Student Organization.

Shaw has made leadership development a priority. Since 2005, he has received the following awards and special honors:

- Virgil Puskarich State and Regional Leadership Award, CSG/ERC (2012)
- Binational Executive Seminar Canada-US Relations Fellow, SUNY Buffalo/Brock University (2011)
- Global Initiatives Symposium, Taipei, Taiwan, Delegate, National Taiwan University (2010)
- Council of State Governments, Toll Fellow (2009)
- Connecticut Health Foundation, Leadership Fellow (2009)
- CSG Eastern Regional Conference, Thompson Fellow (2006)

He is also proud of his work as chair of the Innovations Screening Panel and member of the Health Committee (CSG/ERC), developing regional policy priorities with the Northeastern states, provinces, and U.S. territories.

Shaw is originally from Fairfield. After graduating from Fairfield Prep, he went on to receive a bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut and a master's degree from Fairfield University. Last May, he completed a second master's degree in public health. Shaw has a keen interest in local and state politics and has already demonstrated an impressive beginning to what he hopes will be a life-time of sharing best practices in state government.

### James Stirling

James Stirling is CEO of Stirling Benefits, Inc., employing 45 associates in Milford, CT. The firm designs health programs and adjudicate medical claims for self-funded health plans. Self-funded programs bypass the usual insurance company offerings with the sponsoring group taking responsibility for routine and predictable claims. Clients include 20,000 retired public school teachers, the Connecticut Municipal Employees Health Insurance Plan administered for the State Comptrollers' office, municipalities, Boards of Education and 200 smaller businesses.

James was Chairman of the Washington D.C. based Society of Professional Benefit Administrators, and served on the Sustinet "Medical Home" committee and a Ct HealthFirst task force. He is an elected member to the Amity Board of Education, chairs the Amity Finance Committee and co-chairs the Milford Chamber of Commerce Legislative Task Force. He lives in Bethany, CT with a multi-generation family including his spouse, four daughters, and mother-in-law.

### Heang Tan

Heang Tan is the project director and editor for Health Justice CT. Previous to joining this initiative, she worked at Khmer Health Advocates (KHA), where she managed a CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) funded, national diabetes project and had extensive front line experience as a community health worker. Heang is a member of several professional associations, and has received awards and national recognitions for her leadership and community service. She was a Health Leadership Fellow of the Connecticut Health Foundation; and has been involved in several community initiatives and non-project boards, including the National Association of Asian American Professionals, the Junior League of Hartford and

most recently joined the board at the Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services and the CT Multicultural Health Partnership. Read more about her [here](#).

### Victoria Veltri

**Victoria Veltri, JD, LLM**, is the state's Healthcare Advocate, overseeing OHA in: assisting health insurance consumers with health plan selection; educating consumers about their health care rights; directly assisting healthcare consumers with grievances and appeals; acting as a watchdog of Connecticut's healthcare marketplace; pursuing healthcare policy activities, and; serving as Connecticut's federally designated independent health insurance consumer assistance program under the Affordable Care Act. Ms. Veltri has extensive legal experience in health care advocacy and in legislative policy.

Ms. Veltri sits as a member of Access Health CT (Vice-Chair), the Behavioral Health Taskforce, the Medical Assistance Program Oversight Council and the Healthcare Cabinet. She directed the State's State Innovation Model Initiative Model Design Grant.

Ms. Veltri has a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from UConn, a Juris Doctor (J.D.) from Western New England University School of Law and a Master of Laws (LL.M.) from New York University School of Law.