



Weekly Bulletin – November 17, 2023



WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK?

Recap: National Alliance Annual Forum and Visit to Capitol Hill



It was a busy few days in Washington, DC! Florida Alliance President and CEO Karen van Caulil traveled there to attend the National Alliance's Board of Governors meeting, the All Coalition Meeting, and then the Annual Forum. The Forum brought together over 300 people from across the country to learn and network with one another and discover effective approaches to managing overall healthcare strategy. Additionally, there was a retirement party for outgoing CEO Mike Thompson and a welcome event for incoming CEO Shawn Gremminger. Attending from the Florida Alliance along with Karen were Florida Alliance Board Chair Rosa Novo, Executive Benefits Director at Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and

Florida Alliance Employer Member Ashley Bacot, Health Plan Architect at RosenSure.

Ashley Bacot participated in the panel session, *Leveling Up on Employees' Expectations*, where the discussion focused on ways employees' expectations of their employer have changed post-pandemic and how employers are meeting these needs by utilizing health and wellbeing programs. Ashley did a great job, as always!



Ashley Bacot seen 2nd from left



Karen moderated the panel session, *Optimizing Innovation for People Centered Outcomes*, during which the new [Vendor Engagement Template on Evaluating People-Centered Design Practices](#) was revealed. Panelists spoke about how becoming more adaptive and less linear in benefits strategies leads to a deeper understanding of how to meet all people where they are on their health journey to achieve the best possible state of total health.

Following the Annual Forum were visits to Capitol Hill. Karen, along with Rosa Novo and other coalition leaders and employers visited with the staff for Senators Schumer, Cassidy, Hassan, Wyden, and Sanders as well as the staff for Representatives Jeffries, Foxx, Scott, and McMorris-Rodgers. These elected officials all serve on the key committees considering health-related

legislation. Discussions were held around five policy topics: 1) PBM reform, 2) high and rising hospital prices, 3) HSA flexibility, 4) ERISA pre-emption, and 5) mental health integration into primary care. It was very apparent to our team that the voice of the employer is very much needed in DC. Rosa did an excellent job of representing employer concerns. As such, the congressional staff learned a lot about the impact proposed legislation will have on employers and their employees.



*Congressman Steube
and Karen van Caulil*

Karen also visited with Congressman Greg Steube (R- FL 17th District) at his invitation. Recently, Karen was a guest columnist for the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*, writing about how Floridians must demand an end to facility fees in health care. Rep. Steube has co-sponsored the FAIR Act to rein in unnecessary healthcare costs and provide transparent billing. In her column, Karen explained the issue and its adverse impact on employers and their families and thanked him for being proactive around this issue.

For more information about the Annual Forum or the Capitol Hill visits, please contact Karen van Caulil at karen@flhealthvalue.org



EMPLOYER MEMBER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, REPORTS, RESOURCES, AND EMPLOYER LEARNING COLLABORATIVES (ELC)

Oncology Employer Learning Collaborative

This afternoon at 2:00PM, we are holding the third webinar in the series. Please contact Lisa Hain at lisa@flhealthvalue.org if you need the calendar invitation with the information needed to connect.

The final session in this series, a culmination of the previous three webinars focusing on employer-directed activities, is scheduled for Friday, December 8th at 3:30PM – 5:00PM (ET).

1. Prevention, Screening, Early Identification, Diagnosis, Second Opinion and Site of Care
2. Navigation, Psychosocial Support, Survivorship and Return to Work
3. Diagnosis, Precision Medicine/Biomarker Testing, Second Opinion and Treatment



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

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



Don't Forget! Cell and Gene Therapies Webinar – Tuesday, November 21, - 11:00AM – 12:00PM ET

This complementary webinar will cover topics such as:

- **What are Cell and Gene Therapies (CGTs)? What is their value?**
- **What are key needs for patient access to CGTs?**
- **What are key market factors driving the need for an affordable CGT solution?**
- **Why did the Jacksonville Police Officers and Firefighters Health Insurance Trust decide to provide coverage for CGTs?**

Our Expert Speakers



Lisa Kallenbach, MD, MPA
Johnson & Johnson



Mark Bailey, Sr.
The Bailey Group



Travis Cummings, MBA
The Bailey Group



Meredith Hunter
Amwins



Joe Morse
OutcomeRx



Randy Wyse
Jacksonville Association
of Firefighters

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

Thank you to Affiliate Member Johnson & Johnson for sponsoring both webinars.





IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

REGISTER TODAY! WE ARE OPENING THE EVENT TO OTHER MEMBERS NEXT WEEK!

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!

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

American Cancer Society Updates Lung Cancer Screening Guidelines

Earlier this month, the American Cancer Society announced big changes to its lung cancer screening guidelines. For most employers, this means a larger percentage of their population will now need screening to have the best chance of catching lung cancer early. **The new**

guideline recommends yearly screening for lung cancer for people aged 50 to 80 years old who smoke or formerly smoked and have a 20-year or greater pack-year history. [New research](#)

shows that the risk of lung cancer for those with a history of smoking continues to increase as they age – regardless of whether they quit or not and when they quit smoking. This change is about guidelines catching up to clinical reality.



Click [HERE](#) to view the American Cancer Society press release and access information about the new guideline.

ACTION ITEM: We Urge You to Respond to the National Alliance “Pulse of the Purchaser” Fall 2023 Survey – DEADLINE: Tuesday, November 28

The National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions is conducting its Fall 2023 *Pulse of the Purchaser* Survey to learn employers’ current and future directions in the areas listed below. Over the past several years, **this survey has highlighted employer key trends in healthcare delivery and payment reform**. The survey takes no more than 15 minutes to complete, and all responses will remain confidential. We use this information to plan our educational and research agenda, so please make time to respond to the survey. **So far there are ZERO responses to the survey from Florida Alliance members!**

Key areas of the survey:

- Workforce environment
- Health strategies (including women’s health, obesity management, mental health, equity)
- Pharmaceutical drug strategies
- Hospital price strategies
- High-cost claim strategies
- Fiduciary strategies
- Potential health reforms



To complete the survey, click [HERE](#).

If you have any issues with accessing or responding to the survey, please contact Amanda Green at agreen@nationalalliancehealth.org

Life Expectancy Gap Between Men and Women Increasing

[Axios](#) recently reported on findings from a newly published research piece in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA) showing that the gap in life expectancy between men and women in the U.S. has increased to levels not seen since 1996. The current life expectancy of American men has dropped to 73.2, compared to 79.1 for women.

Dr. Brandon Yan, the lead author of the study, pointed to several factors influencing the findings, including the opioid epidemic, mental health, and chronic metabolic disease. He added that many of these are preventable, a reminder for employers to continue educating their plan members on their benefits.

Employers should consider these findings when developing future campaigns for their covered members to seek care early rather than later and to do so on a continuous basis.



Medical Practices Continue to Face Overwhelming Regulatory Challenges

The regulatory burden as reported by nine out of ten practices polled through the Medical Group Management Association (MGMA) in 2023 increased. The latest annual regulatory burden [report](#), including input from 350 group practices, identified several prime areas of concern, including prior



authorization, audits and appeals, the Medicare Quality Payment Program (QPP) and requirements around surprise billing and good faith estimates. **Nearly all of those queried in the report indicated that reducing regulatory burden would allow them to reallocate resources to patient care.**

Prior authorizations were the leading contributor according to respondents, with the majority of respondents stating they had hired additional personnel to address them. The findings show there is still a lot of work to be done to address regulatory burden, something employers should keep in mind while reviewing current benefit design and simultaneously reducing barriers to quality care, timely access, and cost.

MGMA's report can be accessed [HERE](#).

We are thankful for the support and guidance of our wonderful employer members! The staff at the Florida Alliance wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving!



The Weekly Bulletin will be back in your inbox on Friday, December 1st!