

Dr. Robert Crittenden

Dr. Crittenden is currently a health policy advisor to a foundation, a tribe, the Latino Center for Health, a progressive small business association and manages the Equity for Essential Workers fund focused on supporting undocumented people in Washington State.

Prior to this time, he was the first Executive in Residence at Cambia Grove, an open incubator for health start-ups. Prior to that, Dr. Crittenden was the Senior Policy Advisor for Health for Washington Governor Jay Inslee where he oversaw the Governor's health policy priorities and the implementation of the ACA in Washington. He was Executive Director of the Herndon Alliance prior to that. The Herndon Alliance was a national coalition of more than 200 organizations focused on communications and coordination with the goal of achieving affordable, quality health care for all people in America through the passage of the ACA.

He is a professor emeritus in the Departments of Family Medicine and Health Services at the University of Washington School of Medicine and Public Health. Dr. Crittenden has been a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow with Senator George Mitchell, special assistant to Governor Gardner for health, a policy staff in the state legislature and a Soros Fellow. He was on the board of Northwest Health Law Advocates, on the steering committee of the Healthy Washington Coalition, on the board of the Children's Dental Health Project, President of the Rainier Institute and Co-Chair of the Primary Care Coalition in Washington. He has started three clinics for low-income people in Central and South Seattle and practiced as a family physician caring for people in underserved urban communities in central and southeast Seattle for 39 years.

Dr. Crittenden has a BA with honors from the University of California, Berkeley; a Special Diploma in Social Studies from Oxford University; and an MD and MPH from the University of Washington.

Chair Candidate Questions

1. Why do you want to be the Chair for the CDE Rate Setting Board?

I have always felt pride in the home health services provided by our state. When I first worked in the governor's office in 1988, I learned a lot about Oregon and WA and how we were leaders in moving to home based care. I was involved in many of the discussions between ALTSA and SEIU in 2014-15 as a representative of the Governor's policy office and want to ensure we have a great home care system that is affordable and well run.

I think this is an opportunity to, in a small way, help our state work well and give me an opportunity to give back.

2. *What is your experience and knowledge of long term care in WA, specifically in-home personal care and respite services?*

I have three frames of reference for long term care.

As a provider, I have been engaged in home and institutional long term care services since 1979. In 1979 I was asked to be on the advisory board for the main VNS in Seattle. Later I cared for many people needing home and institutional care.

In the policy realm, I worked with my colleague Jean Soliz in the Gardner Administration on funding and standards of care (recent federal guidelines from OBRA 87 I believe). I did only a little during the Inslee administration as mentioned above.

As the family of a recipient, I was a primary care giver for my mother in law along with my wife and her brother. I provided a lot of the care and also saw firsthand the state provided care in home and eventually in a facility.

3. *What strengths and weaknesses do you have that would influence your work as a RSB chair?*

My strengths are:

- 1) years of working on policy issues including funding issues in the health area.
- 2) Academic background in health economics,
- 3) Some personal and professional (as a doctor) experience with LTC,
- 4) Have worked with, been on and chaired activities that are involved in overseeing and changing health systems - giving me a lot of experience with the many issues and people involved in this issue.

My weaknesses are:

- 1) I have not been either in the union or in the administration as the prime person having to decide on LTC wage related issues.
- 2) I have not been a mediator on wage issues.

4. *Have you been a member of or Chair other Boards?*

- 1) I was on the advisory board for the VNS for a few years from late 1970's to early 1980s. We mainly focused on standards of care.
- 2) I was on the PEBB for six years in the early 90's where we oversaw most issues concerning state employee benefits.
- 3) I was on the executive Board of the National Academy of State Health Policy from about 1990 to the 2000's. Main focus was on the content of the educational efforts of the Academy.

- 4) I have been on since 1993 and still am a member of the Board of Families USA - a national health advocacy organization. I am chair of the Audit and Finance Committee and on the Executive Committee.
- 5) I was a member of the board of the WA State Health Insurance Pool - providing insurance for people excluded from insurance from about 1999 to 2005. I was a consumer rep and focused on the experience of the recipients, affordability and what happened to all people screened out of insurance.
- 6) I was on the board of the Northwest Health Law Advocates from the early 2000's until 2013.
- 7) Administratively, I was chair of the five heads of agencies that oversaw the implementation of the ACA from 2013 until 2015. Also, I chaired the groups that oversaw the movement of the DBHR from DSHS to HCA including counties, BHOs, agencies and OFM.