Patricia Baker is the founding leader of the Connecticut Health Foundation, having guided the organization since its creation in 1999. Patricia retired as the President and CEO of the Connecticut Health Foundation September 2020 having led the foundation for 21 years. Under her leadership, the foundation became the state’s largest independent health philanthropy utilizing a combination of grantmaking, policy work, leadership development, and research to improve the health of Connecticut’s residents and eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities. During her tenure the foundation awarded more than $67 million in grants and worked on topics including oral health, children’s mental health, expanding access to health coverage and care, improving the care delivery system, connecting clinical care and communities, and advocacy. Patricia came to the foundation with two decades of experience as a visionary, pragmatic leader in health care policymaking, service provision, advocacy, and community engagement. She served as the national program director for the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, director of Connecticut government programs at Oxford Health Plans, executive director of Planned Parenthood of Connecticut, and associate executive director of Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin.

Patricia is the Vice-Chair of the Governor’s Health Care Cabinet, a member of the state’s Cost Growth Benchmark technical team and is a board member of Connecticut Hospice and the Connecticut League of Nursing.

She received her master’s degree from the University of Wisconsin in urban and regional planning.