



## Overview of 2017 Employer Learning and Action Network:

# MENTAL HEALTH

Annually since 2012, The Minnesota Health Action Group convened a series of Employer Learning and Action Networks focused on areas of high cost or overuse. Past topics have included back pain and spine surgery, total joint replacement, maternity and infertility, and specialty pharmacy. In each case, the network helped employers and purchasers understand the complexities of care delivery, quality, pricing, and contracting. Mental health has been identified as the topic with the most potential for learning and impact in 2017.

### WHY MENTAL HEALTH IN 2017?

- ✓ **IMPACT.** 1 in 5 adults in America experience a mental illness. In fact, depression is the leading cause of disability worldwide and is a major contributor to the global burden of disease. Serious mental illness costs America \$193.2 billion in lost earnings every year.
- ✓ **RELEVANCE.** Action Group members, both public and private purchasers, identified this as a top concern for their organization.
- ✓ **ALIGNMENT.** The National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions has identified this as a priority initiative in 2017. This will provide access to national resources, complement our Minnesota efforts, and create leverage.
- ✓ **ACTION.** Through collaboration, the Learning Network will identify opportunities for plan design, integrated care delivery and services, as well as contracting. By using our collective voice as purchasers, we will advocate for value-based care with key stakeholders in the market.

### Structure of the Learning Network

The 2017 network will be structured similar to past networks and will include three key phases:



### Collaboration with Other Purchasers

To provide objectivity and independence, as well as protect employer participant confidentiality, only purchasers are permitted to be members of the Learning Network. It is desired that the network will include both public and private purchasers, of various sizes, to provide diverse perspectives and amplify the collective voice.

Members will share the cost of dedicated resources to support the learning network, based upon the number of Minnesota employees, as follows: \$0.80 per employee, with a minimum of \$3,500. Fees can be invoiced based on member's expressed needs – as part of your dues for 2017, as part of Minnesota Bridges to Excellence administrative expense, or separately.

For planning and budgeting purposes, we would appreciate your participation commitment by December 15, 2016.

## Staffing and Resources

The Action Group will provide dedicated staffing to facilitate the network, leverage expert community resources, create supporting communication materials, and manage logistics.

## Scope

The topic of mental health is very broad. To ensure focus and maximum value, members of the network will have input on the scope through participation in a brief upfront survey and discussion in the first network meeting.

## Meetings and Deliverables

The network will include a series of six meetings throughout the year, with a minimum of 30-days advance notice and optional sessions added as deemed appropriate. Attendance in person is encouraged for maximum engagement and value, but a phone option may also be available. The Action Group will be responsible for preparation of agendas, materials, facilitation, any analysis required, coordination of presenters, and meeting follow up.

Past networks have resulted in the publication of a purchaser's guide. While similar content will be delivered over the course of the network, the deliverable format may vary, depending on the content and preferences of network members (e.g. could be an online toolkit). Regardless of the format, network members will receive:

- ✓ Market assessment
- ✓ Summary of key learnings
- ✓ Best-practices in design
- ✓ Best-practices in value-based purchasing
- ✓ Vendor management/contracting checklists
- ✓ Employee/consumer engagement opportunities
- ✓ Key measures of success

## Why Join the Learning Network?

While different purchasers may have different motivations, here are four key reasons to join the Mental Health Learning Network:

1. To **benefit from professional development and networking opportunities in an independent, confidential setting.** Network members will be able to share and learn in a trusted network setting, free from conflicts of interest.
2. To **deliver value to your organization and employees.** The network deliverables will allow you to turn learning into action.
3. To **obtain financial leverage through collaboration with other purchasers.** Any one employer embarking on a similar project would need to fund the full cost. By collaborating with others, the cost to each employer is less.
4. To **amplify the purchaser voice and drive market change.** As the purchasers of health care, employers – together, as a coalition – have tremendous leverage and the ability to work together to make our health care system in Minnesota even better. In addition, and as most recently evidenced through our work in specialty pharmacy, we've proven that the innovations we drive in Minnesota can have a positive impact nationwide.

Please contact Carolyn Pare ([cpare@mnhealthactiongroup.org](mailto:cpare@mnhealthactiongroup.org) or 952-896-5185) or Deb Krause ([dkrause@mnhealthactiongroup.org](mailto:dkrause@mnhealthactiongroup.org) or 952-529-1119) with any questions or to confirm your intent to participate. We look forward to hearing from you!

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### **About the Minnesota Health Action Group**

The Minnesota Health Action Group is a coalition of public and private purchasers whose sole purpose is to represent the collective voice of those who write the checks for health care in Minnesota. Action Group members collaborate with community stakeholders to drive innovations that support high quality health care, create engaged consumers and ensure the economic vitality of all Minnesota communities. Based in Bloomington, Minn., the Minnesota Health Action Group was formed in 1988 as the Buyers Health Care Action Group. To learn more, visit [www.mnhealthactiongroup.org](http://www.mnhealthactiongroup.org). Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and Twitter: [@actiongroupmn](#)