



A Statewide Health Care Reform Forum  
**Health Care Reform, Rural Communities & You**  
December 14, 2010

**9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.:** Sign In and General Networking.

**10:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.:** Welcome from Robert S. Gold, Dean, University of Maryland College Park School of Public Health and Forum Orientation by Bonnie Braun.



Dr. Robert S. Gold, Dean, University of Maryland College Park School of Public Health opened the forum by complementing the University of Maryland Extension in using technology to organize the forum and extending its benefits to communities across the state. He addressed the mission of the School of Public Health and emphasized the School's commitment to research, outreach and engagement with communities across the state. Dr Gold noted health disparities in rural areas and mentioned the potential of reform to reduce disparities. He said the forum was one way of exploring the benefits of the reform by discussing with community partners. To watch the video recording of Dr Gold's welcome please visit the following URL:

[Gold - https://connect.moo.umd.edu/p88844749/](https://connect.moo.umd.edu/p88844749/)



Dr. Bonnie Braun is the first Endowed Chair and Director of the Herschel S. Horowitz Center for Health Literacy and University of Maryland Extension Specialist. She is also Chair of the Rural Maryland Council. Dr. Braun provided an overview of the forum, the sponsors and the USDA-funded research and education project that produced the forum. She explained that the forum was designed to: 1) Engage community members in discussions about the 2010 *Affordable Care Act* known as health reform [<http://docs.house.gov/energycommerce/ppacacon.pdf>] and 2) Collect questions and information to guide health reform messages. She noted that speakers provided background information, provoked thought and discussion and answered questions. These speakers made presentations from three sites within Maryland and from Iowa using web-based technology.

**10:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.:** Health Care Reform -- How We Got To Where We Are.



*Speaker:* Jack A. Meyer, Professor of the Practice, Health Services Administration Department, University of Maryland College Park School of Public Health. Dr. Meyer has a joint appointment as Professor of the Practice in the School of

Public Health and the School of Public Policy. He is also a principal with Health Management Associates in Washington, D.C. where he is conducting health care research, policy analysis, and strategic planning for grant making foundations, health industry leaders, and state and federal agencies. Dr. Meyers examined the past, present, and future of health reform in the United States. He reviewed challenges that led to the current reform and those to be addressed in the execution of reform. He provided real life examples of the current state of the uninsured in the U.S. and likely differences after reform is implemented. Dr. Meyers referred to future challenges in work force as well as financial implications. Dr. Meyer answered questions from participants. Due to technical difficulties only an audio recording is available. To listen to his presentation, please go to:

[Myer \(audio only\) - http://www.persephone.umd.edu/ume/meyer/meyer.mp3](http://www.persephone.umd.edu/ume/meyer/meyer.mp3)

**11:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.:** Small group discussion. Guided by trained facilitators at each site, participants explored implications of the previous speaker's comments and raised questions.

**11:15 a.m. to Noon: Health Care Reform -- Implications for Rural Maryland.**



*Speaker:* Keith Mueller, The University of Iowa College of Public Health, Department of Health Management and Policy, RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis. Dr. Keith Mueller spoke via electronic connection from Iowa where he serves as Gerhard Hartman Professor and Head in the Department of Health Management and Policy, College of Public Health, University of Iowa. He is also the Director of the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis. Dr Mueller focused on implications of the current law for rural areas. He described changes in cost, access, etc. He also described possible changes in the law by the next Congress. He urged participants to give up current notions regarding health insurance and think about how changes could be of benefit. He especially urged participants to find eligible people and encourage them to become insured for the benefits to be reaped by them, their families and society. He also emphasized the role of community and local partnerships in making the implementation successful.

"The 2010 Affordable Care Act: Highlights of Provisions Affecting Rural America" is available at [http://www.unmc.edu/ruprihealth/Pubs/PPACA%20Rural%20Provision%20Summary.06\\_08\\_10.pdf/](http://www.unmc.edu/ruprihealth/Pubs/PPACA%20Rural%20Provision%20Summary.06_08_10.pdf/)

To view his presentations, please go to: [Mueller - https://connect.moo.umd.edu/p56225754/](https://connect.moo.umd.edu/p56225754/)

**12:00 12:30 p.m.:** Small group discussion. Guided by trained facilitators at each site, participants explored implications of the previous speaker's comments and raised questions.

