

Minnesota Health Action Group



Local Health Plan Mental Health Performance: Results are In!

Only [43% of people with mental illness](#) received treatment for their condition in 2018. This is often due to inadequate insurance coverage, lack of access to qualified in-network providers, or attitudes in society and the workplace that prevent people from seeking care. To contribute to changing this dynamic, The Action Group has announced the results of the state's first-ever eValue8 Mental Health Deep Dive, an assessment of health plan performance in areas of critical importance.

"The Action Group and our employer members applaud 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.**"

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 eValue8 Mental Health Deep Dive Minnesota Executive Summary, or [here](#) to view slides from our recent webinar.

To view the **new and improved library of Action Group mental health tools and resources**, click [here](#).



- **NEWS RELEASE:** [Minnesota Health Action Group Announces Findings from First-ever eValue8 Mental Health Deep Dive Survey in Minnesota](#)
- **NEW BLOG:** [Inquiring Minds Want to Know: The eValue8 Mental Health Minnesota Back Story](#)
- **WORKFORCE ARTICLE:** [The Mental Health Parity Challenge](#)
- **CALIFORNIA HEALTHLINE ARTICLE:** [Want to Reduce Suicides? Follow the Data - to Medical Offices, Motels, and Even Animal Shelters](#)

Employers are encouraged to have meaningful conversations with their health plans to share the importance of effective mental health care to ensure the best possible care and outcomes for employees and their families.

A helpful, practical tool employers can use, the [Model Data Request Form](#) (MDRF), gathers valuable and actionable data based on employee experience with mental health/substance use disorder treatment.

Using an MDRF assists employers in being vigilant about needed improvements. The Action Group has also created an [MDRF template plan](#) for employers to use with their health plan to document, discuss, implement actions, and monitor progress in closing the gaps in mental health care identified in their data.



NEW! Action Group Mental Health [blog](#) and plan helps employers take action!

Action Group Receives PCORI Award to Impact Mental Health Care Quality, Access Statewide

The Action Group is pleased to announce it 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.



The \$200,000 award will expand existing Action Group Mental Health Guiding Coalition initiatives and collaboration with employers and stakeholders. See the news release [here](#), and the *Star Tribune* article [here](#).

Deb Krause Joins Special Minnesota Blue Ribbon Commission

Minnesota Governor Tim Walz has announced the appointment of 11 Minnesotans, including Deb Krause, Action Group vice president, to serve on the newly created [Blue Ribbon Commission on Health and Human Services](#).



Established by the 2019 Minnesota State Legislature, the group will help state leaders craft a vision for long-term systemic reforms and identify near-term strategies to improve health outcomes, increase access, reduce inequities and disparities, find administrative efficiencies, expand program integrity, and steward taxpayer dollars. Look for updates here!

Registration Now Open for December Member Meeting!

Non-members interested in learning more about membership are welcome!

Each year, the December member meeting is one of the most fun and interesting of the year. And 2019 will be no exception!

Please join us as we:

- Look back on our work and accomplishments over the past year, and
- Hear more about how The Action Group's [themes](#) for the future and [vision](#) and [mission](#) will guide our work in tackling shared employer challenges



in 2020!

We'll have a delicious hot breakfast to thank our members for their passion and engagement over the past year. HR and benefits professionals who are not currently members but are actively considering membership are also welcome!

Register

National Alliance Event Supports Professional Development Goals

Each year, the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions convenes employers from all sizes and industries to learn from one another, network with healthcare stakeholders, and discover effective approaches to managing workforce health and well-being. Keynote speakers for the November 11-13 Annual Forum, "[Employers Driving Innovation, Health and Value](#)" include:



- [Ford S. Koles, Jr.](#), is an executive director and the national spokesperson for The Advisory Board Company.
- [Dr. Scott B. Ransom](#) is a partner in the Health Services Advisory at PWC | Strategy.
- [Sheila Savageau](#) is the U.S. health care leader at General Motors.

Join employers (senior leaders in benefits, HR, finance, healthcare strategy), business coalition leaders, policymakers, and others at this world-class event! **Action Group members will have the \$650 registration fee waived!**



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](#)



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:

- **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

“While it’s no surprise that we have a long way to go before we achieve parity in mental health care, the Minnesota version of the eValue8 Deep Dive is an important step to get every stakeholder on a shared path that will generate accelerated action toward long overdue change.”

Nance Lee Mosquera, Benefits Manager, City of Saint Paul



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