



What's New This Week?

Announcing the new CEO of the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions

After an extensive national search, **Shawn Gremminger** was announced on November 1 as the new CEO of the **National Alliance**. Karen van Caulil, President and CEO of the Florida Alliance, served on the search committee to identify Mike Thompson's successor. Mike will retire at the end of the year.



Shawn Gremminger

Shawn most recently served as the Senior Vice President at Reservoir Communications Group where he led communications and public affairs strategy and execution on a range of relevant issues, including 340B drug pricing and the drug supply chain, and employer-sponsored insurance regulations. Previously Shawn was the Director of Health Policy for the Purchaser Business Group on Health.

The Florida Alliance team has worked closely with Shawn on several initiatives during his time at Purchaser Business Group on Health and in his role as a consultant to the National Alliance around health policy during his tenure at Reservoir. We are looking forward to working with him in his new role which he starts right after New Year's Day!

Karen is working with Shawn to identify a time that he can meet with our employer members early in 2024 to learn about the great work you are all doing and to gain input on what support is most needed for employers.

Click [here](#) to view the press release issued by the National Alliance.

If you have any questions, please contact Karen van Caulil at karen@flhealthvalue.org



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

Member Benefit: Respiratory Wellness at Work: Ready for the Season, November 9 - 2:00PM – 3:00PM ET



A surge in COVID-19, flu, and RSV this fall could present new challenges for employers – leading to higher rates of absenteeism that would be costly for productivity and morale.

Join this interactive session with top experts to help you evolve your workplace health and safety protocols to anticipate the challenges ahead. You will gain access to the latest data and trends to help you navigate an expected surge in respiratory infections this holiday season and discover new ways to educate and engage your workforce to protect themselves and others.

Click [here](#) to register.

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

Member Benefit: Fiduciary Check-in Webinar - November 16 – 3:00PM – 3:30PM ET – Topic: CAA Employer Attestation Requirements (that are required by January 1, 2024)

The National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions is hosting a fiduciary check-in webinar where Jamie Greenleaf of TILT will discuss employer compliance with the No Gag Clause and attestation requirements of the CAA which apply to both fully and self-insured group health plans.



Understand the rules and purposes of the No Gag Clause and attestation requirements as well as the related CAA Transparency in Coverage self-service tool requirements — and what employers must do to achieve compliance by January 1 (and every year thereafter).

Click [here](#) to register.

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



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

REGISTER TODAY! LIMITED SEATING! DO NOT DELAY!

Florida Alliance 28th Annual “Best of the Best” – Thursday, January 11, 2024



“Best of the Best” will be held at the GuideWell Innovation Center in Lake Nona, Florida with registration and breakfast starting at 7:45 am and the program being held from 8:30 am - 1:30 pm. Lunch will also be served.

Thank you to Healthcare Advisory Council member Florida Blue for hosting and to Affiliate Member Pfizer for being our lead sponsor!

Please reference last week’s Bulletin for information on the speaker line-up and topics.

CLICK [HERE](#) TO REGISTER. MAKE SURE TO USE THE PROMO CODE **EMPLOYER2024 AND CLICK “APPLY” TO HAVE THE REGISTRATION FEE WAIVED.**

We have no limit on the number of individuals who may attend from each employer member organization, but seating at the venue is limited so be sure to register right away! If you have any questions or need assistance with registration, please contact Lisa Hain at lisa@flhealthvalue.org

ACTION ITEM - WE STILL NEED YOUR FEEDBACK!

Oncology Employer Learning Collaborative

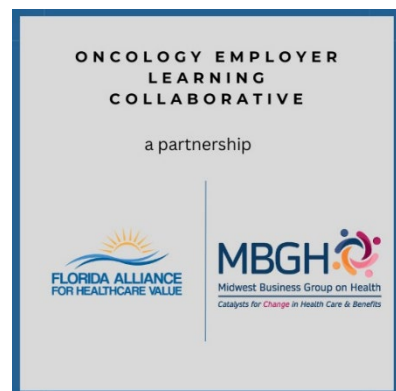
We hope you have been able to attend at least one of the first two sessions of our Oncology Employer Learning Collaborative. We have had great discussions about best practices to improve prevention, screening, early identification of cancer, navigation, care management, survivorship, and return-to-work outcomes.

We have created a very short, five question survey as a follow-up to each of the first two sessions to help us deliver the content most important to you as employers.

If you attended the first session, please click [HERE](#) to respond to the post-session survey.

If you attended the second session, please respond to that post-session survey by clicking [HERE](#). Thank you!

