

SUMMARY - WMM4A GENERAL ASSEMBLY – Jan. 8, 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Thursday, Jan. 16th - 6:00 p.m. in Holyoke. Health Care Committee meeting of the Western Mass. Area Labor Federation. If you are a union member and would like to get involved, contact Jon or Deborah: info@wmMedicareforall.org.

Saturday, Jan. 18th - 2020 Pioneer Valley Women's March: Gathering from 11:00 a.m. at Northgate Center - 1985 Main St. in Springfield, march starts at noon, rally at City Hall approx. 1:00 p.m. Activist Fair at City Hall noon-3:00 p.m. **WMM4A is a cosponsor of this event.** Contact Judi about WMM4A tabling: judiwisch@gmail.com. Contact Barbara about carpools: bzpearson@gmail.com

Sunday, Jan. 19th, 11:30 a.m. - Greenfield canvass focused on Medicare for All. Organized by Pioneer Valley Democratic Socialists of America, for candidate Bernie Sanders. [*Note: WMM4A does not endorse candidates, but we do publicize events that educate about M4A.*] Meet at the Co-op, 144 Main Street in Greenfield, for a brief training, then canvass in pairs. Contact Donna: djwilson401@gmail.com

Tuesday, Jan. 21st, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. – Springfield Area Hub meeting. Organizing for M4A in Springfield, Chicopee, and other parts of Hampden County. New folks welcome! Location: 1380 Main St. Suite 203, Springfield (Mass. Jobs with Justice office). Contact Jon: jon@gogtt.net or Ernesto: e.e.cruz@outlook.com

Tuesday, Jan. 21st, 2:00-3:00 p.m.- Discussion about Single Payer versus Public Option proposals with guest Donald Berwick. Hosted by the Mass. M4A Legislative Caucus. Open to the public at the Statehouse in Boston. Contact: info@wmMedicareforall.org

Thursday, Jan. 23rd, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. - Medicare for All Briefing with Reps. Paul Mark and Lindsay Sadosa. Location: Pittsfield - Tavern of the A, GEAA, 303 Crane Ave. Contact Jon: jon@gogtt.net

Wednesday, Feb.12th, 2020 - 6:30 p.m.- General Assembly of WMM4A. Location: 100 Bigelow St., Holyoke (Mass. Green High Performance Computing Center). New folks welcome! RSVP to info@wmMedicareforall.org

Wednesday, March 11th, 2020 - 6:30 p.m.- General Assembly of WMM4A. Location: 100 Bigelow St., Holyoke (Mass. Green High Performance Computing Center). New folks welcome! RSVP to info@wmMedicareforall.org

Friday, March 27, 2020 - 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - "Public Health and Medicare for All: A Conversation." Forum organized and hosted by UMass School of Public Health in collaboration with WMM4A. Panelists include Profs. Jerry Friedman and Dean Robinson, Catherine DeLorey, Sens. Eldridge and Comerford, and Reps. Sadosa and Domb. Presentations, Q&A, and small group breakouts. Location: UMass Amherst Campus Center. **Save the date!** Contact: info@wmMedicareforall.org

LOCAL UPDATE:

Easthampton City Council unanimously passed a resolution in support of Medicare for All in Mass. (Dec. 18th). Great work by the Easthampton Hub organizing for this resolution and recruiting folks to show up and speak out. Rep. Dan Carey was among those speaking in favor at the Council meeting. The *Daily Hampshire Gazette* and *Masslive* both picked up our press release and ran stories about the resolution. [Click here for the Gazette story.](#)

STATE UPDATES:

Rep. Jennifer Benson, co-chair of the Health Care Financing Committee, will be leaving the state legislature for a position in the private sector. The HCFC is a powerful committee that decides which health care bills – including Medicare for All in Mass. – will be able to advance. We don't know yet who Speaker DeLeo will appoint to replace Benson. It is expected that our M4A bills will again be reported out "for study" in the next month or so – meaning that they will not advance further this session.

Partners Healthcare, a large and influential conglomeration of hospitals, physician groups, and insurance interests in the Boston area, will be pursuing an expensive re-branding as "Mass General Brigham" highlighting two of its most prestigious medical centers. "It's hard to say how we, the public, or Massachusetts residents are truly better off from the rebranding," Tufts University School of Medicine professor Paul Hattis, MD, JD, MPH, told the *Globe*.

WMM4A MATTERS:

2020 Pioneer Valley Women's March – the GA decided unanimously to co-sponsor the Women's March again this year. See "Upcoming Events" above for details.

WMM4A is a member of **Mass-Care, the state coalition for Single Payer in Mass.** Jon Weissman is our WMM4A representative on the Board of Directors. Brief discussion about what we would like to see Mass-Care do to build the movement for M4A at the state level this year. Priority would be scaling up work we've done here in other parts of the state, such as ballot questions and municipal resolutions. Jon will convey our suggestions to the Board and continue to report back about Mass-Care's plans and priorities.

SLIDESHOW ABOUT SINGLE PAYER VS. PUBLIC OPTION

Deborah's been working on the slideshow with Rep. Sabadosa's office to help educate legislators and the general public about this controversial issue. The GA previewed a rough draft and made many excellent suggestions about both content and presentation. The feedback will be incorporated as well as possible as we continue to revise. Many thanks to everyone who participated.

Next GA Meeting: Wed. Feb. 12th, 6:30 p.m. at 100 Bigelow Street, Holyoke.