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## Laurel Pickering, MPH

Laurel Pickering is Executive Director of the Northeast Business Group on Health (NEBGH), a 175 member business coalition representing over 1 million covered lives, committed to market-based health care reform, quality improvement and value-based purchasing. NEBGH also provides the employer's perspective on current health care issues to legislators and healthcare organizations. Since becoming Executive Director in 1996, Ms Pickering has focused on mobilizing the business community to drive improvement in healthcare, providing access to health insurance for small businesses by creating a health insurance exchange and organizing health plans to work together to improve quality. Recent initiatives include the New York Metro Mental Health Collaborative One Voice, and the New Jersey Multi-Payer Reporting Project. As Executive Director, Ms. Pickering oversees the NEBGH role in the NYS Health Accountability Foundation, a joint venture between NEBGH and IPRO. She is also Chair of the Board of Directors of the NEBGH subsidiary, HealthPass, a health insurance exchange for small businesses. NEBGH leads the Leapfrog Group regional rollout in the NY Metro area and Ms. Pickering is overseeing that initiative.

Ms. Pickering has served as a researcher for Columbia and Emory Universities and has worked for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Ms. Pickering currently serves on NCQA's Standards Committee, the Board of Directors of The Leapfrog Group, CDC's Business and Labor Responds to AIDS Board of Business and Labor Partners, the Commissioner of NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Advisory Council, the Board of Directors of NYCLIX (New York Clinical Information Exchange), and the Community Advisory Committee of the New York State Health Foundation. She was selected as one of New York's rising stars by Crain's and featured in the 2007 40 Under 40 issue.

Ms. Pickering received her BA from SUNY Albany and MPH from Emory University.

