

## HHS launches new health care advisory panel - Politico

The Trump administration announced a new federal health care advisory committee that will advise Health and Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Mehmet Oz. Among the panel's 18 members -- including many health care executives and founders of new health care companies -- are two names that stand out.

One is Elizabeth Fago, a nursing home investor and Republican fundraiser who contributed \$1 million to MAGA Inc. in April 2025. After that donation, Trump pardoned her son, Paul Walczak, who owned and operated nursing home companies and was convicted of tax-related violations. Fago claimed her son was targeted by the Biden administration for her support of Trump. Fago was also involved in an effort to disseminate the contents of President Joe Biden's daughter's diary in 2020, [according to](#) The New York Times.

Another notable addition to the committee is Tony Robbins, an author and motivational speaker who recently started a wellness company called Lifeforce, which sells blood tests for biomarkers and supplement plans.

The committee will advise HHS and CMS on how to improve how health care is financed and delivered in Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program and the health insurance exchanges. CMS said the members were selected through a "competitive review process" that solicited more than 400 nominations.

Other names on the committee include:

- Sebastian Caliri, lead of the health care team at venture capital firm 8VC; Clive Fields, co-founder of VillageMD, a primary care company; and Andrew Lynch, chief strategy officer of Acadia Healthcare, a publicly traded behavioral health care company
- Several traditional health care voices: Dan Liljenquist, chief strategy officer of Intermountain Healthcare; William J. Gassen, president of Sanford Health, an integrated health system; Valerie D. Huhn, director of the Missouri Department of Mental Health; Dennis Laraway, executive vice president of Cleveland Clinic; Ursel J. McElroy, director of the Ohio Department of Aging; Dr. Kyu Rhee, president of the National Association of Community Health Centers; Dr. Linda Thomas-

Hemak, president of The Wright Centers for Community Health and Graduate Medical Education in Pennsylvania; and Russ Thomas, CEO of Availity, a health information technology company.

- Several value-based care experts: Dr. Robert Bessler, CEO of Honest Health, and Dr. David Carmouche, executive vice president of Lumeris, both representing companies that help providers switch to value-based care models; and Jenni Gudapati, director of Boise State University's value-based health program.