

Minnesota Health Action Group

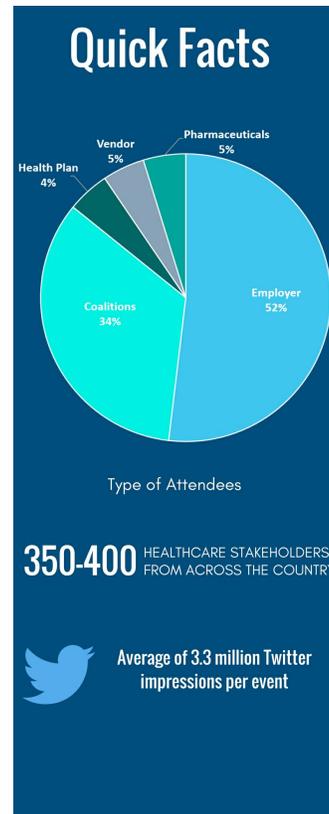


National Alliance to Showcase the Future of Innovation, Health, Value

Looking for a premier event that brings employers of all sizes and industries together to learn from one another, network with healthcare stakeholders, and learn about effective approaches to managing workforce health and well-being? Registration is now open for the [National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalition's Annual Forum](#), taking place November 12-14, 2018, in Washington, D.C.

Action Group members receive a rate of \$500 -- a \$350 savings! Additionally, the first two members to register will attend at no cost. Discounted room rates are available until October 20.

1. Visit the event's [registration page](#)
2. Fill out all personal information
3. Under "PROMO CODE," type **SCHOLAR18** and hit the apply button – a green bubble will appear above the code stating acceptance
4. Under fee type, choose Coalition/Employer-Purchaser member
5. If you are among the first registrants, the payment summary will show \$0.00
6. Click **REGISTER** at the bottom of the page
7. Questions? Contact [Alyssa Barliotti](#) (abarliotti@nationalalliancehealth.org)



Click on the image to learn more and to register. Click [here](#) to learn more about the National Alliance.

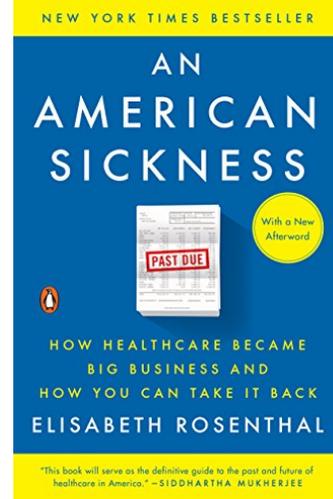
Action Group Book Club: "Required Reading for our Generation"

The Action Group's inaugural book club selection, *An American Sickness*, breaks down the monolithic medical industry into its components and exposes the recent evolution of American medicine from a caring endeavor into a business that puts profits before patients.

The [September 18](#) member-exclusive meeting will feature

lively discussion of the thought-provoking book that is 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](mailto:sjesseman@mnhealthactiongroup.org) (sjesseman@mnhealthactiongroup.org) for a complimentary meeting pass.



Register

Community Dialogue: Accelerating Performance Improvement in Integrated Behavioral Health

As we approach the 10-year anniversary of the passage of landmark federal legislation, the [Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act](#), mental health care delivery and outcomes still significantly lag physical health. Stigma, network and access issues, and gaps in care remain.

The Action Group's upcoming Community Dialogue will 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 such as cancer, diabetes and heart disease.

Who should attend:

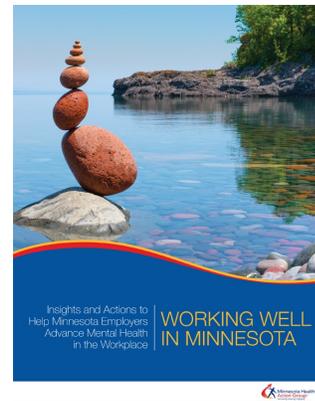
All community stakeholders, including employers and purchasers, health plans, providers, quality improvement organizations, nonprofits, legislators and staff, other interested parties.

When (Save the date! Registration opens soon!):

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

Where:

Science Museum of Minnesota



"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](#).



- [National Suicide Prevention Week, Sept. 9-15](#) (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention)
- [Variety of Factors Drive Wide Variation in Opioid Treatment Across the U.S.](#) (*Modern Healthcare*, August 11, 2018)
- [Outside-the-Box Mental-Health Strategies](#) (*Human Resource Executive*, August 20, 2018)
- [Depression Calculator Tallies Business Costs of Employees' Mental Illness](#) (*Psychiatric News*, July 31, 2018)

Insured Patients Often Pay More for Prescription Drugs

More and more patients are discovering that insurance copays for prescription drugs are often higher than the cost of paying out of pocket. In fact, insurance copays are higher than the cost of the drug about 25 percent of the time, according to a study published by the University of Southern California's Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics.

This recent [PBS NewsHour feature](#) reveals how and why one patient paid \$285 for a \$40 drug.

"It's stories like this that steel members of The Action Group's Specialty Drug Guiding Coalition to dig in and drive change for Minnesotans," says Carolyn Pare, Action Group president and CEO. "We're preparing for a Community Dialogue in January where we'll present our findings and recommendations and unite all stakeholders to hold everyone in the pharmaceutical supply chain accountable for rational pricing."



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:

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 and What Employers Can Do](#) 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 Buettnr](#) (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 Mental Health Care](#) (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.](#) (Action Group members may attend for \$500 -- a \$350 savings! See first article above for a chance to have the fee waived.)
- **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 Leadership Summit (To be held at the Westin Edina Galleria -- details to follow!)



THOUGHT for the Week

"Depression, substance abuse and suicide are recurring themes covered by the media, yet while awareness is increasing, we seem to be making little progress in actually taking on the problem."

Carol Harnett

Human Resource Executive Columnist



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