



This Week in Primary Care The Policy Not Politics Issue

On April 29, Rhode Island Governor Dan McKee **announced** a series of strategic actions to strengthen Rhode Island's primary care system, proclaiming, "My Health Care System Planning Cabinet (HCSCP) will continue to identify strategies to strengthen the health care workforce, create stronger fiscal oversight, and support practices in expanding their patient base." The HCSCP has even convened a health care crisis subgroup to focus on strengthening the primary care system and addressing potential impacts from federal budget and program changes.

Rhode Island Attorney General Peter F. Neronha quickly **responded** to the Governor's "promises of future studies and reviews," calling them "slapdash," "not enough," "more of the same," "out of touch," "incremental and vaguely defined," and "demonstrating a deep misunderstanding of the issues at hand." The AG announced that his office will be announcing a "partnership initiative that will offer potential solutions for this crisis." One can only hope these "potential" solutions will not be "incremental and vaguely defined."

This whole exchange sounds like "*politics*." Not that there's anything wrong with that; this little war of words is actually kinda fun.

But PC4AA cares about *policy*, not *politics*. And we care about communities first—supporting them as they change the reality on the ground by bringing primary care to everyone. That gives us a place to stand as we nudge politicians to implement policies that actually matter, instead of playing games with one another.

If you care about policy, which we know you do—why else would you be reading this?—join our **Teach-In/Learn-In** on June 3 at 8:30 pm Eastern Time, when Gabrielle Yarru, MD, will discuss **How to Invite Policy Makers to Help Bring Primary Care to Everyone!**

With PC4AA's support, you can brush past the politics (after enjoying the spectacle for a few minutes) and affect the policies that will determine whether

we have a future health care system built on a foundation of primary care, or more of what we have now—a health care patchwork that is failing all of us.

You can read about Rhode Island's primary care policy proposals in the dueling press releases below. The goals are hard to argue with, even if the proposed solutions may be insufficient.

Just remember, moving the levers of policy is what Max Weber called, “A strong and slow boring of hard boards.” Show up for hearings. Write your elected representatives. Check out PC4AA’s State and Local Playbooks for guidance. Most important, **join or start a local PC4AA workgroup in your community!**

Together, we can build a movement that will bring primary care to everyone, in every neighborhood and community, not by waiting for politicians to do the right thing, but through a grassroots movement that influences policy!

Become a Primary Care Champion!

Your support will help power the movement for primary care for all!

[Donate Now](#)



Teach-In/Learn-In
Tuesday, June 3rd
8:30pm EDT



Gabrielle Yarru, MD

**How to Invite
Policy Makers to
Help Bring
Primary Care to
Everyone**

REGISTER NOW!

bit.ly/jun3zoom

*Join PC4AA for a conversation
about making primary care
accessible for all!*

Register Now!

Do you have skills to share?
Volunteer with Primary Care for All Americans!

Let Us Know



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Governor Dan McKee

Governor McKee Announces Strategic Actions to Strengthen Rhode Island's Primary Care System

Published on Tuesday, April 29, 2025

PROVIDENCE, RI – Governor Dan McKee, joined by members of his Health Care System Planning Cabinet, today announced a series of short- and long-term strategic actions to strengthen Rhode Island's primary care system.

"In the changing landscape of health care, we need to take proactive steps to ensure our residents have continued access to primary care," said **Governor Dan McKee**. "My Health Care System Planning Cabinet will continue to identify strategies to strengthen the health care workforce, create stronger fiscal oversight, and support practices in expanding their patient base."

Accelerating a primary care Medicaid rate review

Given the critical need for further investments in primary care, Governor McKee will be filing a budget amendment to **accelerate a proposed review of primary care provider rates**, recommending that the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC) complete the primary care rate review one year earlier. This is an important step in determining how Rhode Island may need to adjust its rates to create a more competitive primary care job market in the state.

The Governor first proposed the primary care provider rate review in his FY 2025 budget, but it was not included in the General Assembly's final budget.

