



News Release
(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

MINNESOTA HEALTH ACTION GROUP RECEIVES PCORI AWARD TO IMPACT MENTAL HEALTH CARE QUALITY, ACCESS STATEWIDE

Award funds will expand existing Action Group initiatives and collaboration with employers and stakeholders to improve quality and access to mental health care for people across Minnesota

BLOOMINGTON, MN (September 17, 2019) – The [Minnesota Health Action Group](#) (“The Action Group”) announced today that the organization has received a Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Award from the [Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute](#) (PCORI) to improve quality and access to mental health care for people across Minnesota.

Mental health is now on par with diabetes as a leading employee health concern and Minnesota employers say it is one of their top health and well-being priorities. In a 2019 [survey](#) of 108 employers conducted by The Action Group, 83% of Minnesota employers said mental health is an important part of their health management strategy over the next two years and 99% agreed that the mental health of their employees is directly linked to their organization’s overall performance.

The award will expand the current initiatives of The Action Group’s Mental Health Guiding Coalition, which is focused on engaging all health care stakeholders to collaborate and identify opportunities to “connect the dots” between separate community initiatives, with the goal of driving greater collective impact.

“When it comes to moving the needle on complex and pressing healthcare issues like mental health, employers and other health care stakeholders will accomplish more together than individually. To that end, our Mental Health Guiding Coalition has been working for the past year to advance integrated mental health care and improve outcomes for patients with depression and anxiety as standalone or comorbid conditions,” said Deb Krause, vice president of The Action Group. “This PCORI award will allow us to expand the reach of these efforts and to drive real change and improvement in mental health access and care for all Minnesotans.”

According to Krause, The Action Group will allocate PCORI award funds to the following activities:

- Conducting Mental Health Community Dialogues in three communities across the state to share perspectives, gather insights, and engage stakeholders in meaningful actions to improve patient outcomes.
- Conducting community-driven, outcomes-focused research to identify solutions that will address gaps in care, improve outcomes in Minnesota, and serve as a model nationally. This research report is intended to provide key findings, insights, and recommended actions to improve mental health outcomes.
- Facilitating ongoing collaboration among stakeholders to ensure relevance, alignment, and impact. The Guiding Coalition will meet quarterly, and smaller Advocacy Teams will meet more frequently to advance specific deliverables.

“It has been enlightening and inspirational to be part of the Guiding Coalition and to take part in the PCORI award process,” said Nance Lee Mosquera, Benefits Manager for the City of Saint Paul, an Action Group Board member and chair of the Mental Health Guiding Coalition. “We are honored that PCORI has chosen to support the important work of The Action Group. We are excited to begin implementing our detailed work plan that will advance the goal of improving patient outcomes.”

The Action Group’s Mental Health Guiding Coalition is comprised of leading corporate and public-sector employers, government representatives, health plans, providers, and nonprofit partners that have the ability, and commitment, to drive improved patient outcomes statewide. The group aims to leverage networks to engage patients and additional stakeholders.

According to Jean Slutsky, PCORI’s Chief Engagement and Dissemination Officer, “This project was selected for Engagement Award funding because it will involve stakeholders in actively disseminating PCORI-funded research results to those who can use this information to inform healthcare decisions. We look forward to working with The Action Group throughout the course of their 18-month project.”

To learn more about the Minnesota Health Action Group and the Mental Health Guiding Coalition, visit mnhealthactiongroup.org.

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About the Minnesota Health Action Group

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 on [YouTube](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Twitter](#).

For more information:

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