

Minnesota Health Action Group



Deb Krause Joins MNCM Board to Serve Employers/Purchasers

Deb Krause, Action Group vice president, has been named to the MN Community Measurement (MNCM) Board, [announced September 20, 2018](#). She also represents employers and purchasers on MNCM's Measurement and Reporting Committee (MARC), Measure Review Committee (MRC), and Cost Technical Advisory Committee (TAG), for which she is the 2017-2018 Chair.



Click on the image above to view the announcement.

"It's been an honor to serve MNCM in a variety of ways, and I strongly support the organization's mission to accelerate the improvement of health care by publicly reporting quality and cost information," says Deb. "As a Board member, this appointment expands my role and enables me to represent the collective interests of employers and other health care purchasers."

Join Us to Help Accelerate Mental Health Care Access, Improvements

Focusing on solutions, actions and accountability to achieve mental health parity

Everyone can contribute to fulfilling the promise of making mental health parity a reality. Join the movement to achieve this goal at the upcoming Community Dialogue, "Accelerating Performance Improvement in Integrated Mental Health Care." Please click [here](#) for **EXCITING UPDATES** to the agenda, featuring speakers and panelists from employers, care systems, health plans, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, and the Minnesota Department of Health.

Who should attend:

This event is free and open to the public. **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;



Register

Minnesota Mental Health Leaders

The highly publicized mental health crisis involving Minnesota Viking Everson Griffen led to a thoughtful news story about how

event begins at 8:30)

Where:

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

organizations in our state are making workplace mental health a priority. The story features Action Group Mental Health Learning Network member, Best Buy, and special advisor, Sue Abderholden, executive director of NAMI Minnesota. Both will participate in the Community Dialogue. View the story [here](#).



- [World Mental Health Day: October 10, 2018](#) (World Health Organization)
- [Achieving Value in Mental Health Support: A Deep Dive Powered by eValue8](#) (National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions, September 2018)
- [\(Updated\) Recommendations for Improving Access to Mental Health and Substance Use Care](#) (American Psychiatric Association Center for Workplace Health, September 2018)
- [Minnesota Has One of the Highest Rates of Depression in the U.S.](#) (*Star Tribune*, May 14, 2018)

Health Care Spending Growth Makes a Comeback

Health care spending growth is climbing toward pre-recession levels, which is largely being driven by brand-name drugs, ER visits, and outpatient surgeries, as recently reported in [HealthLeaders](#). In fact, private sector health care spending grew by over 44 percent over the past decade, rising from \$3,752 per person with employer-sponsored health insurance in 2007, to \$5,394 in 2016.

"This news is in sync with what we heard during September's member book club meeting where we discussed *An American Sickness: How Healthcare Became Big Business and How You Can Take It Back*," says Carolyn Pare, Action Group president and CEO. "Joining us via Skype, author Elisabeth Rosenthal advises that employers can move the market forward by banding together to make their expectations known and collaborating with key stakeholders to ensure they understand and comply with those expectations."

100% of Action Group member meeting attendees agree that *An American Sickness* is relevant and timely, and they enjoyed discussing the book with their peers. Click the image below to view a video featuring the author.



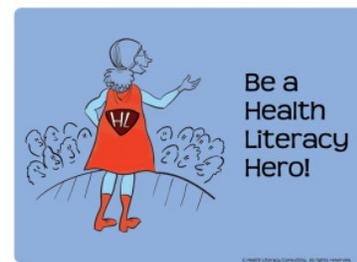
- [The Mayo Clinic: Faith, Hope and Science](#) (Documentary now playing on PBS)
- [How Mayo Clinic Tower Expansion Evolved](#) (*Finance & Commerce*, September 18, 2018)
- [Remember the Tale of Two Splinters? Here's One More From the Annals of Health-Care Haggling](#) (*Star Tribune*, September 19, 2018)
- [A Tale of Two Splinters \(And One \\$751 Medical Bill\)](#) (*Star Tribune*, August 11, 2018)

Helping Employees Thrive: October is Health Literacy Month!

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, putting health -- and pocketbooks -- at risk.

Employers are encouraged to serve as "Health Literacy Heroes," the theme for October's annual worldwide, awareness-building event, [Health Literacy Month](#). Health Literacy Heroes are those organizations that identify health literacy problems and act to solve them. Examples of how to become a Hero can be found [here](#).



Click on the image above for free, easy-to-use tools to help improve health literacy!

Save the Date for Specialty Pharmacy Community Dialogue!

The Action Group is preparing for an exciting, thought-provoking, action-oriented Community Dialogue on specialty drugs on January 16, 2019. The event will feature experts from employers, the University of Minnesota, health plans, provider organizations, PBMs, specialty pharmacies, and manufacturers.

"The upcoming Community Dialogue promises to be a unique event where we share all we've learned through four years of study," says Carolyn Pare, Action Group president and CEO. "We'll not only present our findings and recommendations, but will continue our work in uniting all stakeholders in finding solutions to make specialty drugs more accessible and manageable through realistic pricing."



Save the DATE

The Action Group hosts events and promotes partner events that enable HR and benefits professionals to take advantage of professional development opportunities.

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:

- **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!)
- **November 29 2018:** [Accelerating Health Care Affordability: Cross-sector Leaders Collaborating to Drive Progress](#) (free event held by Action Group partners [ISCI](#), [MNCM](#) and [Stratis](#) from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Aire MSP Airport -- Mall of America)
- **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

"In the case of brand-name prescriptions, recent spending trends did not correlate with utilization trends. Use of brand prescriptions has been falling each year while spending has been increasing -- suggesting price increases drove spending."

***From HealthLeaders' "Healthcare Spending Growth Makes a Comeback"
September 28, 2018***



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