

Minnesota Health Action Group



Are You In Yet? Annual Employer Benefits Open to MN Employers!

Have you wondered what impact new health plans have had in Minnesota? Or what Minnesota employers are doing -- and planning to do -- to manage health care system waste? Or what strategies your peers are using to combat the high cost of specialty drugs? Take The Action Group's [Annual Employer Benefits Survey](#) by March 1, 2019, and you'll discover the answers to these -- and so many more -- pressing health care and benefits questions.

The free and confidential Survey is open to **all** employers with employees in Minnesota. Those who complete it receive a benchmark report of employee trends and are invited to attend a thought-provoking [Results Meeting](#) on April 11, 2019.

Click [here](#) to take the Survey. If your organization participated in **2018**, you should have received a **2019** invitation with a custom link. This link takes you to a version pre-populated with prior responses, making completion **faster and easier**. If you did not receive the invitation, **please check your junk/spam folder**. If you do not locate it, contact [Deb Krause](mailto:DebKrause@mnhealthactiongroup.org) (dkrause@mnhealthactiongroup.org) for assistance.



View the 2018 Survey Executive Summaries [here](#).

"When I say, 'I'm In' for the Survey, I mean I'm completing it, and I'm in on employer collaboration," says Jon Schloemer, director of compensation and benefits for Fleet Farm in his [new blog](#) highlighting the value of participating.

Still Time to Register for the Eye-Opening February Member Meeting!

Health care fraud perpetrators steal billions of dollars each year from federal and state governments, private insurance companies, purchasers, providers, and taxpayers. In fact, financial losses due to health care fraud, waste and abuse (FWA) are estimated to be as much as 3%-10% of total health care expenditures, making it an important topic for employers in terms of cost and fiduciary plan management.

Action Group members are invited to attend our February 28, 2019, member meeting, ["Eye-Opening Insights: Fraud, Waste and Abuse in](#)



[Health Care,"](#) from 8 a.m.-10 a.m. This member-exclusive meeting features health care FWA experts [Chris Larsen](#) from SmartLight Analytics; [Scott Rambeck](#) from Beacon Health Options; and [Julia Twaddle](#) from HMS. They will share stories from their experience in Special Investigative Units, and help Action Group members gain a better understanding of the role they can play in mitigating FWA.

PLEASE NOTE: This meeting is for members only. If you are interested in membership and would like to learn more, please join us! For a meeting pass, contact [Sue Jesseman](mailto:sjesseman@mnhealthactiongroup.org): sjesseman@mnhealthactiongroup.org

Register

Register Today for the Summit to Secure Your Spot -- and Save \$100!

As the pace of change accelerates, high-performing organizations are adapting and creating work environments that attract the best talent across all demographics. This includes examining benefit trends shaping the needs and expectations of the workforce of tomorrow.

At this year's Annual Employer Leadership Summit, [CHANGE @ THE SPEED OF LIFE: Investing in the Workforce of Tomorrow](#), we will challenge ourselves to imagine and plan for the future of the workplace and the benefit needs of employees and their families.

Early Bird Registration: January 24-March 15, 2019

- Member rates: \$149 now; \$249 after March 15
- Non-member rates: \$299 now; \$399 after March 15

This event typically sells out. Register early to secure your spot -- and save \$100!



Click on the image above for a full Summit description, or [here](#) to view last year's photo gallery and presentations.

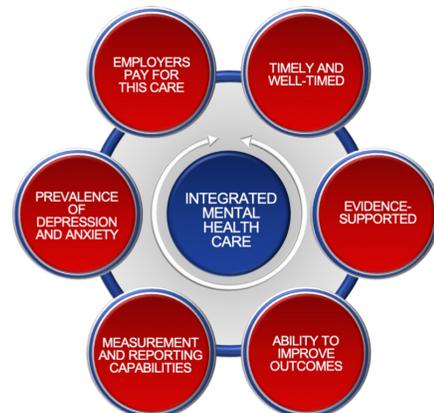
Register

Mental Health Guiding Coalition to Accelerate Performance Improvement

With a focus on anxiety and depression, and an eye on helping people heal despite the fact that mental health care is not embedded in our medical system, The Action Group's Mental Health Care Guiding Coalition (MHGC) met for the first time Friday to begin the journey of translating ideas to action.

