

Please note that this is a draft agenda and subject to change prior to the conference.

12th Annual Eastern Regional Conference

July 22 – 24, 2010
The Hotel Viking
Newport, Rhode Island



Agenda

Thursday, July 22, 2010

6:30 pm **Welcome Reception**

7:00pm **Dinner**

7:00 pm – 7:10 pm **Opening Remarks**

Mary Brooks Beatty
President
Women In Government

Welcome to Rhode Island

Friday, July 23, 2010

7:45 am – 8:45 am **Breakfast**

9:00 am – 9:10 am **Welcome**

Mary Brooks Beatty
President
Women In Government

9:10 am – 9:30 am **Criminal Justice and DNA Testing**

Jayann Sepich

In January of 2006, "Katie's Bill," which requires DNA for most felony arrests for inclusion in the database, was passed by the New Mexico state legislature in only thirty days. The bill was signed into law in March 2006 and went into effect on January 1, 2007. After passing "Katie's Law" in New

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Mexico, Dave and Jayann Sepich dedicated themselves to getting similar legislation passed nationwide.

9:30 am – 10:00 am **Innovations in Mental Health Programs and Workforce Development**

Scott Rose

President/CEO, Way Station
Sheppard Pratt

Daryl Plevy, JD

Director
MD's Mental Health Transformation Office

Maryland recently announced an innovative program to support people living with persistent mental illness. The Maryland Workforce Development Initiative for the Mentally Ill, a public-private partnership with grants from the federal government, Maryland, and the Weinberg Foundation, will provide workforce development for individuals with mental illness through the Sheppard Pratt Health System.

Q&A – 10 minutes

10:00 am – 10:30 am **The Progressive Science and Progressive Mathematics Initiatives: Effective New Approaches to Student Learning and Teacher Training**

Bob Goodman

Progressive Math and Science Institutes
New Jersey Center for Teaching and Learning

In the Progressive Science Initiative (PSI), students are taking and passing AP science exams at up to 24 times the state rate; 100 teachers are receiving training in physics and chemistry; and, of those, more than 80 will become newly certified in those fields. PSI uses SMART technology (Boards, Notebooks and Responders) combined with a website for sharing resources to create face-to-face intraschool and virtual interschool PLCs, enabling and empowering teachers. The PSI approaches towards curriculum, pedagogy, assessment and technology, that are dramatically improving student achievement in science, will be used to realize those same gains in mathematics. What can legislators do to support cutting-edge curricula that will strengthen the state's STEM education program?

Q&A – 10 minutes

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10:30 am – 10:45 am **Morning Break**

10:45 am – 11:15 am **Comprehensive Approaches to Pain Management and the Treatment of Cancer**

This session will discuss the importance of comprehensive approaches to chronic disease management, the necessary funding, cost-savings resulting from prevention and early detection, as well as the challenges faced by legislators who must decide whether to cut programs like these during tough economic times.

Q&A – 10 minutes

11:15 am - 12:00 pm **State Implementation of Federal Healthcare Reform**

Christie Hager

Regional Director, Region I

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Sara Collins, PhD

Vice President

Commonwealth Fund

States must implement some healthcare reforms immediately, in 2010, and others must be implemented by 2014. What should state legislators know about the requirements versus options that they must consider, in order to implement the federal healthcare reform?

Q&A – 10 minutes

12:00 pm - 1:15 pm **Networking Lunch**

12:45 pm

Keynote Address:

Commissioner Deborah Gist

Rhode Island State Commissioner of Schools

Honored as one of Time Magazine's Most Influential People for 2010

1:20 pm – 2:15 pm **Women's Sexual Health**

Andrea Singer, MD

Associate Professor of Medicine and Obstetrics and Gynecology

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Georgetown University Medical Center

Mary Jo Rapini, LPC

Sexual health can play an important role in overall health and well-being. Studies show that 70 percent of women have experienced a sexual health problem, usually lack of desire, yet most women do not seek medical care when they experience one. The presentation will provide an overview of female sexual desire, and more specifically, the prevalence of HSDD and how it affects women's overall health and well-being.

Q&A – 10 minutes

2:15 pm – 2:45 pm

Redistricting

Myrna Pérez, JD

Counsel

Brennan Center for Justice, New York University School of Law

With 2010 census data being presented to states starting in February 2011, now is the time to start discussing the pitfalls of the redistricting process and the partisanship that often accompanies it. Learn how legislators can positively impact redistricting in the state and keep an eye toward diversity, fairness and accountability.

Q&A – 10 minutes

2:45 pm – 3:15 pm

Infant Nutrition Disparities

Cecilia Pozo Fileti, MS, RD

President

Latino Health Communications

Newborn and infant nutrition are critical to the growth, development and overall health of a child, during early years and in the long term. According to the CDC and the March of Dimes, however, lack of access to healthy foods and knowledge of infant nutrition can adversely impact growing infants and contribute to increased disparities in infant mortality rates. What can legislators do to increase awareness of the importance of early nutrition and the availability of healthy options?

Q&A – 10 minutes

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3:15 pm – 3:45 pm **Wind Farms and the States**

Markian Melnyk, JD

Wind farms produce renewable energy, help balance a state's renewable energy portfolio and bring green jobs to the state, but they can also change the landscape and raise local zoning issues. This session will explore the benefits and challenges of locating a wind farm in your state.

Q&A – 10 minutes

3:45 pm – 4:15 pm **Behind the Times: Lupus and Treatment Options**

Sara Chang

Lupus Foundation

Lupus is a chronic inflammatory disease that can affect any organ including the skin, joints, blood and kidneys. There is no cure for lupus and no new drugs have been developed to treat lupus in more than 50 years! What can state legislators do to improve the lives of the more than 1.5 million Americans diagnosed with lupus?

Q&A – 10 minutes

4:15 pm

Wrap Up

Mary Brooks Beatty

President

Women In Government

Saturday, July 24, 2010

7:30 am – 8:30 am **Breakfast**

7:45 am - 8:15 am **State Director Nominations & Regional Bidding**

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8:45 am – 9:30 am **Paths to Power**

Representative Patti Komline

House Minority Leader
Vermont State Legislature

This segment will feature women who serve in a leadership role in their state legislature. Hear about their professional and personal experience on the path to power.

Q & A – 10 minutes

9:30 am – 10:15 am **Healthcare Reform and Its Impact on Medicaid and Managed Care**

Ann Kohler

Director of Health Services
National Association of State Medicaid Directors
American Public Human Services Association

Federal healthcare reform expands Medicaid coverage and changes eligibility qualifications. In addition, it establishes new prohibitions on private health care coverage that will affect managed care. What do state legislators need to know about these new provisions and how it will affect their healthcare regulations and budgets?

Q&A – 10 minutes

10:15 am – 10:45 am **Lyme Disease: Complications Beneath the Surface**

Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk

Maryland House of Delegates

According to the Centers for Disease Control more than 400,000 people may acquire Lyme disease each year, a number ten times greater than AIDS and West Nile Virus combined. Lyme disease can be easily treated with antibiotics and other therapies. What is the role of state legislatures in raising awareness of and supporting access to treatments for the disease?

Q&A – 10 minutes

10:45 am – 11:00 am **Wrap Up and Adjourn**

Mary Brooks Beatty

President
Women In Government