**12:30 p.m. to 12:55 p.m.:** Lunch (Provided)

**1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.:** Health Care Reform: Marylanders Responding Knowledgeably.



To set the stage for the panel, Dr. Bonnie Braun, Director of the Horowitz Center for Health Literacy and Extension Family Policy Specialist, made opening remarks. She briefly described the 16 recommendations of Maryland's Health Care Reform Coordinating Council available at: <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/healthreform/html/finalreport.html>. In response, Delegate Adelaide (Addie) Eckardt (R) Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot, & Wicomico Counties, Ca (Eastern Shore) Maryland, spoke about the challenges of health care reform and issues for Maryland's General Assembly and local communities. From Western Maryland, Rodney B. Glotfelty, R.S., MPH, Garrett County Department of Health Officer spoke about implications for local communities and health departments. Dr. Elaine Anderson, Professor and Chair of the Department of Family Science and Co-director of the Maryland Family Impact Seminar, addressed impacts of health care reform on families. She shared the "2010 Affordable Care Act: A Guide for Families" created by graduate students in her health policy class.

The guide is available at <http://sph.umd.edu/fmsc/fis/documents/2010AffordableCareAct-AGuideforFamiliesWEBPOST2010.pdf>. To view this panel's video, go to:  
Panel - <https://connect.moo.umd.edu/p19502082/>

**1:45 to 2:00 p.m.:** Small group discussion. Guided by trained facilitators at each site, participants explored implications of the previous speaker's comments and raised questions.

**2:00 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.: Health Care Reform: Supporting Local Families and Communities.**



*Speaker:* Nick Place, Associate Dean and Director, University of Maryland Extension. Dr. Nick Place, Associate Dean and Director of the University of Maryland Extension, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources closed the forum. Dr. Place spoke about the role of outreach and Extension. He explained the mission of Extension and acknowledged the leadership of the Health Smart Impact Team in securing funding and planning this forum. He also acknowledged other Extension personnel who assisted by serving as site

observers or facilitators or in technical aspects of producing the webinar. Dr. Place reiterated the commitment of Extension to improving lives people and communities across the state in

partnership with local groups. To review the video of Dr. Place, please go to: [Place -  
https://connect.moo.umd.edu/p78627994/](https://connect.moo.umd.edu/p78627994/)

**Forum Feedback:** Attendees completed a 10-item survey assessing both knowledge and feelings before and after the forum. A six-month follow-up survey will be conducted to learn what attendees did with the knowledge gained from the forum.

### **Acknowledgements**

The **Forum Planning Team** Included: Bonnie Braun & Elizabeth Maring, Co-leaders; Brad Paleg & Teresa McCoy, University of Maryland Extension; Crystal Terhune, UM Extension—Caroline County; Amanda Ginter, Mili Duggal & Quynh Tran, Graduate Assistants; Vanessa Orlando and Megan Stakolosa, Rural Maryland Council.

**Partners** for the forum included the University of Maryland College Park School of Public Health Horowitz Center for Health Literacy; University of Maryland Extension; College of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Maryland Rural Health Association and Rural Maryland Council.

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**Inquiries about the forum should be directed to Bonnie Braun @ [bbraun@umd.edu](mailto:bbraun@umd.edu).**

**Note:** A separate webinar was held in June, 2010 by the *eXtension Financial Security for All Community of Practice* to help educational professionals respond knowledgeably to the Affordable Care Act. Dr. Bonnie Braun led the webinar entitled, “Health Reform: Provisions for Family and Community Decisions.” The webinar complements the one reported here and can be accessed at:

<http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/p13503868/?launcher=false&fcsContent=true&pbMode=normal>

