

Minnesota Health Action Group

Taking Action  
**EXPRESS**



## The Weekly BUZZ

### Huge Swings in MN Hospital Costs Raise Red Flags

Hospital bills for similar patients getting the same type of surgery at the same hospital can differ by as much as \$65,000, according to [new findings](#) released earlier this month by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). The report is part of an ongoing effort to bring greater transparency to the hidden world of health care costs.

"How long have we been asking for a level of transparency that will help us buy wisely and let us tell our employees what we are paying for?" says Carolyn Pare, president and CEO of The Action Group. "Unfortunately the data is locked down and it is top secret. We continue to support MDH and key initiatives to make transparency a reality."

The Action's Group's August member webinar featured a panel of experts who shed light on the marketplace and how to push for greater transparency. The webinar recording will be available to members [online until August 27](#). The webinar PowerPoint is posted to the [Member Center](#).



Click on the image to view the MDH report.



- [Rare Look at Minnesota Hospital Costs Finds Huge Swings](#) (Star Tribune, August 9, 2018)
- [MDH Report Highlights Differences in Hospital Costs](#) (KARE11, August 9, 2018)
- [They Charged What? Price of Surgical Procedures Varies Widely by Hospital, Patient](#) (MPR News, August 8, 2018)

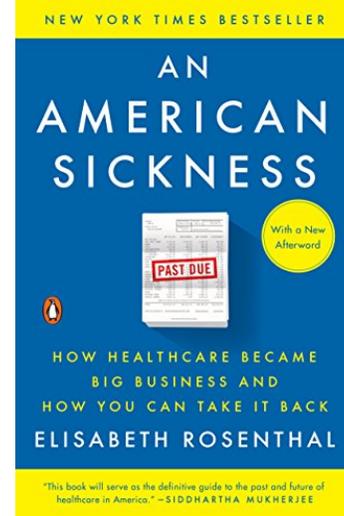
### Action Group Book Club: "Required Reading for our Generation"

Ten lucky Action Group members will receive a copy of the inaugural book club selection, *An American Sickness*, called "required reading for our generation." Others are encouraged to purchase the book online or from their favorite bookseller.

The [September 18](#) member meeting will feature lively discussion of the thought-provoking book, a *New York Times* bestseller, *Washington Post* Notable Book of 2017, NPR Best Books of 2017, and *Wall Street Journal* Best Books of 2017. To watch a quick preview from the author, click [here](#).

If you are considering Action Group membership, we hope you will join us! please contact [Sue Jesseman](#) (sjesseman@mnhealthactiongroup.org) for a complimentary meeting pass.

***Congratulations and happy reading to the winners: Bob Grundman, AbbVie; Doug Hodgen, Sanofi; Carol Johnson, Thrifty White; Katie Kolodge, City of Minneapolis; Beth Menor, St. Louis County; Genie Newville, Resource Training & Solutions; Josephine Opong-Vaughn, SEGIP; Todd Mestad, HealthPartners; Ryan Reisdorfer, U of MN; Keith Ingstad, Merck.***



**PLEASE NOTE: THIS MEETING IS FOR ACTION GROUP MEMBERS ONLY**

**Register**

## Community Dialogue: Accelerating Performance Improvement in Integrated Mental Health Care

***"What mental health needs is more sunlight, more candor, more unashamed conversation about illnesses that affect not only individuals, but their families as well."***

**Glenn Close**

The time is ripe for optimism as employers, care systems, health plans, providers, medical groups, and other stakeholders begin collaborating to translate ideas to actions to drive urgently needed improvements in the mental health care system.

The Action Group is convening a Community Dialogue to share the findings of its Mental Health Learning Network. Also featured will be a panel of mental health experts who will share perspectives, knowledge and ideas about this important topic affecting the U.S. economy -- and all Americans. The goal of the meeting is to come to a collective understanding and agreement on how, together, we can accelerate performance improvement in integrated mental health care for all Minnesotans.

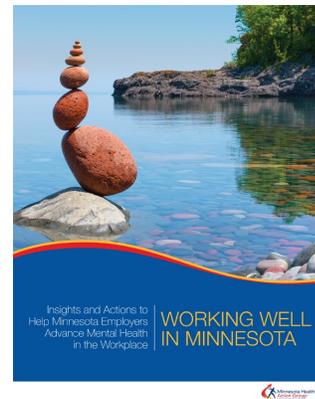
Registration opens soon, and the event is open to all. To learn more, please contact Action Group Vice President, [Deb Krause](#) (dkrause@mnhealthactiongroup.org).