[Read the Statement](#)



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Attorney General Peter F. Neronha

Attorney General Neronha rebukes Governor's unimpressive attempt at health care

"The Governor's health care announcement today is a slapdash response to political and public pressure because of the dissolution of Anchor Medical, and unfortunately, I expected nothing more. Last week, he floated the idea of monitoring quarterly financials of physician groups, which is (1) not enough and (2) something the Governor could have, and should have, been doing all along. Today's press conference offered more of the same, with the Governor hanging his hat on promises of future studies and reviews, demonstrating a deep misunderstanding of the issues at hand. He began by calling Rhode Island's health care system one of the best in the nation, once again showing how out of touch this Governor is with the reality of the situation. Additionally, an incremental and vaguely defined grant program targeted at paying administrative costs rather than increasing reimbursement to primary care physicians will not be enough to provide the sustained investment needed. Our PCPs are overworked and overburdened by a state health care system that doesn't support them. Our residents are scrambling to find primary care physicians to care for them through illnesses and fill prescriptions for live-preserving medications. We are in crisis. And some of us have been sounding the alarm for years.

[Read the Statement](#)

We're hiring!

Primary Care for All Americans is searching for enthusiastic people for the following part-time roles. Depending on your qualifications, job descriptions may be combined or adjusted. Pay is \$20-\$30/hour, depending on experience. No experience is required, except where noted.

- The production associate will coordinate constituent relations, manage the mailing list, produce bi-weekly newsletters, manage the scheduling of meetings for multiple committees and state and local workgroups, update the website, and help out in other ways that come up. Five hours per week.
- The communications associate will develop and nurture relationships with external partners, oversee internal and external communications, including social media, and contribute to the newsletter and website.

Please express your interest by emailing us:

[Email Us!](#)

If You've Ever Participated in the National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program

We would like to interview you for an upcoming issue of the PC4AA newsletter to learn:

- What did your service mean to you?
- How did your experiences change your life and practice?
- How did your presence affect the health of communities where you served?
- What stories stay with you?
- What does the NHSC mean for healthcare today?

Please click below to contact [Eve Shapiro](#) and share your story!

Contact Eve

If you missed our most recent Teach-In/Learn-In, *A Brief History of the National Health Service Corps*, with Dr. Don Weaver, you can watch here!



Watch Video

Become a Primary Care Champion!

We're excited to invite you to join us in making a meaningful difference in healthcare access for all Americans. By becoming a Primary Care Champion, you can support our vital work and help us create a healthier future for everyone.

Every contribution counts!

Together, we can drive impactful change in our communities.

Thank you for considering becoming a Primary Care Champion!

- Do you have a primary care story? Good or bad, **we want to hear it!**
- Follow PC4AA on **Instagram**, **Facebook**, and **LinkedIn!**
- We are looking for volunteers to work with our social media team! **Click here** if you are interested.
- Please **support PC4AA** in the fight for primary care for people, not for profit!

Donate Now!

HOW TO BOOST PC4AA ON SOCIALS!



[Link here to our socials and more!](#)

Each week we showcase how access to primary care makes people healthier, saves money, and can be the cornerstone of a healthcare system that puts people over profit. Was this newsletter forwarded to you? Do you believe in access to primary care for all Americans? [Click here to join our mailing list!](#)

[Invite a Friend to Join the Movement!](#)

Share Your Primary Care Story With Us!

Have you had an unfortunate experience trying to access primary care? A great experience with a primary care provider? Whether you are a patient, caretaker, or health care professional, we want to hear your story! How has access to primary care affected you and your family?

[Tell Us Your Story](#)

We may even ask you to share your story with our supporters in one of our Teach-In/Learn-Ins! You can watch Kristen's story for inspiration.



Watch Recordings of All Our Recent Teach-In/Learn-Ins

[PC4AA Videos](#)

The PC4AA Website is now available in Spanish!

[PC4AA Español](#)

If this newsletter was forwarded to you and you believe in access to primary care for all Americans, please join our mailing list!

[Join Us!](#)



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