



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts Welcomes New Directors, Community Members

**WORCESTER, Mass.** – [The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts](#) today announced the election of two new members to its Board of Directors: **Paula A. Aiello**, CPA, a consultant and former CEO of the behavioral health agency YOU Inc., and **Soloe M. Dennis**, MS, MEP, Director of the Worcester Division of Public Health and the Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance.

The Health Foundation Board is led by a new chair, **Dennis M. Dimitri**, MD, FAAFP, Professor Emeritus of Family Medicine and Community Health at University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School. In addition, **Sejal M. Daga**, MD, was re-elected to a third term on the Board.

The Health Foundation also elected eight new Community Members to support the organization:

- **Eric Cole**, Chief Financial Officer at the Seven Hills Foundation, and **John Mannila**, Senior Vice President and Team Leader at Webster Five, were elected to the Audit Committee.
- **Jose Castro**, Executive Director of Entrepreneurship for All Greater Worcester and EparaTodos Greater Worcester, and **Mary Giannetti**, Director of Resource Development at Heywood Hospital, were elected to the Community Outreach Committee.
- **Peter S. Balesano**, MBA, Senior Vice President and Private Bank Market Leader at Bank of America Private Bank, **Daniel F. Shimkus, Jr**, MBA, Regional Executive and Head of Commercial Lending – Education, Not for Profit and Government Lending, New England and Upstate New York at TD Bank, and **Kristina Spillane**, MFin, Vice President and Regional Manager of Enterprise Account Management at Fidelity National Information Services Inc., were elected to the Investment Committee.
- **Dolores Thibault-Muñoz**, Deputy Director at NewVue Communities, was elected to the Nominating Committee.

“The Health Foundation is thrilled to expand our Board and Committees with the addition of these experienced and committed professionals from across the region,” said Dr. Amie Shei,

President and CEO of The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts. “They will all play vital roles in supporting our mission of improving the health and well-being of those living or working in the region.”

### **Board Member Background**

**Aiello** utilized her years of financial expertise to start her consulting firm in 2020 assisting clients in achieving their business goals by providing skilled advice on all things finance, accounting, banking and insurance.

Previously, Aiello held various executive roles at YOU Inc., a multi-service behavioral health and educational organization serving at-risk populations across Central Massachusetts. The Shrewsbury resident graduated magna cum laude from Bryant University with a bachelor’s degree in business administration. She became a certified public accountant in 1987 and has held various credible licenses and affiliations since then.

**Dennis** is a senior public health executive with over 18 years of governmental administrative experience. As Worcester’s Director of Public Health, he has created regional public health infrastructures that detect and provide sustainable solutions to related populations.

Dennis, who resides in Sturbridge, holds a bachelor’s degree in environmental science and a master’s degree in environmental health science from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. His ability to drive innovative change and foster diverse public engagement in reducing health disparities in the community will add an invaluable lens to the Board.

**Dimitri**, who joined The Health Foundation’s Board in 2017, has practiced family medicine in Worcester for over 40 years. He contributed to landmark healthcare legislation in Massachusetts that has been used in national healthcare reform.

Dr. Dimitri is a Worcester native who received his bachelor’s degree from Clark University. He attended medical school at George Washington University and completed his residency at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center.

### **About The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts**

Now in its 25th year, The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts is dedicated to improving the health of those who live or work in Central Massachusetts, with particular emphasis on vulnerable populations and unmet needs. Through its unique and impactful approach to grantmaking, the Foundation supports community-identified health issues, with health defined broadly to include social determinants of health and with a focus on promoting health equity. As a health conversion foundation launched in 1999 following the sale of the not-for-profit HMO Central Massachusetts Health Care Inc., The Health Foundation’s grants have totaled over \$56 million to more than 230 unique organizations over its history. For more information, visit [www.thfcm.org](http://www.thfcm.org).

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**Photos attached: Aiello & Dennis**