



Weekly Bulletin – July 28, 2023



WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK?

Save The Date! “Best of the Best” – January 11, 2024, 8:00AM – 1:30PM ET

We are happy to announce that our 28th Annual “Best of the Best” will be held at the GuideWell Innovation Center in Lake Nona on January 11, 2024, from 8:00AM to 1:30PM. Registration information and other details to come.



“Best of the Best” features innovative employers who have addressed challenging healthcare issues and implemented successful benefit design changes and/or health and wellbeing programs. The employers share their stories including lessons learned and outcomes.

If you did not receive a “Save the Date” calendar invitation for this event or need the invitation to be re-sent, please contact Lisa Hain, lisa@flhealthvalue.org

Thank you to Florida Blue for hosting and sponsoring this event!



Proposed Rule Amending the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act

On July 25, the Department of Labor, the Department of Health & Human Services, and the Treasury Department issued a proposed rule with amendments to regulations for the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (MHPAEA).

The proposed rule updates the rules issued in 2014 to make it easier to get in-network mental health care and clarifies the obligations of insurance plans to provide mental health benefits comparable to other medical benefits. The impact of the proposed rule is included in their summary and comments are requested from the public.



Access an International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plan article on this proposed rule [HERE](#).

We anticipate that the steering committee for The Path Forward for Mental Health and Substance Use will give us their take on the proposed rule. Stay tuned!

Please contact David Cavalleri at david@flhealthvalue.org if you have any questions.



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

Employer Member *Complimentary* Webinar - Panel Session: Coverage of Anti-Obesity Medications – Thursday, August 24, 3:00PM – 4:00PM ET

Join us for a timely discussion sponsored by Florida Alliance Affiliate Member Novo Nordisk on coverage of anti-obesity medications and current issues and concerns – **what’s working, what’s not, and what do we make of all the news and social media coverage of AOM’s these days?**

Florida Alliance President and CEO Karen van Caulil will facilitate a discussion with Brock Hoglund, Benefits Analytics and Innovation Manager at The Walt Disney Company, and Bruce Sherman, MD, Medical Director of the North Carolina Business Coalition on Health, former Corporate Medical Director for Walmart and consulting Medical Director at Whirlpool, and a medical advisor to the National Alliance for Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions.

Speakers



Brock Hoglund



Bruce Sherman, MD

If you did not receive a calendar invitation for this webinar or need the invitation to be re-sent, please contact Lisa Hain at lisa@flhealthvalue.org

Reminder: Mental Health/Substance Use Employer Learning Collaborative – Thursday, August 3, 1:00PM – 2:00PM ET

The agenda for this ELC will include a more detailed presentation of the national and Florida findings in the Bowman Family Foundation Report “Equitable Access to Mental Health and Substance Use Care: An Urgent Need.” We will discuss the proposed rule update on mental health parity and we will also talk about the Mental Health and Health Equity initiative underway with the National Alliance and five of our employer members.

We will also hear an update from Jessica Mason at the City of Orlando on their Notice.Talk.Act®@Work program.

Please click [HERE](#) to view past sessions of the **MH/SU ELC**. If you did not receive a calendar invitation for this session or need the invitation to be re-sent, please contact Lisa Hain at lisa@flhealthvalue.org

Employer Member Resources: Documentaries Address Anxiety, the Impact of Social Media, and Bullying

Anxiety is common for all people at some point in their lives. Everyone experiences hesitance, trepidation, uncertainty, and the occasional sweaty forehead and palms. For some, though, it can bring a great deal of trouble and pain that affects every aspect of their lives.



iMPACTFUL offers some powerful and useful information in addition to a timely documentary that illuminates and educates. The documentary, entitled **ANGST**, provides real life accounts of the ways anxiety has deeply affected people, particularly young people.

