



Weekly Bulletin – February 17, 2023



WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK?

2023 Voice of the Purchaser Survey on Mental/Behavioral Health - Survey Deadline March 8



The Path Forward
for mental health and substance use
Health Equity for all Americans

Mental health has been a key issue for all of our employer members, particularly with respect to historic issues with access to and quality of services provided. The Florida Alliance is a Regional Employer-Stakeholder Engagement Team (RESET) for The Path Forward for Mental Health and Substance Use, as you know. During our Employer Learning Collaborative on Mental Health and Substance Use, our RESET identified the need to develop an employer/healthcare purchaser survey so that we can identify areas of need and strategies to improve quality and access. When we reached out to the National Alliance to see if such a tool had been developed, they thought it was a great idea and engaged experts to develop a survey that could be rolled out nationally with all the RESETs and also with the coalitions not engaged with The Path Forward.

The Path Forward is now conducting a national survey of employers/healthcare purchasers to understand the perceived performance of services received from mental health service providers, including health plans and point solution providers.

Key Areas of the Survey:

- Equitable Access
- Quality of Care
- Integration of Mental/Behavioral Health into Primary Care
- Workplace Mental Health Support

You can find a PDF of the full question set [HERE](#) and we suggest reviewing it prior to completing the survey. Please know that all responses will remain confidential. As a respondent, you will have the ability to receive the overall results.

Click [HERE](#) to complete the survey. FYI - they use the term behavioral health to cover all mental health and substance use conditions and treatments.

Your response by Wednesday, March 8 is appreciated. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Karen van Caulil, karen@flhealthvalue.org or David Cavalleri, david@flhealthvalue.org.



Employer Educational Programs and Employer Learning Collaboratives (ELC)

Mental Health/Substance Use Employer Learning Collaborative (ELC) – February 20, 2:00PM – 3:30PM ET

Our next ELC session is coming up on Monday. We realize some of you may be out of the office due to the holiday. We record these sessions and include the recordings and accompanying resources on our Mental Health/Substance Use Employer Learning Collaborative webpage:

<https://flhealthvalue.org/our-work/mental-health-substance-use-elc/>

Monday's session will include a discussion about the "Voice of the Purchaser" Survey mentioned above, including an opportunity for participants to complete the survey at the end of the session, a follow up on the EAP presentation from last month, a discussion about prescription digital therapeutics coverage and how Florida Medicaid has added this benefit to their plans, and an update on the federal Mental Health Parity laws.



If you did not receive a calendar invitation for session 6 or need the invitation re-sent, please contact Lisa Hain, lisa@flhealthvalue.org.



Also, Mental Health America announced it is holding a webinar on Thursday February 23 from 2PM – 3 PM Eastern **for employers interested in applying to participate in the Bell Seal for Workplace Mental Health, a national employer certification program.** It recognizes employers leading the charge in improving worker mental health and well-being.

You can learn more about it through this link: [MHA's 2023 Bell Seal for Workplace Mental Health: What is it and how to apply | Mental Health America \(mhanational.org\)](https://mhanational.org/2023-bell-seal-for-workplace-mental-health)

Employer Benefit: *Complimentary Webinar* – Immune Fitness & Vaccination: Overcoming Misinformation and Trust Issues, March 9, 1:00PM – 2:00PM ET

Employers are in a unique position to increase trust in the science of vaccines and improve vaccination rates as part of their efforts to promote health and wellbeing among employees and their family members. Much of the information presented in this webinar came out of a project the Florida Alliance staff participated in with the Northeast Business Group on Health last year as well as a survey that many of our employer members completed.

This webinar offers:

- **Creative ways to promote all recommended vaccines – an essential building block of immune fitness**
- **Practical steps to boost immune fitness now and in the future**

SPEAKERS



Mark Cunningham-Hill, MD
Northeast Business Group
on Health



Michelle Martin
Paramount



Candice Sherman
Northeast Business Group
on Health



L.J. Tan, PhD
Immunization Action
Coalition

Click [HERE](#) to register.

Click [HERE](#) for actionable resources from the Northeast Business Group on Health.



In Case You Missed It

Pharmacogenomics (PGx) Webinar Take-Aways

The National Alliance offered a complimentary webinar “Achieving Value through Health: Latest Evidence on Pharmacogenomics” on January 25.

They reviewed and discussed the latest evidence on improving outcomes and affordability for certain PGx treatments in areas such as mental health and cancer.

Notes from the presentation are below:

Medications don’t work for everyone. **What if adverse events and subsequent ER visits were avoidable while improving treatment outcomes? PGx involves looking at DNA to predict how a patient will respond to specific drugs.**

Medications may work differently in different patients in several ways, such as how quickly or slowly a patient metabolizes medication and/or an inability to metabolize a drug into the active ingredient. These variables could cause a drug not to be beneficial or could lead to an overdose.

Potential Benefits include:

- Improved medical decision-making
- Delivery of appropriate therapies that are tailored to a patient's sequence variants or genotype rather than the general population
- Avoidance of medications of lower efficacy
- Reduced exposure to medications that have the potential for greater toxicity, with resulting lower incidence of treatment-related side-effects and complications

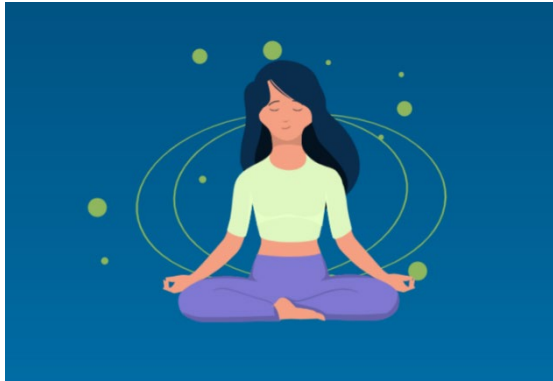
Click [HERE](#) to listen to the recording and view the presentation.

Click [HERE](#) for action steps for employers by the Midwest Business Group on Health (MBGH) for better disease control and medication therapy which offers savings for both the patient and employer.



DATE CORRECTION: FREE Webinar: Wellbeing 2023 and Beyond – February 28, 1:00PM – 2:00 PM ET

Last week's Weekly Bulletin listed the date of this webinar incorrectly. Please note this webinar is being held on Tuesday, February 28. Please accept our apologies for any confusion.



During this webinar, attendees will learn where leaders at top organizations are focusing on and what they are prioritizing and de-prioritizing in employee wellness and benefits. **This webinar explores what is working and what is not as leaders share the challenges and barriers facing workplace wellness**, with insights into effective approaches to wellness, and how changing the routine and trying new things could help

organizations leap forward.

Panel members include Florida Alliance Board Chair, Rosa Novo, as well as leaders from Johns Hopkins Medicine, Phillips 66, and AECOM.

Click [HERE](#) to register.