"When asked how they felt about participating in the MHGC, participants used words like 'hopeful,' 'optimistic' and 'excited,'" says Deb Krause, Action Group vice president. "By convening a multi-stakeholder Guiding Coalition with the right sense of positivity, purpose and urgency, we will send a common signal to the marketplace about expectations for fixing a fragmented and complex system to finally fulfill the promise of mental health parity."

The MHGC includes a diverse group of employers, some of whom also represent health plans, care systems, and providers. Representatives of [MN](#)



Deb Krause has two compelling blogs about mental health: "[Let's Make It Happen](#)," and "[Mental Health Parity: It's Time to Fulfill the Promise](#)."

"The cost of doing nothing is

[Community Measurement](#), the [Minnesota Medical Association](#), [Minnesota Psychiatric Society](#), [NAMI Minnesota](#), and [Stratis Health](#) are also participating. An elite group of key advisors bring further insight, connections, and national leverage, including [Darcy Gruttadaro](#), [Henry Harbin](#), and [Mike Thompson](#). To learn more, please contact [Deb Krause](mailto:dkrause@mnhealthactiongroup.org) (dkrause@mnhealthactiongroup.org).

simply too great."

*Paulette Daniel
Emerson, MHGC member*



- [More Employers are Minding Mental Health](#)
- [Depression Calculator for Employers](#)
- [Governor's Task Force on Mental Health Final Report](#)
- [Achieving Value in Mental Health Support](#)
- [MN Community Measurement's Depression Care in Minnesota 2018 Report](#)
- [Presentations and Case Studies from The Action Group's Mental Health Community Dialogue](#)



From the CAPITOL

Health Care Issues on the 2019 Legislative Agenda

The big news from the State Capitol this week will be the unveiling of Gov. Walz's first biennial budget proposal. Scheduled to be released on Tuesday, February 19, 2019, the budget will help highlight priority issues for the administration and provide a touchpoint for the DFL House and Republican Senate as they craft their own spending proposals. The next state budget forecast, set to be released in early March, will also be important. Previous forecasts showed a surplus of a few hundred million dollars in one-time funds, but concern has been growing that this latest report will not be positive. For more information on the state's budget proposals and forecasts, click [here](#).



Click on the image to find additional information about the Minnesota State Legislature and current activities.

The opioid ([HF400](#) and [SF751](#)) legislation we have highlighted in this space previously continues to move through the committee process, with hearings in both the House and Senate this week. Both bodies are interested in passing something this year, but anytime a piece of legislation deals with a significant amount of money, whether new budget spending or fee increases, nothing is guaranteed. Other large insurance and health care issues, such as decisions around what to do with the newly re-established high-risk pool for the individual market and whether to repeal the Provider Tax that feeds the Health Care Access Fund continue to hover, but have not seen significant action yet. Again, the release of Gov. Walz's budget will likely be the unofficial starting gun for those and other debates.

Stay tuned for more updates as the Session grinds



Save the DATE

HR and benefits professionals are encouraged to participate in Action Group meetings and events. If you are not yet a member and would like to join us for member meeting, contact [Sue Jesseman](mailto:sjesseman@mnhealthactiongroup.org) (sjesseman@mnhealthactiongroup.org) for a complimentary meeting pass.



Member Meetings:

- **February 28, 2019:** [Eye-Opening Insights: Fraud, Waste and Abuse in Health Care](#)

All member meetings begin with networking at 8 a.m. and conclude at 10 a.m. They are held at the Hilton Airport/MOA. Members who miss a meeting or are interested in viewing the presentations may log into the Member Center from the [homepage](#) and select Member Meeting Presentations.

Public Meetings and Events:

- **April 11, 2019:** Annual Employer Benefits Survey Results Meeting **(for Survey participants only)**
- **May 2, 2019:** Action Group Annual Employer Leadership Summit: [CHANGE @ THE SPEED OF LIFE: Investing in the Workforce of Tomorrow](#)



THOUGHT for the Week

“We know that leadership is very much related to change. As the pace of change accelerates, there is naturally a greater need for effective leadership.”

[John Paul Kotter](#), Harvard Business School



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