

Minnesota Health Action Group



ACTION GROUP @ WORK

Action Group Selected for Employer-led Effort to Improve Mental Health and Substance Use Care in Minnesota and Nationally

Following a rigorous application and selection process, The Action Group will lead one of eight Regional Employer Stakeholder Engagement Teams (RESET Regions) to improve mental health and substance use care in Minnesota and nationally.

This is part of a transformative initiative called [The Path Forward for Mental Health and Substance Use](#) led by the organizations featured to the right and described in [this document](#).

"The Action Group's work on mental health care through our Mental Health Guiding Coalition and [PCORI research award](#) has gained significant momentum," says Deb Krause, Action Group vice president. "The collaboration of RESET Regions represents valuable alignment and support that will bring sustainability to improving mental health care and outcomes here in Minnesota and across the country."

Read the press release [here](#). View The Action Group's library of mental health tools and resources [here](#).



- [Addiction and Mental Health vs. Physical Health: Widening Disparities in Network Use and Provider Reimbursement](#) (November 19, 2019, Milliman Research Report)
- [Minnesota Insurers Fall Short on Mental Health Coverage, Report Finds](#) (November 29, 2019, *Duluth News Tribune* article on The Action Group's eValue8 mental health deep dive)
- [Mental Health Parity Infographic](#) (American Psychiatric Association Center for Workplace Mental Health)

Exclusive Annual Employer Benefits Survey Opens January 27

Free, confidential Survey open to all employers with employees in Minnesota

The Annual Employer Benefits Survey — designed **by** employers **for** employers — will be open from January 27-February 28, 2020.

Now in its 10th year and open to **all** employers with employees in Minnesota, this exclusive, confidential, free Survey will bring into focus strategic and tactical insights about what is and isn't working for Minnesota employers.

"While there are other benefit surveys available, I find The Action Group's particularly valuable," says Jon Schloemer, vice president of HR shared services at Fleet Farm. "Amid the many competing priorities and ever-changing vendor landscape, this Survey is a highly trusted resource."

Read Jon Schloemer's new blog about the Survey [here!](#)



Click on the image above for more details about this year's Employer Benefits Survey.

Summaries of the 2019 Survey are available [here](#).

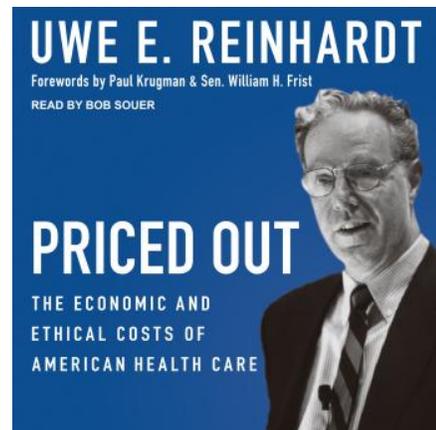
Calling all Members! Register for the February Member Meeting Today!

The Action Group **February 27, 2020**, member meeting features the highly regarded book, *Priced Out: The Economic and Ethical Costs of American Health Care*. Recently published, there is widespread praise for this final book from Dr. Uwe Reinhardt, a giant in health care policy.

While this is a **member-exclusive** meeting, if you are actively considering Action Group membership and would like to learn more, please join us! Not sure if your organization is a member? Check [here!](#)

"The issue of universal coverage is not a matter of economics. Little more than 1 percent of GDP assigned to health could cover all. It is a matter of soul."

Dr. Uwe Reinhardt



Click on the image above to view the full meeting description.

Register

Only a Few Spots Remain for Employer Leadership Summit Sponsors!

The 2020 Action Group Annual Employer Leadership Summit focuses on a top priority for Minnesota employers: **The Path Forward: Employers Driving Improved Mental Health Care and Outcomes**. Dedicated to the topic of improving workplace mental health, the Summit will take place on April 29, 2020, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Westin Edina Galleria.



Sponsorships at each level are limited and only a few spots remain! To learn more, view the Summit sponsor request [here](#) and the sponsorship levels [here](#).

A formal Summit announcement featuring our esteemed, renowned keynote speaker will be coming soon! This event is sure to sell out, so early registration is highly recommended.

New Webinar Helps Employers Remove Waste from Drug Formularies

A recent analysis of just 15 plan sponsors demonstrated that reducing the use of high-cost, low-value drugs could lead to \$63 million in annual savings, representing about 3% to 24% of overall pharmacy spending.

In a December Pacific Business Group on Health (PBGH) webinar, employers learned that, regardless of type or size, they all can begin to regain control over the high cost of prescription drugs by removing waste from drug formularies. View the webinar [here](#) (**NOTE: view using the Google Chrome browser only**).

PBGH, in partnership with the Johns Hopkins Drug Access and Affordability Initiative and Integrity Pharmaceutical Advisors, also developed a free guide to hasten efforts to lower costs and improve care.



Click on the image above to view the report, "Removing Waste from Drug Formularies."



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:

- **February 27, 2020:** [Book Club: Priced Out: The Economic and Ethical Costs of American Health Care](#)

Each meeting begins with networking at 8 a.m. and concludes at 10 a.m. They are held at the Hilton Airport/MOA.

Public Meetings and Events:

- **April 8, 2020 (9 a.m.-11 a.m.):** [WEBINAR: Results of 2020 Annual Employer Benefits Survey \(exclusively for Survey participants\)](#)
- **April 29, 2020 (8 a.m.-4 p.m.):** [Minnesota Health Action Group Annual Employer Leadership Summit](#)



THOUGHT for the Week

"With his clear voice, piercing intellect, hilarious wit, and unshakable ethics, Uwe Reinhardt simply had no peer."

Donald M. Berwick, M.D., president emeritus and senior fellow, Institute for Healthcare Improvement and former administrator of the Centers for Medicare and



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