

Center for Healthcare Economics and Policy

Advisory Board Biographies

Michael W. Cropp, M.D., Chair, Center for Healthcare Economics and Policy Advisory Board, is the president and chief executive officer of Independent Health. Under his leadership, the organization delivers products and services that improve the health of almost 375,000 customers – and has been consistently recognized nationally for excellence in quality, service and innovation.

His focus on building leadership capacity for sustainable accountable quality care reaches beyond Western New York as he serves in leadership roles on the boards of national health care organizations, including America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP). Dr. Cropp is chairman of the Alliance of Community Health Plans (ACHP). In addition, he has established several community initiatives to improve access, quality and affordability of health care. He is the founding chairman of the P2 Collaborative of Western New York – one of the original grantees in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Aligning Forces for Quality (AF4Q) grant. He is also the founding chairman of the Western New York Clinical Information Exchange (HEALTHeLINK), a consortium of multiple community stakeholders working to provide electronic access to health information across our entire community – a recipient of the government's Beacon Community award.

Dr. Cropp's approach of engaging physicians as partners, implementing initiatives with community-minded results, and focusing on customer-centric ideals have earned Independent Health both local and national recognition. For three consecutive years, Independent Health is the highest ranked health insurance plan in the New York/New Jersey region by J.D. Power and Associates Member Health Insurance Plan StudySM. The company has also maintained "Excellent" accreditation status with the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), an independent organization that evaluates health plans throughout the country. In 2009 and 2010, Independent Health was the highest rated health plan in the nation for customer service according to NCQA's Quality Compass[®].

Dr. Cropp received his bachelor's and medical degrees from Brown University, and completed his residency in family practice at Memorial Hospital in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, which is affiliated with Brown University. In addition to his medical education and training, Dr. Cropp earned an M.B.A. from the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Melinda Buntin, Ph.D., Member, Center for Healthcare Economics and Policy Advisory Board, joined Vanderbilt as the Chair of the new Department of Health Policy in August 2013. She was previously Deputy Assistant Director for Health at the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), where she was responsible for managing and directing studies of health care and health care financing issues in the Health, Retirement, and Long-term analysis Division. Prior to that Dr. Buntin was deputy director of RAND Health's Economics, Financing, and Organization Program, director of Public Sector Initiatives for RAND Health, and co-director of the Bing Center for Health Economics. Her research at RAND focused on insurance benefit design, health insurance markets, provider payment, and the care use and needs of the elderly. More recently, she was on detail from RAND to the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC), where she established and directed the economic analysis, evaluation, and modeling group.

Dr. Buntin has a bachelor's degree from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton, and a Ph.D. in Health Policy with a concentration in economics from Harvard. Dr. Buntin is on the editorial board of HSR and Health Care: The Journal of Delivery Science and Innovation.

George J. Isham, M.D., Member, Center for Healthcare Economics and Policy Advisory Board, is responsible for working with the senior management team of HealthPartners on health and quality of care improvement for patients, members and the community. Prior to his appointment as Senior Advisor in 2012, Dr. Isham served as HealthPartners' Medical Director and Chief Health Officer, a position he was appointed to in 1993. Dr. Isham is also Senior Fellow, HealthPartners Institute for Education and Research. As Senior Fellow, he is responsible for facilitating progress at the intersection of population health research and public policy.

Center for Healthcare Economics and Policy

Advisory Board Biographies

Dr. Isham was a founding board member of the Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement, a collaborative of Twin Cities medical groups and health plans that is improving triple aim outcomes and implementing clinical practice guidelines in Minnesota. Dr. Isham currently provides leadership to other care delivery systems through service on the board of directors for Presbyterian Health Services in Albuquerque, NM and the External Advisory board of the Marshfield Clinic in Marshfield, WI. Dr. Isham is also a board member for Presbyterian Health Plan also in Albuquerque, NM.

