

Community Panel Speakers' Biosketches

David Blair MD, is President of the Advantage Health/Saint Mary's Medical Group, provides leadership to the organization and continues to practice as a family physician part time. Advantage Health/Saint Mary's Medical Group is a rapidly growing network of primary care and specialty care physicians, who partner closely with Saint Mary's Health Care and collaborates with many independent specialist and primary care physicians. Through his leadership the organization has become a recognized leader in medical management through focusing on delivering comprehensive care to complete populations. Dr. Blair received the Michigan Hospital Association Physician of the Year Award in 2009, for his dedicated service to his patients. He earned his MD at Wayne State University, completed his residency at Grand Rapids Family Practice, and was a fellow at MSU's Family Medicine Faculty Development Fellowship Program and is currently a member of the Saint Mary's Health Care Senior Leadership Team.

Ingrid Cheslek, MPA, BSN, RN is the Executive Vice President of Patient Care Services/CNO at Metro Health Hospital. Ingrid attended both Ferris State University and Western Michigan University and holds bachelor degrees in nursing and health studies, as well as a master's degree in public administration. Ingrid has been with Metro Health for over 30 years and is dedicated to Metro's mission to improve the health and well being of our communities.

Ingrid is an active member in many professional organizations such as American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE), Michigan Organization of Nurse Executives (MONE), West Central Michigan Organization of Nurse Executives (WCMONE) as well as serving as a board member for the Child and Family Resource Council and the GVSU Advisory Board for Nursing.

Jeffrey L. Connolly is the president for West Michigan Operations and Managed Care for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. An accomplished executive with extensive familiarity with the West Michigan market, Connolly is based at the company's Grand Rapids office. He is responsible for all BCBSM sales, provider relations and customer service operations in West Michigan for offices in Grand Rapids, Holland, Kalamazoo, Muskegon and Traverse City, as well as the Upper Peninsula. In addition is oversees the managed division of our organization, Blue Care Network of Michigan.

From July 2005 through November 2006, Connolly was president and chief executive officer of Aetna's Midwest Network Access Business. From 1994 to July 2005, he served as president and chief executive officer and in other executive positions with PPOM. He also served as a senior accountant at Deloitte and Touche from 1990 to 1994.

He is a certified public accountant and earned his bachelor's degree in accounting from Central Michigan University.

Connolly is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants. He also is a past member of the board of directors for the American Association of Preferred Providers Organization.

Currently, Connolly sits on the Board of Directors for the Economic Club of Grand Rapids and Grand Rapids and Traverse City Chambers of Commerce.

Paul Isely PhD, is an Associate Professor and currently chair of the Economics department in the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University. He joined the GVSU faculty in 1995, after earning his Ph.D. in Economics from Purdue University. He also holds an M.S. in Economics from Purdue University and a dual B.S. in Physics and Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Dr. Isely teaches many different courses at GVSU including: Environmental Economics which looks at sustainable and efficient resource usage; Business Cycles and Growth which studies the national and regional economies; and Economics Capstone which teaches modeling by using housing data from West Michigan. His academic research builds from these classes and focuses on the benefits of innovation.

Dr. Isely's research interests have also led to many local articles and reports. These articles have explored West Michigan's economy and its relationship to the National and State Economies. Recent studies resulted in reports on the state of Entrepreneurship and Healthcare in West Michigan. In addition to the current study on Healthcare, Dr. Isely is also working on reports evaluating wind power along the lakeshore and valuing environmental cleanup in Muskegon Lake, these studies are funded by Sea Grant and NOAA respectively.

Dr. Isely has been interviewed extensively by TV, radio, and newspapers on the West Michigan economy. Over the past few years these interviews included not only local media, but also NPR, USA today, and the AP wire.

Jay LaBine MD, is an Associate Medical Director for Priority Health, and was recently appointed to be the Medical Director for Senior Markets for the health plan. In addition to this leadership responsibility, Dr. LaBine continues to work as a trauma and transplant surgeon at Saint Mary's HealthCare.

Dr. LaBine is a board-certified surgeon who graduated from the University of North Dakota School of Medicine, and subsequently completed his internship and residency at Blodgett Medical Center / Saint Mary's Hospital. He also completed a Trauma and Critical Care Fellowship at the University of California at San Diego Medical Center. He recently served as Chief of Staff at Saint Mary's Health Care, where he was also the Trauma Director.

Dr. LaBine has held leadership positions in multiple community organizations, including serving on the Board of Directors for the African-American Health Institute and the Kent County Medical Society. He has served as a delegate to the Michigan State Medical Society, and has helped to found a mission to Haiti through St. Stephen's Parish.