If you were unable to attend and want to see the slides or view the recording or are looking for the resources mentioned during the webinar, please visit our Oncology Learning Collaborative webpage by clicking [HERE](#). We will continue to add information to this webpage.



The third webinar in the series is scheduled for Friday, November 17 at 2:00PM – 3:30PM ET where you will hear insights and approaches to:

- Understand long-standing diagnosis and treatment strategies for cancer and learn about today's newer strategies
- Identify ways to update benefits and plan designs through suggested actions steps
- Determine the role of biomarker testing and what coverage considerations can ensure a patient gets the right drug, at the right time, at the right price and right place
- Hear employer success stories and case studies focused on ways to assist employees in obtaining the best possible diagnosis and treatment

November's session will be hosted by the Midwest Business Group on Health (MBGH). You should have received an updated calendar invite with login details for Zoom. If you did not receive the calendar invite or need it to be re-sent, please contact Lisa Hain at lisa@flhealthvalue.org.

Thank you to our Affiliate Members Genentech, Pfizer, and Merck for supporting this initiative!

LAST CALL TO REGISTER- TODAY IS THE LAST DAY! Mental Health Innovation Summit – Wednesday, November 8 - Thursday, November 9



*Robert "Navy Bob"
Ronscka*

The Florida Alliance is able to offer a unique opportunity to our Employer Members. **Thanks to a newly forged partnership between the Florida Alliance and the Florida Chamber of Commerce, we have received a limited number of guest passes to their Mental Health Innovation Summit** from their Senior VP, Robert Ronscka. These passes will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis. "Navy Bob" is leading the Chamber's effort to work with key stakeholders, like the Florida Alliance, to improve mental health services in Florida.

Through a comprehensive statewide assessment, the participating organizations will identify immediate opportunities for rapid improvements and craft long-term strategies for substantial, lasting change over the next five years, all with the aim of enhancing access to care and amplifying the effectiveness of mental health services.

Wednesday, November 8 | 3:00PM – 7:30PM ET, Welcome Reception begins at 5:30PM on Wednesday and the summit is **Thursday, November 9 | 8:00AM – 4:00PM ET** at GuideWell Innovation Center, 6555 Sanger Road, Orlando, FL 32827.

Please contact Karen van Caulil at karen@flhealthvalue.org for more information and/or if you are interested in attending.

2023 Best Practices in Healthcare Survey, conducted by WTW (formally WillisTowersWatson)



Over 450 employers representing 7.3 million employees responded to the survey, covering an array of topics regarding healthcare cost and delivery. The survey results revealed over two-thirds of employers are focused on managing healthcare plan costs. With an expected 6.4% increase in overall healthcare costs in the year ahead, employers are tasked with identifying solutions that ensure their covered lives obtain timely quality care at a fair price.

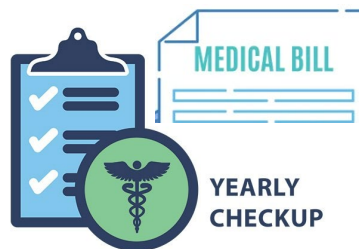
Approximately one-third of respondents indicated they are using lower cost vendors and implementing cost saving programs, with half of the respondents stating they will be doing the same within the next two years. Mental health is another issue on many employers' minds, as nearly two-thirds of respondents are focused on expanding current mental health and emotional well-being benefits.

Employers are also examining solutions to ensure prescription drugs are available at a fair price, particularly with an eye towards biosimilar offerings. To learn more about the survey and insights for employers to consider, click [HERE](#).

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

Patient Charged for Second Visit After Responding to Mental Health Screening Questions

Is this happening to your plan members? A recent [story](#) by NPR highlights what happened when a patient completed a mental health questionnaire during their annual wellness visit that sparked a brief conversation regarding the responses. When the bill came, the patient was surprised to see two charges on the bill, one that included an additional charge related to the very brief discussion about their responses regarding mental health.



After considerable back and forth between the individual, the provider, and the health plan (Cigna), the situation was resolved. However, the article goes on to discuss the challenges many may face when speaking to their doctor and being concerned about surprise billing. Employers should check with their health plan partner to see how this type of situation is being handled. Ideally, there is no additional charge for a brief interaction regarding mental health during an annual visit.

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

RECAP: Employer Member Benefit: WEBINAR – Going Deep on Mental Health Parity

Since the pandemic, mental health has never been more front and center for employer health and benefits strategies. This National Alliance webinar focused on proposed rules and additional guidance on compliance with the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Act set forth by the U.S. Departments of Treasury, Labor, and Health and Human Services.



Click [here](#) to listen to the recording and download the presentation.