Dr. Isham is active nationally and currently co-chairs the National Quality Forum convened Measurement Application Partnership. He is former chair of the National Committee for Quality Assurances' Clinical Program Committee and co-chair of NCQA's Committee on Performance Measurement. Dr. Isham served on a 5-member panel that provided a review of the Public Health Portfolio of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, on the National Advisory Committee for the Robert Wood Johnson funded Aligning Forces for Quality Grant and currently serves on RWJ's advisory panel on the spread of a Culture of Health in the United States. Dr. Isham was a former member of the board of directors of the American's Health Insurance Plans, the Alliance of Community Health Plans and the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review at Harvard.

Dr. Isham currently chairs the IOM Roundtable on Health Literacy and is co-chair to the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) Roundtable on Population Health Improvement. He has served on the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice and has chaired the IOM committees that authored the reports Priority Areas for National Action, Transforming Health Care Quality and The State of the USA Health Indicators. He was invited to present the Institute of Medicine's Rosenthal Lecture for 2005 on "Next Steps toward Higher Quality Health Care." In addition, he has served on a number of committees, has presented to a number of workshops, and served as a reviewer of reports and workshop proceedings. In 2003, Dr. Isham was appointed as a lifetime National Associate of the National Academies of Science in recognition of his contributions to the work of the Institute of Medicine and in 2014 was elected as a member of the institute of Medicine.

Epidemic of Care, published in April 2003, with co-author George Halvorson, is Dr. Isham's examination of the health care crisis in the United States with recommendations on ways to solve it.

Prior to his current tenure at HealthPartners, Dr. Isham was medical director for MedCenters Health Plan in Minneapolis and executive director for University Health Care, Inc., in Madison, Wisconsin. His practice experience as a primary care physician included three years in the United States Navy, eight years at the Freeport Clinic in Freeport, Illinois, and three and one-half years as clinical assistant professor in Medicine at the University of Wisconsin.

Bill Purcell, Member, Center for Healthcare Economics and Policy Advisory Board, has spent more than 30 years in law, public service, and higher education. During his eight-year tenure as Mayor of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee (1999-2007) the city saw unprecedented economic expansion, an increase in Metro school funding of more than 50 percent, and the development and preservation of more than 26,000 affordable housing units. He was elected to his second term as mayor by a record-setting 84.8 percent of the vote. Purcell's accomplishments as a civic leader earned him Public Official of the Year honors in 2006 by *Governing Magazine*. During his tenure Nashville was ranked as the number one city for corporate headquarters and twice ranked as the hottest city in America for expansion and relocation of business.

Following his service as mayor, Purcell was a Harvard University Institute of Politics Fellow in 2007. He then served as Founding and Interim Dean of the College of Public Service and Urban Affairs at Tennessee State University before returning to the Institute of Politics as Director (2008 - 2010), and a Lecturer in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School. In December 2009, Purcell was appointed by Harvard University President Drew Faust as co-chair of the Work Team for Allston and served as Special Advisor on Allston. In these roles, he recommended strategies for achieving a cohesive academic and learning campus environment situated in the Allston neighborhood of Boston adjacent to Cambridge. A decade earlier he was founder and director of the Child and Family Policy Center at Vanderbilt University (1996-99), a nationally-recognized center building a bridge between academic research, politics, and best practices to benefit children and their families. He is currently an Adjunct Professor of Public Policy at Vanderbilt University (appointed 2012).

Center for Healthcare Economics and Policy

Advisory Board Biographies

Purcell was elected to five terms in the Tennessee House of Representatives (1986-96), serving as Majority Leader (1990-96). During his decade in the General Assembly he sponsored and passed legislation undertaking major reforms in Tennessee's schools, courtrooms, industrial plants and boardrooms, criminal and juvenile justice, hospitals, and voting booths. He served as Chair of the House Rules Committee, Committee on Open Records, and the Select Joint Committee on Children and Youth, and as a member of the Judiciary, General Welfare, Finance Ways and Means, and Ethics Committees. During his service Tennessee was twice ranked the best managed state in America.

Having represented clients in all of the trial courts of Nashville as well as the federal and state appellate courts, Purcell has been an active participant in the work of the bar. He has been honored by the Nashville Bar Association with the John C. Tune award for outstanding contributions to his community and faithful service as a member of the bar (2006).

He earned his bachelor's degree at Hamilton College and his law degree at Vanderbilt University School of Law, where he was honored as the 2004 Distinguished Alumnus.