

Minnesota Health Action Group



What's the BUZZ?

Summit to Showcase Solutions to Today's Mental Health Care Challenges

Register today to save \$100! Early bird rates end next week!

This year's Employer Leadership Summit, *The Path Forward: Employers Driving Improved Mental Health Care and Outcomes*, focuses on mental health, identified as a top strategic priority by Minnesota employers.

Renowned mental health advocate, activist and founder of [The Kennedy Forum](#), [former U.S. Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy](#), is the dynamic and compelling keynote speaker. Click [here](#) to view the exciting preview.

When: April 29, 2020, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Where: Westin Edina Galleria

Spaces are filling fast and the early bird discount ends March 13. Register today to secure your spot and save \$100!



"More than half the people diagnosed with any mental illness do not get treatment at all. It is time for this to change."

Patrick J. Kennedy

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

MINNESOTA HEALTH ACTION GROUP 2020 ANNUAL EMPLOYER LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



DIAMOND



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



One-Hour Access to Mental Health Care Now a Reality

Action Group partnership with AiRCare designed with Minnesota employers in mind

A [new partnership](#) between the The Action Group and AiRCare Health opens the door for employees to receive mental health care in **one hour**, not the usual days, weeks or months.

Companies in Minnesota that implement the [AiRCare](#) solution through this first-of-its-kind partnership will have access to information about mental health care and benefits across the state. Data will be used to raise the bar on the care experience for individuals and families while improving outcomes and costs.

View the press release [here](#). For more information about offering this promising solution to your employees, please contact [Deb Krause](#).



Click on either image above to learn more about this unique partnership.



- [Consumer Complaints About Denials of Mental Health and Addiction Care Depict a Web of Frustration, Financial Stress, and Poor Health Outcomes](#) (The Kennedy Forum, March 2, 2020)
- [Mental Health: How we've Improved and Where we Need to do Better in 2020](#) (NBC News, January 10, 2020)

Refreshed Action Group Prescription Drug Site Now Available

Action Group members have had a long-standing commitment to helping bring order to a dysfunctional prescription drug marketplace. The astounding rise of prescription drug prices — now approaching 20% of health care costs in the U.S. — has left employers and consumers reeling.

The Action Group website now features the tools and resources resulting from the work of the Specialty Drug Guiding Coalition, as well as updated news and materials. See everything in one convenient spot [here](#).



- [Minnesota Task Force Takes Aim at Prescription Drug Prices](#) (MPR, February 19, 2020)
- [2020 Employer Roundtables on Drug Management Report](#) (National Business Group on Health, January 6, 2020)
- [Removing Waste from Drug Formularies Employer Guidebook](#) (Pacific Business Group on Health, 2019)

Top Recommended Employer Resources for March

- [2019 Minnesota Health Care Quality Report](#). This report from Minnesota Community Measurement highlights health care quality measures for medical groups and Clinics.
- [Stress Awareness Employer Toolkit](#). April is National Stress Awareness Month. This toolkit helps raise awareness and promote stress management resources.
- [Hospital Payment Strategies for Employers](#). In this new Action Brief from the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions, employers learn how to adopt hospital payment strategies that set forth price and quality expectations.



From the CAPITOL

An Unusual Lull at the Capitol for Health and Human Services

For years the Health and Human Services (HHS) committees have hosted some of the most high-profile and contentious policy debates at the Legislature. Not so in 2020.

With less than a month before the first legislative policy

deadline, neither the House nor Senate have taken up many big issues. Aside from the ongoing insulin negotiations, the House will likely focus attention on a robust early childhood package, with the overall Senate agenda remaining somewhat opaque.

Much of the reported budget surplus is for one-time spending only, which will further temper plans and expectations for big changes.



The 2020 legislative session could be one of the quietest HHS years in recent memory.



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](#) for a complimentary pass.

Save the Dates for 2020 Action Group Member Meetings:

- June 3
- July 30
- September 24
- December 16



Each meeting includes a light breakfast, beginning with networking at 8 a.m. and concluding 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](#)
- June 15-17, 2020 (multi-day event) [National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions Leadership Summits](#)



THOUGHT for the Week

"Up to 12% of pharmacy spending may be on high-cost, low-value drugs that can be removed from formularies without compromising quality or patient satisfaction."

Removing Waste From Drug Formularies Employer Guidebook
Pacific Business Group on Health



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 pay the bills 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