

2023



GEORGIANS FOR A HEALTHY FUTURE
13th ANNUAL

HEALTH CARE UNSCRAMBLED

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2023
7:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Georgia Freight Depot



GEORGIANS FOR A
HEALTHY FUTURE

THE VOICE FOR GEORGIA HEALTH CARE CONSUMERS

GOOD MORNING!

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2023, 7:30 TO 11:00AM



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Wifi: Distinctive Capitol Caterers
Password: foodisgood

7:30–8:00 AM

Registration and Breakfast

8:00 AM

Welcome

Dewanna Burke, *Board Chair*
Georgians for a Healthy Future

8:15 AM

Consumer Voices

8:20 AM

Legislative Panel and Q&A

Senator Kim Jackson
Representative Shaw Blackmon
Representative Todd Jones

Moderator:
Whitney Griggs, *Health Policy Analyst*
Georgians for a Healthy Future

9:30 AM

Comments from GHF's Staff & Board of Directors

Knetta Adkins, *Organizing Manager*,
Georgians for a Healthy Future
Sar Medoff, *Board Member*
Georgians for a Healthy Future

9:40 AM

Introduction of keynote speaker

Laura Colbert, *Executive Director*
Georgians for a Healthy Future

9:50 AM

Keynote panel and Q&A

Dominic H. Mack, MD, MBA
Dr. Keisha Reneé Callins, M.D., M.P.H.
Charles Hayslett

Moderator:
Laura Colbert, *Executive Director*
Georgians for a Healthy Future

10:50 AM

Video

A Hospital Closure in Glenwood, Georgia

Closing Remarks

Abbie Fuksman, *Board Secretary*
Georgians for a Healthy Future

HEALTH CARE UNSCRAMBLED 2023 LEGISLATIVE PANEL



Senator Kim Jackson
41st District, Democrat

Senator Kim Jackson, a Democrat, was elected to serve as the Senator for Georgia's 41st Senate District in November of 2020. After calling Georgia home for over a decade, Senator Jackson represents portions of Gwinnett and DeKalb counties in the Georgia Senate.

Sen. Jackson serves on the Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Government Oversight, Natural Resources and the Environment and Public Safety Committees.

A native of South Carolina, Senator Jackson went on to receive her undergraduate degree from Furman University and later received a Master of Divinity from Emory University's Candler School of Theology in Atlanta.

Senator Jackson was called to work in ministry upon her graduation from Emory, and started her vocation as an Episcopal priest upon completion of her graduate program. Since then, Senator Jackson has spent a decade serving in a variety of capacities in the Episcopal Church. Senator Jackson's career of theological service led her to become a nationally-renowned consultant and preacher.

Senator Jackson's current role in the church includes her service as the Vicar at the Episcopal Church of the Common Ground in Atlanta. In addition to serving as an Episcopal priest, Senator Jackson has worked extensively to aid people experiencing homelessness in downtown Atlanta.

Along with her spouse Trina, Senator Jackson resides in Stone Mountain, Georgia.

HEALTH CARE UNSCRAMBLED 2023 LEGISLATIVE PANEL



Representative Shaw Blackmon
146th District, Republican

Shaw Blackmon was raised in Houston County along with his brother Brad and sister Kayce. Following graduation from Warner Robins High School, Blackmon attended the University of Georgia where he completed his degree in Management Information Systems. Upon moving back to Houston County, Shaw began working in sales for National Bank Products, a small family business founded by the Blackmon family. After 10 years in sales, Shaw moved into management and operations, prior to becoming President and CEO.

Shaw's commitment to community has been longstanding, as he is passionate in making our region of the state the best place to work, live and raise a family. He has served on the board of the Houston County Development Authority, and been an active member of the Perry Area and Robins Regional Chambers, serving as board Chairman for the Robins Chamber in 2012. In these roles, he has worked to promote new industry, facilitate expansion, and provide 146 mediums from which businesses can broaden their customer base. Blackmon also volunteers his time serving foundations dedicated to strengthening Georgia's educational systems. Central Georgia Technical College and the Houston County Heritage Foundation, benefiting K-12 public education, have allowed Shaw to work on behalf of our educational community, ensuring students are well prepared to service our region's economic development and growth. As a member of the Technical College System of Georgia State Board, he has worked to provide our state with a more seamless approach to education by improving transferability between the technical colleges and the University system, as well as, enhancing dual-enrollment opportunities with the Department of Education. Through continued outreach, Shaw continues to be heavily involved in the effort to bring investment back to Houston County. This includes funding for the Veteran's Training Center and the Health Science facility on the primary campus of Central Georgia Technical College.

