

Minnesota Health Action Group

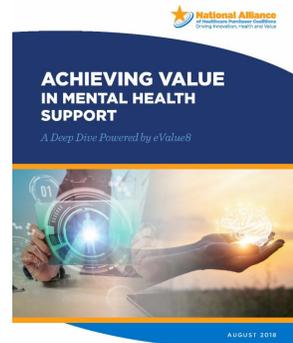


National Alliance Releases Resources to Improve Mental Health Delivery

For every dollar spent in improved treatment for common mental health conditions, an estimated four dollars is realized in improved health and productivity. But U.S. employers are not realizing the value of this investment, according to a [new report](#) from the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions. Clear access disparities exist with behavioral health compared to physical health services.

"We're collaborating with key stakeholders, and our network of member coalitions like the Minnesota Health Action Group to broker real solutions for very serious mental health system issues," says Michael Thompson, president and CEO of the National Alliance. "Conditions like depression, anxiety, and substance use disorders are prevalent among the U.S. workforce and employers must ensure affordable and improved access to quality support for employees and their families."

In addition to the report, a companion [Mental Health Action Brief](#) is also available. It contains practical tips employers can put to use right away to contribute to achieving true mental health parity.



Click on the images above or below to view or download the content.



Taking Back the Health Care System: Employers are Better Together

With the award-winning author in attendance via Skype, Action Group members participated in a lively and engaging discussion of the thought-provoking book, *An American Sickness: How Healthcare Became Big Business and How You Can Take It Back*, on September 18, 2018.

"I was overseas for 10 years and came back to some very disturbing health care 'innovation,' most of which turned out to be good for the bottom line, but not good for patients,"

Book club attendees agreed: The book is relevant and timely, the author's presence added valuable insight, and they enjoyed discussing the book with their peers. Click the image below to view a video featuring the author.

says Elisabeth Rosenthal. "The health care system had become this crazy, Byzantine maze that no longer made sense."

When asked how employers can move the market forward, Dr. Rosenthal advised that banding together will be a very important part of the solution.

Stay tuned for more updates and news of future member meetings and book clubs!



Together, We Can Accelerate Mental Health Care Improvements

All are welcome and encouraged to join us for "Accelerating Performance Improvement in Integrated Mental Health Care." We will work together to drive new, collective resolve to accelerate outcomes improvements for the 4 in 10 people in the U.S. who face mental illness, many of whom have additional chronic and serious conditions. Please click [here](#) for a full description of this important Community Dialogue.

Who should attend:

All community stakeholders, including employers and purchasers, health plans, providers, quality improvement organizations, nonprofits, legislators and staff, other interested parties.

When:

Tuesday, October 30, 2018
8 a.m.-10:30 a.m. (*Breakfast and networking begin at 8; event begins at 8:30*)

Where:

Science Museum of Minnesota (**Attendees receive free admission to the exhibits, including [Mental Health: Mind Matters](#)**)



Register

October is Health Literacy Month!

Amere 12 percent of U.S. adults, regardless of education level, have proficient health literacy. This means that over 77 million people have difficulty with common health tasks such as following prescription directions, understanding hospital discharge papers, or adhering to a childhood immunization schedule.

Whether we're talking about driving improvements and behavior change in the areas of mental health care, specialty drugs, health care consumerism, or any other important initiative, unless we address the public's basic lack of understanding, success will be limited.

During October's annual worldwide, awareness-building event, [Health Literacy Month](#), employers and other organizations are encouraged to promote the importance of understandable health information.



Click on the image above for easy-to-use tools such as a Health Literacy Month Handbook, "Health Literacy from A-Z: Practical Ways to Communicate Your Health Message," and much more!

Save the Date for Specialty Pharmacy Community Dialogue!

Following its employer Specialty Drug Learning Networks, multi-stakeholder Guiding Coalition, two Purchaser's Guides, and countless hours of collaboration with renowned experts over nearly four years, The Action Group is preparing for a breakthrough Community Dialogue to share its findings with all interested parties on January 16, 2019.

"The journey to the upcoming Community Dialogue has been fascinating, frustrating, eye-opening, and, we hope, game-changing for Minnesota organizations and citizens grappling with the high cost of specialty drugs," says Carolyn Pare, Action Group president and CEO. "We'll present our findings and recommendations and unite all stakeholders in holding everyone in the pharmaceutical supply chain accountable for rational pricing."



- "We are currently in the Wild, Wild West of drug pricing. I believe in markets, but this market is broken; it's failing."
Action Group special advisor, Dr. Stephen Schondelmeyer, in the [New York Times](#)
- "Telling insurance companies they have to pay more toward the cost of unaffordable drugs doesn't solve anything. Insurance companies aren't creating money in the basement; they charge consumers -- all consumers -- whether or not they are taking a particular drug."
Action Group President and CEO, Carolyn Pare in her [special blog](#)



Save the DATE

If you are looking for interactive, exciting ways to network and take advantage of professional development opportunities, The Action Group can help! Member and public events are regularly included in our communications.

Member Meetings:

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.

- **December 11, 2018, member meeting:** Save the date! Details coming soon.

Public Meetings and Events:

- **September 27, 2018:** [Employers' Search for Value Continues with Serious Illness Care](#) free webinar by CPR.
- **October 30, 2018:** [Community Dialogue: Accelerating Performance Improvement in Integrated Mental Health Care](#)
- **November 12-14, 2018:** [National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions Annual Forum in Washington, D.C.](#) (Action Group members may attend for \$500 -- a \$350 savings!)
- **January 16, 2019:** Community Dialogue: Addressing the High Cost of Specialty Drugs (To be held at the Hyatt Regency Bloomington -- details to follow!)
- **May 2, 2019:** Minnesota Health Action Group Annual Employer





THOUGHT for the Week

"...Change is almost impossible without industry-wide collaboration, cooperation and consensus."

***Simon Mainwaring
Author and Social Media Specialist***



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. Follow us on LinkedIn and Twitter: @actiongroupmn