



Weekly Bulletin – June 23, 2023



WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK?

Opaque Conflicts of Interest Permeate Prescription Drug Benefits

Employers pay consulting firms to handle a straightforward job with their drug coverage – get the best deal possible for them. **A STAT investigation shows that a largely hidden flow of money between major consulting conglomerates and PBMs compromises that relationship.**

Click [HERE](#) to read the STAT article published this week that takes a deep dive into the unethical business that takes advantage of employers and shines a light on PBM broker conflicts of interest.

If you have any questions about this article, please reach out to Karen van Caulil at karen@flhealthvalue.org



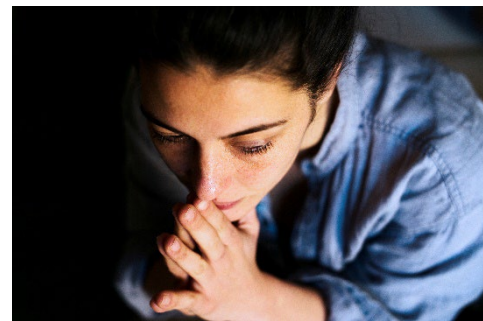
Depression and Suicide Risk in Adults

This week the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force released its final recommendation statements for screening for anxiety in adults and screening for depression and suicide risk in adults. **The taskforce recommended screening for anxiety in adults 64 years and younger, adding that the evidence was not sufficient to make a similar recommendation for adults 65 years of age and older. The taskforce recommended screening for depression in all adults but added that there was not enough evidence to make a similar recommendation regarding suicide screening.**

To read the statement regarding anxiety screening visit [HERE](#).

The statement regarding depression and suicide screening can be found [HERE](#).

If you have any questions about these recommendation statements, please reach out to David Cavalleri at david@flhealthvalue.org





Employer Member Educational Programs, Reports, Resources, and Employer Learning Collaboratives (ELC)

Midwest Business Group on Health Hosts Oncology Panel with Karen van Caulil

Karen van Caulil, President and CEO of the Florida Alliance, was invited to Chicago on June 21st to speak on a panel at the Midwest Business Group on Health's Employer Forum on Pharmacy Benefits, Specialty Drugs, and Biopharma. Karen spoke on a panel with Cheryl Larson, the CEO of MBGH and Sandra Morris, former Benefits Director of Proctor and Gamble, about the Oncology Employer Learning Collaborative that we are undertaking together.



To view the slide deck, click [HERE](#). Please reach out to Karen at karen@flhealthvalue.org if you have any questions.



Alex Jung

At this same Forum, Alex Jung, who recently spoke at the Florida Alliance's Annual Conference, delivered an informative keynote presentation on specialty pharmacy, *Inspiring & Engaging Employers to Action*.

Click [HERE](#) to view slide deck. If you have any questions, please reach out to Karen at karen@flhealthvalue.org and she will relay your question to Alex. If you are interested in having Alex speak to us on this topic, please let Karen know.

Employer Member Resource: Data from United for ALICE Can Lead to Improvement in Employees' Livelihoods

United for ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) is an effort developed to show the



struggles some people face when trying to make ends meet. ALICE serves as an unbiased resource to help companies and community organizations gain a better perspective about the financial instability facing millions of people across the country.

We have discussed the impact that social determinants of health have on an individual's health and how difficult it has been to identify data that can help employers address the needs of their employees. The data found in ALICE can be used to initiate conversations and action to improve the livelihoods of their workers and families.

The research center includes a section on Florida, which can be found [HERE](#).

[If you have any questions about ALICE, please contact David Cavalleri at david@flhealthvalue.org](#)



HEALTH POLICY ACTIVITY

The Florida Alliance, Leapfrog Regional Leader for Florida, Supports Proposal by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology



This week the Florida Alliance signed on in support of a letter from The Leapfrog Group to the Office of the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology (ONC) to **commend the ONC for their proposal to identify healthcare facilities by brick-and-mortar facility**. Our organization agrees with Leapfrog that the continued

use of a single identifier for a broader health system that may include multiple individual facilities is misleading when it comes to interpreting quality and patient safety. We believe this change of identifiers would have a powerful and positive impact on healthcare transparency and quality of care.

To read the letter, click [HERE](#). Please reach out to Ashley Tait-Dinger at ashley@flhealthvalue.org if you have any questions.



National Involvement of Florida Alliance Team

Congratulations to Karen van Caulil, Re-Elected to National Alliance Board of Governors!



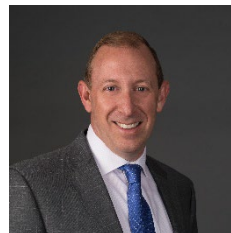
Karen van Caulil, Florida Alliance President and CEO, has been re-elected to the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions Board of Governors for another three-year term. Karen will be serving as the Board Secretary and Treasurer for the coming year.

Karen van Caulil

Also re-elected to the Board are Chris Syverson, CEO of the Nevada Business Group on Health, and Bret Jackson, CEO of the Economic Alliance for Michigan, who will stay as Chair and Vice Chair for the year ahead. The Florida Alliance was lucky to have Chris and Bret speak at our past two conferences, so they may look familiar to you!



Chris Syverson



Bret Jackson



In Case You Missed It

FDA Advisers Endorse Targeting XBB Variant in New COVID Booster

On Thursday June 15, an expert Federal Drug Administration (FDA) panel unanimously recommended updating the COVID booster for the fall. The group, citing the decreasing effectiveness of the current bivalent booster shot and the prevalence of a new strain of the virus, recommended the need to offer a newer booster to combat the COVID virus.

The group added that the single shot booster should focus on the XBB.1.5 variant, which is responsible for all infections in the US.



Click [HERE](#) to read more, as reported by Axios.

Later this year, we will convene two employer educational meetings on COVID, focusing on chronic disease management issues and immunization strategies. Please contact Karen van Caulil at karen@flhealthvalue.org for more information.



EMPLOYER MEMBER CORNER

Rosa Novo, Florida Alliance Board Chair, would like to know if any employers are offering free gym memberships to new employees in their first year of employment. Please contact Rosa Novo at RNovo@dadeschools.net with your response.

Thank you!