Shaw was elected to the 146th District in 2015 and serves on Economic Development & Tourism, Governmental Affairs, Insurance, Juvenile Justice, Rules, Small Business Development, Special Rules, and Ways & Means Committees. He serves as Chair of the Transportation Committee on Appropriations and also as House Appointee to the Joint Defense Commission. Shaw resides in Warner Robins with his wife, Whitney, son Cort, and stepson, Ges. They are members of Central Baptist Church in Warner Robins.

Shaw will continue to focus on the issues near to his heart and his background—strengthening our defense community, enhancing education, and getting government out of the way of small businesses so that Houston County can continue to grow and thrive for future generations.

HEALTH CARE UNSCRAMBLED 2023 LEGISLATIVE PANEL



Representative Todd Jones
25th District, Republican

Representative Todd Jones represents the citizens of House District 25, which encompasses South Forsyth and North Fulton Counties. He was first elected to the Georgia House of Representatives on November 8, 2016, and sworn into office on January 9, 2017. Todd started his third term representing District 25 on January 11, 2021. Rep. Jones serves as the chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Education and as the vice chairman of the Science & Technology Committee. Further, Todd serves as a member of the Budget & Fiscal Affairs Oversight, Code Revision, Economic Development & Tourism, Education, Industry & Labor and Judiciary committees. He also serves on the Special Committee on Access to Quality Health Care.

Todd's business experience has focused on triple-bottom line companies that focus on social, environmental and financial impacts. From changing K-12 education worldwide to launching energy projects in the developing world to deploying EHS software, each company created accretive, positive return on investment. During his time as a business executive, he has worked with companies like Johnson Controls, Goldman Sachs, Goodyear, Cardinal Health, John Deere, Walgreens, Morgan Stanley and Cargill.

In 2010, Todd was named "Co-Volunteer of the Year" by the Forsyth County Board of Education. He has also served on a variety of community executive boards including the SPES Dads Club and SFHS Touchdown Club.

Todd holds a Juris Doctor (1994) and Bachelor of Administration in Finance (1989) from the University of Florida (UF). Todd served as his fraternity's president and treasurer, UF student senator and Greek Council student representative. He was named to the "University's Who's Who" at UF. As an alumnus, Todd has sat on his fraternity's board of directors, delivered guest lectures at the UF business, law and political science schools and led a variety of alumni activities.

Todd has been married to his high school sweetheart, Tracey Jones, for more than 25 years. Tracey and Todd have three sons and one daughter. The family has called South Forsyth County home for more than 14 years.

HEALTH CARE UNSCRAMBLED 2023 LEGISLATIVE PANEL MODERATOR



Whitney Griggs
Health Policy Analyst
Georgians for a Healthy Future

Whitney Griggs is the Health Policy Analyst for Georgians for a Healthy Future. She is returning to GHF after serving as the Southeast Regional Advocacy Manager at CARE for the past four years. Whitney started at GHF in 2015 as the Outreach and Engagement Manager.

Prior to joining GHF in 2015, Whitney worked for the Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia where she served as the Lead Health Insurance Navigator. In this role, Whitney helped Georgians across the state enroll in Qualified Health Plans through the ACA Marketplace.

Whitney earned her Master of Public Health from Emory University, with a focus on prevention science and advocacy. She also holds a B.Sc in Psychology with a focus in biology from Clemson University.

