

Minnesota Health Action Group



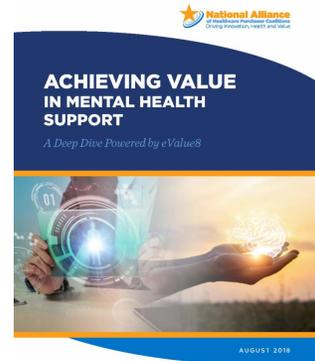
Webinar to Highlight Local Health Plan Mental Health Performance

Results are in! To better understand current health plan capabilities and to promote market-wide quality improvement, The Action Group conducted a special request for information and invited local health plans to participate in the “eValue8™ Mental Health Deep Dive” in collaboration with the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions.

Please join us for an important webinar where the results of this groundbreaking work will be revealed. The webinar, which is free and open to all (members and non-members), will be held October 2, 2019, from 9 a.m.-10 a.m. (CST). Click [here](#) for a full description of this event.

"The Action Group and our employer members are very grateful to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, HealthPartners, and Medica for participating," says Deb Krause, Action Group vice president. "They stepped up to provide a level of transparency on mental health care in Minnesota that ***we have never had.***"

With mental health care delivery and outcomes significantly lagging physical health, The Action Group's Mental Health Guiding Coalition is focused on accelerating high-value, integrated mental health care for employees and their families, while driving positive change on behalf of all Minnesotans. The mental health version of eValue8 includes information across key areas in behavioral health that are actionable for health plans and employers.



Click on the image above to view the national version of the eValue8 Mental Health Deep Dive.

To view a library of **Minnesota Health Action Group mental health tools and resources**, please [click here](#).

Register

Collaborative Care: Advancing and Sustaining Integrated Care in MN

Over 75 Minnesota health care providers, Action Group staff and members, and other stakeholders had high praise for a unique August [Collaborative Care training event](#) at the



"Integrating effective behavioral health into primary care through the [Collaborative Care Model](#) (CoCM) is evidence-based and shown to improve outcomes, prevent downstream health costs, and help improve access to mental health services," says Dr. Michael Trangle, special advisor to The Action Group's Mental Health Guiding Coalition and past president of the Minnesota Psychiatric Society. "It's gratifying to see it gaining traction in Minnesota and beyond."

NEW! Action Group Mental Health Blog and Action Plan for Employers!

Training was delivered by the University of Washington AIMS Center, which offers [valuable resources](#) for providers and health plans. A [brand-new article](#) from the University of Pennsylvania also offers insights into this emerging solution.

- [What Should I Do Now?](#) How and why employers should use the Model Data Request Form (MDRF) to advance mental health parity
- [MDRF Action Plan for Employers](#)

"We are grateful to the [American Psychiatric Association Foundation](#), the [Minnesota Psychiatric Society](#), and [ICSJ](#) for partnering with us to bring this important training to Minnesota," says Deb Krause, Action Group vice president. "Mental health is a top priority for Minnesota employers/purchasers and this training will help advance and sustain integrated care statewide."

Search for New Action Group CEO Underway

With an eye toward paving the way for the future, Carolyn Pare, long-time Action Group president and CEO, announced her retirement at the August 9, 2019, member meeting. See the press release [here](#), and the *Express Special Edition* [here](#).



"Strategic planning for my retirement and for the bright future that lies ahead for The Action Group began well over a year ago," says Carolyn. "It is so exciting to start this new chapter in my life, knowing the groundwork is laid for employers to continue driving toward innovative, high-quality, affordable health care solutions."

With over two decades of successful service to The Action Group, Carolyn Pare has set the stage for continued success and trailblazing in the years ahead. Carolyn will retire September 30, 2019.

A search for Carolyn's replacement is underway. Please contact professional recruiter [Cynthia Chandler](#) (or 602-652-8611) to learn more, to recommend a candidate, or to apply.

Action Group Member Meetings Offer Robust Resources for All

The success of Action Group initiatives depend on collaboration with members, purchasers and a wide variety of health care stakeholders. While many programs and resources are available exclusively to members, we also make a robust library of materials publicly available as part of a commitment to our [recently refreshed vision and mission](#).



For example, the August member meeting, Managing Your Pharmacy Costs: Now What, featured the [Specialty Drug Employer Playbook](#). The September member meeting, Meeting the Needs of Caregivers in the Workplace, featured [Prepare to Care: A Planning Guide for Families](#) and [Supporting Caregivers in the Workplace: A Practical Guide for Employers](#). Members may access all meeting materials by logging into the Member Center on the [homepage](#).

To learn more about taking advantage of all the benefits of membership in the Minnesota Health Action Group, click [here](#). **Employers of all types and sizes are welcome!**



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 at member meeting, contact [Sue Jesseman](mailto:sjesseman@mnhealthactiongroup.org) (sjesseman@mnhealthactiongroup.org) for a complimentary meeting pass.



Action Group Member Meetings:

- **December 6:** Year in Review; New Year Preview (details to follow)

Each meeting begins with networking at 8 a.m. and concludes at 10 a.m. They are held at the Hilton Airport/MOA. Members who want to view the presentations may log into the Member Center from the [homepage](#) and select Member Meeting Presentations.

Public Meetings and Events:

- **September 12, 2019:** [MN Community Measurement Annual Seminar: Innovating Together](#)
- **October 2, 2019:** [Webinar: eValue8™ Mental Health Deep Dive: Achieving Value in Mental Health Support](#)
- **October 15-16, 2019:** [NRHI National Affordability Summit \(In Minneapolis\)](#)
- **November 11-13, 2019:** [National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions Annual Forum](#)



THOUGHT for the Week

"Given the unsettling fact that death rates are increasing in areas like suicide and substance use at a time when more money is being spent than ever before on behavioral health, employers can and must demand data, enabling them to create a detailed, specific plan to address deficiencies."

***Henry Harbin, M.D., Psychiatrist and
Special Advisor to The Action Group's Mental Health Guiding Coalition***



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

