

Can Alaska's High Health Care Costs Be Cured? Facts, Consequences, Causes, and Solutions

This series hosted by Alaska Common Ground examines the facts, causes, consequences, and potential solutions regarding the difference between Alaska's health care costs and the U.S.'s health care costs. Scroll down for information and video from previous events in this series.

Causes of Alaska's High Healthcare Costs

Wednesday, Dec 13th, 7-9 pm

Panelists included:

- Dr. Alan Gross, orthopedic surgeon
- Dr. Robert (R.J.) Hall, orthopedic surgeon
- Bruce Lamoureux, Senior VP/CEO, Providence Alaska Region
- Jennifer Meyhoff, Legislative Co-Chair, Alaska Association of Health Underwriters
- Dr. Stanley Watkins (or Dr. Steven Compton), cardiologist
- Lori Wing-Heier, Director of the Alaska Division of Insurance
- Charles Wohlforth, author/columnist/broadcaster
- Moderated by Cliff Groh and Mark Foster

Video via Facebook live.

You can read Charles Wohlforth's series of columns in the ADN exploring [Alaska's health care costs here](#).

You can read Dr. Hall's responses [here](#) and [here](#).

Potential Solutions

Wednesday, Jan 10th, 7-9 pm, suggested \$10 donation
49th State Brewing Company, 717 W 3rd Ave, Anchorage
What can we do about Alaska's high health care costs?

Potential Solutions: Part 2

Wednesday, Jan 24th, 7-9 pm, suggested \$10 donation
49th State Brewing Company, 717 W 3rd Ave, Anchorage

We'll continue to discuss solutions to Alaska's high health care costs.

Facts and Trends Regarding Alaska's High Health Care Costs **Wednesday, Nov 15th**

49th State Brewing Company

This event features original findings from financial analyst Mark Foster, commentary on those findings from ISER Economics Professor Mouhcine Guettabi, and audience Q&A.

Bonus: Special tips on how you can hold down your doctor bills and hospital bills. [Download this handout.](#)

Watch the Facebook live video here.

Storytelling – Personal, Economic, and Fiscal Consequences **Wednesday, Nov 29th**

49th State Brewing Company

An evening of personal stories detailing how high Alaskan health care costs have affected lives, business, and government.

Storytellers include:

- **Erin Freel's** family has health care coverage due to her husband's military service, and her son has a disease that leads to substantial expenditures for treatment.
- **Maira Gallagher** is the Live.Work.Play. Director for the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation (AEDC).
- **Dr. Alan Gross** grew up in Juneau and returned to his hometown after he became an orthopedic surgeon. He now

lives in Anchorage and is active in efforts to change the health care system. He also fishes commercially and practices medicine part-time in Petersburg, and he volunteers at a pediatric orthopedic hospital in Cambodia.

- **Mike Jens** sought estimates for radiation treatment to address his wife's breast cancer. He is a 72-year-old, mostly retired, engineering/construction consultant. He has been married to the same woman for 48 years and lived and worked in Alaska since 1974. He claims birth in Anchorage in the mid forties when my dad was here working for the CAA. He still remembers them landing airplanes on the Park Strip.
- **Eric McCallum** is President of Arctic Wire Rope & Supply and has been an early-stage (angel) investor and mentor for Alaska entrepreneurs.
- **Emily Ricci** is Health Care Policy Administrator for the Alaska Department of Administration and has worked on health care policy for the State of Alaska for more than five years. She previously served in the Peace Corps working to improve community health in a remote West African village, and she also volunteered in relief efforts in Sri Lanka following the 2004 Christmas Day tsunami.
- **Reed Smith** is General Director of Anchorage Opera. He used to perform that job while living full time in Anchorage and now handles those duties from inside and outside of Alaska.

This series is possible thanks to support from the Alaska Humanities Forum.



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This series is cosponsored by the Anchorage Public Library.