The documentary provides real life stories as well as a brief discussion of the biological foundations of anxiety and some useful tools that can help. In addition to what is presented in the movie, the iMPACTFUL website offers a toolkit and discussion guides. **The documentary itself is available until August 19th and anyone interested in watching it is required to create a free account. To access the documentary and toolkit, please go [HERE](#).**

The filmmakers behind **ANGST** offer another documentary focused on social media and the impact it is having on everyone. **LIKE** explores the social, psychological, and physiological influence it has had on our lives. Social media is an ever-present aspect of many people’s lives. It is vital to better understand how it works, how it affects people, its role in shaping behavior, and the steps people can take to limit its influence in our day-to-day activities. This documentary is powerful, sharing real life stories as well as a brief discussion of how social media affects our brains and behavior. The accompanying page offers some useful tools that can help. It is highly recommended viewing.

PLEASE NOTE, the documentary itself is available until July 31st and anyone interested in watching it is required to create a free account. To watch the documentary and review the tools, click [HERE](#).



The same filmmakers offer another timely documentary, this one focusing on various forms of bullying and several approaches to dealing with it effectively and with care. The Upstanders explores cyber-bullying, bullying among friends, families, co-



workers and the brain science behind it all. The film highlights new laws and programs already reducing bullying in schools and shows us how we can learn to make a difference together to create systemic change.

The documentary is powerful, and it must be noted that it has some content that can be triggering. Accompanying the documentary are some useful tools that can help.

PLEASE NOTE, the documentary itself is only available until July 31st and anyone interested in watching it is required to create a free account. The documentary is available [HERE](#).

Please contact David Cavalleri at david@flhealthvalue.org if you have any questions.



HEALTH OBSERVANCES

August and September Health and Cultural Observances

Take time in August to:

- Promote the importance of childhood and adult immunizations
- Heighten awareness about staying safe in the sun
- Celebrate women – and Women’s Equality Day
- Shine a light on overdose as the silent killer it is

[The National Alliance August health and cultural observances newsletter](#) includes articles and campaign ideas to supplement employee communications. Click on the images below to learn more.



GET THE AUGUST NEWSLETTER

September is Filled with Opportunities to Share Healthy Tips

As summer wanes and many return to daily routines, healthy and helpful celebrations and reminders can help employees and their families get back on track:

- National Recovery Month unites the nation’s strong and proud recovery community
- Health Aging Month encourages people to rejuvenate by taking positive measures to improve their overall health
- Hispanic Heritage Month opens the door to improve health equity
- Cancer-specific events take aim at early detection and its hope of saving lives
- Childhood Obesity Month equips parents and caregivers to prevent obesity

GET THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



Please contact Lisa Hain at lisa@flhealthvalue.org if you have any questions.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Kraft Heinz Lawsuit Against Aetna May Just Be the Tip of the Iceberg



The Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) was meant to give self-funded employers better access to claims data to ensure they are fulfilling their fiduciary responsibility and providing the best medical benefits for the best price to their employees. However, third party administrators are not always complying as Kraft Heinz alleges in its June 30 lawsuit against Aetna.

Kraft Heinz is not the only one suing payers. *MedCityNews* is reporting that this recent lawsuit against Aetna is just an indication of what is to come in the relationship between self-funded employers and their third-party administrators. Florida Alliance 2023 Annual Conference speaker, Chris Deacon, Principal Owner of VerSan Consulting, offers employers advice on how to make sure they are provided full access to their claims data. Read the full article [HERE](#).

Please contact Karen van Caulil at karen@flhealthvalue.org if you have any questions.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act and Healthcare Quality



Leapfrog recently hosted a webinar on the CAA, addressing the value of quality in compliance with the CAA. The speakers stressed the importance of focusing on the quality-of-care employees and their family members receive.

CEO Leah Binder of Leapfrog was joined by Karen Handorf and Julie Selesnick, two of the country's top ERISA attorneys, and Jamie Greenleaf, a fiduciary expert, to cover this important issue. They also shared a companion white paper that was released along with the recording of the webinar.

Both the white paper and the recording can be found [HERE](#).

Please contact Ashley Tait-Dinger at ashley@flhealthvalue.org if you have any questions.