

Federal Policy Changes Impacting Health Coverage

Guest Panelist Biographies

Ellen Montz, PhD
Managing Director | Manatt Health

Ellen Montz is a managing director with Manatt Health who focuses on advising clients on complex federal and state insurance market regulations and policies, state Medicaid programs and Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplaces, and multifaceted program and policy strategy and implementation.

A nationally respected health care leader, Ellen leverages her experience running large health insurance programs and her deep understanding of health insurance markets and operations to help clients position themselves for success.

Ellen is the former Deputy Administrator and Director at the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO) at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. At CCIIO she led the operation of the ACA's federal Marketplace (healthcare.gov), federal regulation of the commercial health insurance market and the implementation of the consumer protections and transparency programs under the No Surprises Act.

Before her tenure at CMS, Ellen was Chief Deputy and Chief Health Economist at the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services, where she led major initiatives to expand Medicaid, respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency and integrate value-based care into the Medicaid delivery system. Earlier in her career, Dr. Montz served in policy roles in the Obama Administration at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the White House Domestic Policy Council.

Education

- Harvard University, Ph.D., 2018
- Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, M.P.A., 2009
- Rice University, B.A., 2005

Nathan Bays
Deputy Policy Director – Federal Policy | Office of Governor Ferguson

Before graduating from law school in 2008, Nathan taught secondary school for the Peace Corps in Malawi. Following law school, Nathan clerked for two federal judges and since then has worked as a frontline public defender for the King County Department of Public Defense; as special counsel overseeing DPD's policy work and affirmative litigation; and, most recently, as Section Chief for the Complex Litigation Division of the Washington Attorney General's Office, where he received the Attorney General's Award for Excellence.

Nathan has represented pro bono clients for the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project; the King County Housing Justice Project; the King County Kinship Care Solutions Project; the WDWA's Drug Reentry Alternative Model (DREAM) Program; and Swords to Plowshares. Nathan was recently featured on NPR's Lost Patients podcast discussing his experiences as a public defender handling civil commitment cases, and he currently serves as a board member for Evergreen Treatment Services.

David Frockt

Deputy Policy Director – Healthcare, Housing, Public Safety | Office of Governor Ferguson

David Frockt served in the Washington State Senate from 2011 to 2023, representing North Seattle and surrounding suburbs. Over his career, Senator Frockt served in Caucus and Committee leadership in a variety of positions including as Deputy Leader, Vice Chair Senate Ways & Means Committee and Vice Chair Senate Health Committee. During his tenure, Senator Frockt passed legislation across a variety of policy areas including environment, health care, higher education, and gun violence.

David holds a BA from the University of Pennsylvania and a JD from the UCLA School of Law. He previously served as a Congressional Aide in the US House of Representatives before moving to Seattle where he practiced law for thirteen years prior to joining the legislature. After his retirement from the Senate in 2023, Frockt began a public policy consulting practice and worked with clients on state budget issues and artificial intelligence policy.