HEALTH CARE UNSCRAMBLED 2023 KEYNOTE PANEL



Dominic H. Mack, MD, MBA
Professor Family Medicine,
Director National Center for Primary Care,
Morehouse School of Medicine

Dominic Hugo Mack is a Professor of Family Medicine at Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) and serves as Director of the National Center for Primary Care (NCPC). Dominic leads NCPC's promotion of health equity and population health through the development of strategies to further research, innovations and trainings that advance primary care systems. NCPC concentrates program development in four areas: Big Data Health Equity and Implementation Research, Health Policy, Substance Use Prevention and Treatment, and Digital Health. Dr. Mack is dedicated to the implementation of digital health best practices in health care and health-related organizations that serve disproportionately impacted communities. He is the Principal Investigator (PI) and Director of the National COVID-19 Resiliency Network (NCRN), an Office of Minority Health cooperative agreement with MSM. Dr. Mack also serves as PI on several other domestic and global federally funded grants and cooperative agreements including HRSA's Zambia MSM/HBCU Collaborative, implementing telemedicine services in District Level Hospitals in the Lusaka Health District. He is Executive Medical Director of MSM's Hi-Bridge health information network and serves as Board Chair of the statewide GA Health Information Network (GaHIN). Dominic has practiced in Georgia for many years and served in various clinical and non-clinical leadership roles within non-profit and for-profit organizations including many years of service in the US Federally Qualified Health Center system. Dominic strives to develop national and local partnerships in rural and urban communities to implement equitable and sustainable community-engaged/community-based interventions to achieve better health outcomes for all people.

HEALTH CARE UNSCRAMBLED 2023 KEYNOTE PANEL



Dr. Keisha Reneé Callins, M.D., M.P.H

Dr. Keisha Reneé Callins, M.D., M.P.H, is an obstetrician/gynecologist with Community Health Care Systems, a federally qualified health center network in central Georgia. She serves as a Clinical Assistant Professor and Joy McCann Endowed Professor with Mercer University School of Medicine. She is the current chair of the National Advisory Council for the National Health Service Corps, and was a former NHSC scholar. She was governor-appointed to the Georgia Composite Medical Board (2014-2018), and the Sandra Dunagan Deal Early Language and Literacy Board (2017 to present). She serves on the board of directors for the Healthcare Georgia Foundation Board, the Georgia State Medical Association, and the Bibb County Medical Society. She is the chair for the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) Task Force on Physician/Health Care Workforce Resilience, and the Georgia OB/GYN Society Breastfeeding Medicine Committee. She has participated in several leadership opportunities such as Leadership Georgia, MAG's Georgia Physicians Leadership Academy, and the C.H.A.M.P.S. Transformational Healthcare Leadership Fellowship at Morehouse School of Medicine. She is a member of the Middle Georgia Medical Society, Rotary Club, Junior League, and Alpha Omega Alpha National Medical Honor Society. Dr. Callins earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from the University of Virginia; Master's in Public Health degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health; Doctor of Medicine degree from Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) and graduate medical training at MSM OB/GYN Residency Program (chief resident and 2008 Humanism in Medicine and Excellence Teaching Award). Dr. Callins brings a wealth of knowledge to women's health for rural and underserved populations, and is actively involved in pipeline mentorship, translational research, and community engagement. Her personal mission statement is, "You may not be able to change the world, but you can change the world of everyone with whom you interact".

HEALTH CARE UNSCRAMBLED 2023 KEYNOTE PANEL



Charles Hayslett
Award-winning journalist, speechwriter
and public relations counselor

Charles Hayslett is an award-winning journalist, speechwriter and public relations counselor. After officially retiring at the end of 2017, he began devoting most of his time to researching and writing a nonfiction book that he describes as being about the costs and consequences of Georgia's widening urban-rural divide.

The book is tentatively titled "Trouble in God's Country" and he maintains a blog by the same name at www.troubleingodscountry.com. The blog was originally intended as a parking place for working draft material, but over time it has attracted a following and had an impact on the development of public policy to address the challenges confronting Georgia's rural communities.

Hayslett's blog has been credited by the original co-chairs of the Georgia House Rural Development Council with triggering the creation of that body in 2017, and Hayslett presented to that group at its opening session in 2017 and again in 2021.

His work has been published or cited in publications from coast to coast—from The Washington Post to the Sacramento Bee. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution's daily "Jolt" column regularly references his research and has referred to his blog as an "unrelenting avalanche of facts and figures" and to him as "one of the smartest thinkers around on the growing divide between Metro Atlanta and the rest of the state."

