



New Episode of “Prescriptions for Health Reform” Available At BlueCrossFoundation.org

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SEPTEMBER 4, 2009 — C. Rocky White, M.D. says that a system of single-payer health care is the best way to reform the country’s patchwork systems of delivery and care in the latest episode of “Prescriptions for Health Reform.” White, editor of the late Robert LeBow M.D.’s *Health Care Meltdown: Confronting the Myths and Fixing Our Failing System* explains:

- **Why he embraces a single-payer system despite his politically conservative leanings:** “I would love to be able to figure out a way to make the markets work in this system, because I’m a capitalist. I believe in free markets, up to a certain degree, but there are some places where the market just does not work well. Healthcare is one of those places where a free market and allowing a capitalistic ideal to push the whole thing through, it just doesn’t work well. Now there are some things about markets that can work in small places in healthcare, to provide incentives, but unless those incentives are lined up properly, they become perverted and they become disincentives.”
- **How the Canadian system could be a model for the U.S.:** “One of the things that I try to talk about as I go around speaking across the country is the fact that this is America, we have to come up with something that’s uniquely American, and we don’t have to have a totally socialized system like the U.K. We could look at a single-payer system like they do in Canada, where each province within the country of Canada collects their money—they get a certain amount of money from their equivalent of the federal government—but each province is responsible for the financing of healthcare, and then the physicians contract with the provinces in the private sector. So the physicians are private doctors, and they just contract with the province. In that way, you have public financing but private delivery system.

Read the [transcript](#) or listen to the [podcast](#).

New episodes of "Prescriptions for Health Reform" are uploaded every two weeks at BlueCrossFoundation.org; they are also available via free subscription from iTunes. Grantmakers in Health recently highlighted the podcast series in a resource list of what health care foundations are doing to educate and inform those involved in the national health care debate. Past episodes of "Prescriptions for Health Reform" feature interviews with Shannon Brownlee, author of *Overtreated: Why Too Much Medicine is Making Americans Sicker and Poorer*; Dr. Jerome Groopman, author of *How Doctors Think*; and Melody Petersen, author of *Our Daily Meds*.

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More About The Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation

The mission of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation is to expand access to health care. Through grants and policy initiatives, the Foundation works with public and private organizations to broaden health coverage and reduce barriers to care. It focuses on developing measurable and sustainable solutions that benefit uninsured, vulnerable and low-income individuals and families in the Commonwealth, and served as a catalyst for the pioneering Massachusetts health care reform law passed in 2006. The Foundation was founded in 2001 with an initial endowment of \$55 million from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. The Foundation operates separately from the company and is governed by its own 18-member Board of Directors. It is one of the largest private health philanthropies in New England and in 2007 was awarded the Paul Ylvisaker Award for Public Policy Engagement by the Council on Foundations.