**When:**

Tuesday, October 30, 2018  
8 a.m.-10 a.m.

**Where:**

Science Museum of Minnesota  
[120 West Kellogg Boulevard](#)  
[St. Paul, MN](#)



**"Working Well in Minnesota" is the result of The Action Group's Mental Health Learning Network. It is available exclusively to members and offers insights and actions to help employers advance mental health in the workplace. Members may access the guide through the Member Center on the [homepage](#).**



- [Glenn Close, Michigan Sen. Stabenow Join Roundtable Discussion on Mental Health](#) (*Clickon Detroit*, August 14, 2018)
- [Sleep Deprivation May Play Role in "Global Loneliness Epidemic"](#) (*HealthDay*, August 14, 2018)
- [New Theory May Explain Cause of Depression and Improve Treatment](#) (*Science Daily*, August 9, 2018)

## Saving Lives with Mental Health First Aid

Over 30 Action Group members and staff recently participated in a new wave of first aid training rapidly sweeping the world, [Mental Health First Aid at Work](#), learning to help coworkers facing mental health challenges.

Mental Health First Aid has the power to save lives when "First Aiders" notice and support coworkers who may be experiencing a mental health or substance use concern or crisis and connect them with employee resources.

### 100% of Action Group training participants agreed:

1. The class was valuable to me, both personally and professionally.
2. Course content was practical and easy to understand.
3. This training will be useful at my job.
4. The presenter was engaging and welcoming.
5. The presenter demonstrated knowledge of the material presented.
6. The presenter facilitated activities and discussion clearly and effectively.
7. I would recommend this class to others.

To learn more, please contact Action Group Vice President, [Deb Krause](#) ([dkrause@mnhealthactiongroup.org](mailto:dkrause@mnhealthactiongroup.org)).



## Save the DATE

The Action Group, the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions, and others offer opportunities to learn about key health care issues facing employers today. Members, please note the generous discounts available for National Alliance events!

### Member Meetings:

In-person meetings begin with networking at 8 a.m., and conclude at 10 a.m. All are held at the Hilton Airport/MOA, 3800 American Boulevard East, Bloomington. Members who miss a meeting or are interested in viewing the slides may log into the Member Center from the [homepage](#) and select Member Meeting Presentations.

- **September 18, 2018, member meeting (exclusively for members):** [Action Group Member Book Club, An American Sickness](#)
- **December 11, 2018, member meeting:** Save the date! Details coming soon.



## Public Meetings and Events:

- **September 11, 2018:** [Why Inappropriate Care Matters to Employers and What They Can Do About It](#) by CPR. **Action Group members use the coupon code **SCHOLAR** to have the \$150 registration fee waived.** A limited number of scholarships are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- **September 14, 2018:** [Executive Leadership Breakfast Roundtable with Dan Buettner](#) (For CEOs, CFOs, CIOs, CHROs and other senior executives). **Action Group members use the coupon code **MNAActionGroup** for the fee to be waived.**
- **September 27, 2018:** [Employers' Search for Value Continues with the Seriously Ill](#) free webinar by CPR.
- **October 30, 2018:** [Community Dialogue: Accelerating Performance Improvement in Integrated Behavioral Health](#) (To be held at the Science Museum of Minnesota in conjunction with [Mental Health: Mind Matters](#) exhibit.)
- **November 12-14, 2018:** [National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions Annual Forum in Washington, D.C.](#) (Not only do all Action Group members attend for \$500 -- a \$350 savings, but there are two FREE scholarships available on a first-come, first-served basis! **Under PROMO CODE, type **SCHOLAR18** and hit the **APPLY** button.**)
- **May 2, 2019:** Minnesota Health Action Group Annual Employer Leadership Summit (To be held at the Westin Edina Galleria -- details to follow!)



## THOUGHT for the Week

***"The Action Group has made a deep commitment to making cost and quality transparency a reality, so employers can help employees and their family members identify and access the highest quality, most affordable health care."***

***Carolyn Pare***



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, MN, 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