He began his working life as a newspaper journalist, covering government and politics for The Atlanta Journal in Atlanta and Washington through the 1970s. He moved into public relations in 1980 and established his own firm in 1994, which he maintained and managed for more than 20 years.

He is a native of Columbus, Mississippi, and holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia's Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication. In 2008, he was named to the inaugural class of the college's Grady Fellowship and served for several years on the college's Board of Trust. He is also a former member of the Board of Directors of Georgians for a Healthy Future.

HEALTH CARE UNSCRAMBLED 2023 LEGISLATIVE PANEL MODERATOR



Laura Colbert
Executive Director
Georgians for a Healthy Future

Laura Colbert has served as the Executive Director at Georgians for a Healthy Future since 2017.

Laura came to GHF in June 2014 as the Community Outreach Manager. She previously worked at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta; HSTAT, a student-run health policy and advocacy organization; and the CDC's Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention.

Laura sits on the Georgia Department of Community Health's Medical Care Advisory Committee. She has served as a Consumer Liaison Representative to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (2018-2020), and as a board member to the Georgia Society for Public Health Education. Laura is also an alum of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Child Health Leadership Network (2019).

Laura earned her Master of Public Health degree from Emory University, where she focused on health literacy and the social determinants of health. Previously Laura attended the University of Georgia where she studied biomechanics and earned her B.S.Ed. She is also a Master Certified Health Education Specialist.

She lives in Atlanta with her husband, their two dogs, and many bicycles.



RURAL HOSPITAL CLOSURES IN GEORGIA

Georgia Can't Wait



Since 2010, nine rural hospitals have closed in Georgia. Our state ranks third in the nation for hospital closures behind Tennessee and Texas. Rural hospitals in states that have not expanded Medicaid are more likely too close, shutting off access to care for their communities.

When a hospital closes in a rural community, the effects ripple through every aspect of community life. The hospital's doctors and nurses move to other communities. Residents are left without access to emergency care and other important health services. Businesses around the hospital may close—a local pharmacy, the downtown diner, or the florist. Jobs are lost and new businesses become reluctant to move to the area because it lacks health care.

Over the last year, GHF has documented stories from community members following two local hospital closures in Glenwood and Cuthbert, Georgia. We are pleased to share Glenwood's story with you during today's program.

Watch Cuthbert's story and learn more by scanning the QR code (right) or visiting healthyfuturega.org/georgiacantwait



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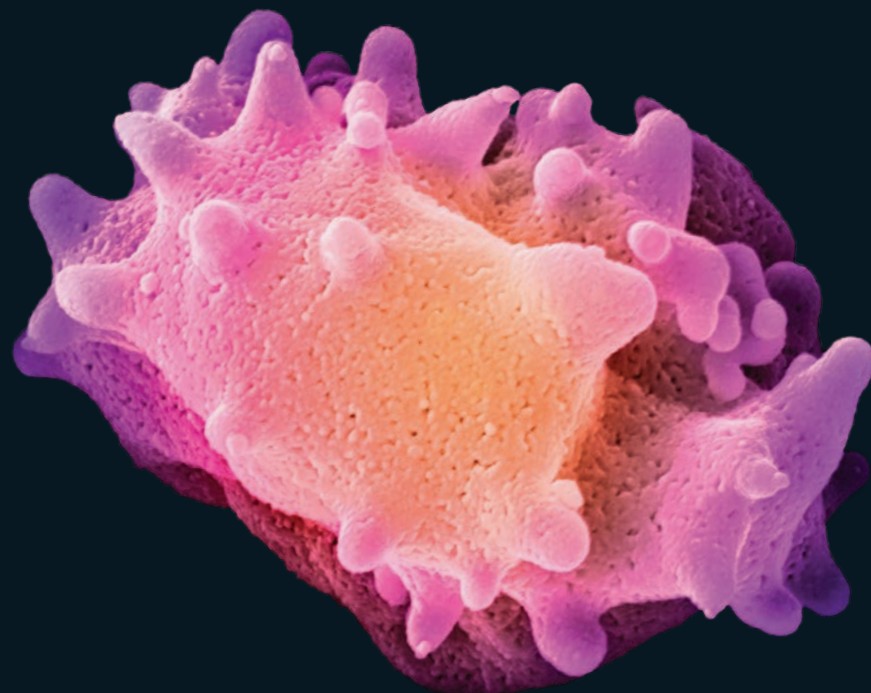
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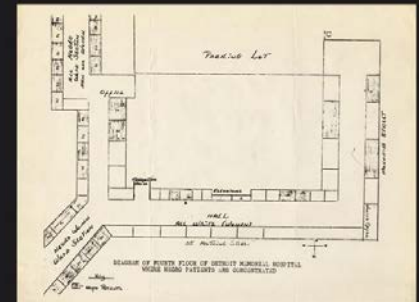


**WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE CONSTANT
USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS TO SUPPORT THIS
MOST NOTORIOUS EXPRESSION OF
SEGREGATION.**

**OF ALL THE FORMS OF INEQUALITY, INJUSTICE
IN HEALTH IS THE MOST SHOCKING AND THE
MOST INHUMAN BECAUSE IT OFTEN RESULTS
IN PHYSICAL DEATH.**

**I SEE NO ALTERNATIVE TO DIRECT ACTION
AND CREATIVE NONVIOLENCE TO RAISE THE
CONSCIENCE OF THE NATION.**

Martin Luther King Jr. speaking on
racial segregation of hospitals
at the 2nd National Convention of the
Medical Committee for Human Rights.
Chicago, Illinois. March 25, 1966.



THANK YOU, GEORGIANS FOR A HEALTHY FUTURE



Thank you for your continued leadership to ensure
that all Georgians have equitable opportunities to
achieve their highest level of health

Harry Heiman and Abby Friedman



GHF 2023-2024 Policy Priorities

Getting Georgia Covered

Coverage matters. Health insurance facilitates access to care and protects against high medical costs for Georgia families. Georgians for a Healthy Future supports policies that promote quality, affordable health coverage for all Georgians.

- Close Georgia's coverage gap
- Strengthen Georgia's health insurance marketplace
- Minimize coverage losses for Georgians enrolled in Medicaid when the federal public health emergency (PHE) ends

Increasing Access to Care

Too many Georgians face barriers to accessing meaningful and timely health care services as a result of geography, out of pocket costs, coverage restrictions, and many other factors. These barriers negatively impact their health and well-being, and exacerbate existing disparities in health outcomes and quality of life. Georgians for a Healthy Future supports policies that improve access to care for all Georgians.

- Require health insurers to uphold their promises
- Invest in rural health access by growing a diverse health care workforce
 - » Amplify the roles of non-physician providers in Georgia's health care system
 - » Expand and support integrated, community-based health care services
 - Integrate substance use and mental health services and supports into primary care and other health settings
 - Expand opportunities for Georgians to access health services and supports in their communities

Enhancing Value for Health Care Consumers

Health care value is about raising the bar on our health system to achieve better and more equitable outcomes at more affordable costs. Georgians for a Healthy Future supports policies that address the complex needs of patients and consumers and the goal of health equity while slowing health care cost growth.

- **Invest in and grow Georgia's all-payer claims database**
 - » Make the APCD usable by consumers, such as funding to create a free, public facing price search tool that allows consumers to better understand what they might pay for a treatment or shop around to find the best deal
 - » Enable the APCD to provide the most complete picture of health care utilization and costs in the state
- **Slow the growth of health care costs and curb excess prices**
 - » Regulate prescription drug prices
 - » Protect consumers from unfair medical debt

Building a Healthier Georgia

For Georgia to thrive, we need to invest in the health of our population. We must focus on public health, prevention, and factors outside the formal health system that impact the health of individuals, families, and communities. Together with health systems that work for consumers, Georgia can be a state where all people have equitable opportunities for health.

- Invest in Georgia's public health system
- Prevent nicotine use and addiction by young Georgians
- Invest in and improve the building blocks of health
- Specifically examine the equity implications of state budget and legislative proposals

For more information about any of the policy priorities included here, please visit healthyfuturega.org and search "2021 policy priorities". Thank you!

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**GEORGIANS FOR A
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