



Weekly Bulletin – January 26, 2024



WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK?

ACTION ITEM! Request to Support Dental Therapy Bill

Florida Alliance President and CEO Karen van Caulil was in Tallahassee last week meeting with several elected officials and **one of the state representatives asked her if we would support the bill to make dental therapists an approved and reimbursable dental provider level in Florida.** Karen admitted that she was not familiar with dental therapists but quickly learned that they fall between dental hygienists and dentists in the services they are able to provide and would be a key strategy to increase access to dental services in the state. **Florida leads the nation (not in a good way!) in the number of individuals who live in a designated Dental Health Professional Shortage Area. It is estimated that 6 million Floridians live in a shortage area.**

As you know, poor oral health impacts an individual's physical and mental health and can also be life threatening. **Staff review of the issue indicates that dental therapists are a cost-effective way to increase access to needed dental care and can reduce expensive ER visits.**

The bill filed by Representative Linda Chaney can be found [HERE](#).

We have drafted a letter of support for the bill. If you would like your organization to be listed in this letter as a show of support, please email Karen van Caulil at karen@flhealthvalue.org by January 31.

Click [HERE](#) to view the sign-on letter to Representative Chaney.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns!





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

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Annual Meeting – a Virtual Event on Tuesday, March 12, 1:00PM-3:00PM ET

The 40th Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value is a free event open to all our members and offers the opportunity to learn about the important work the Florida Alliance is undertaking to improve the quality and value of health care in Florida including new opportunities to engage in our research and educational activities.

Confirmed speakers for this virtual event include:



Leah Binder, MA, MGA
President and CEO
The Leapfrog Group



Shawn Gremminger, MPP
President and CEO
National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions

Leah and Shawn will speak about the important work the Florida Alliance undertakes with their organizations.

To register for this FREE event, click [HERE](#).

SAVE THE DATE! Annual Conference – Monday, May 6 at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort, Orlando from 9AM – 5PM – Registration opening soon!

We are looking forward to celebrating the Florida Alliance's 40th Anniversary at this year's Annual Conference to be held at the beautiful Rosen Shingle Creek Resort.

We have invited Dr. David Nash to be the keynote speaker for the event and all indications are that he is available and enthusiastic about the opportunity! Dr. Nash has worked with the Florida Alliance over the years on important research projects regarding diabetes and hypertension and has spoken at our past conferences. He is the Chair of Health Policy at Jefferson College of Population Health.



His recently published book “**How COVID Crashed the System: A Guide to Fixing American Health Care**” will be the focus of his talk.

Panel sessions are being finalized on these topics:

Advanced Primary Care is Everything!
The Patient Experience is Key in the Value Equation
When Will the Price Be Right?

Employer Member Benefit – Complimentary Webinars – Compliance Conditioning: A Year in the Life of a Health and Welfare Plan – January 30 and 31, 1:00PM – 2:30PM (2-day series)



Employers sponsoring health and welfare benefit plans face numerous compliance obligations throughout the course of the plan year. To effectively manage organizational risk, employers must maintain compliance with routine annual tasks as well as anticipate and prepare for new requirements. Plan design changes and new regulations may impact employee notices and government disclosures, midyear election change administration, and ongoing maintenance of plan documents and participant communications.

Attend both days of this two-part session to learn more about the essential compliance obligations for employer-sponsored health and welfare benefit plans in the context of the annual life cycle of a plan. From planning for open enrollment to completing government filings, the speakers will review common compliance obligations faced by most plan sponsors and when you can expect to encounter them. At the close of both segments, they will provide time to answer your questions, clarify how key compliance requirements reviewed apply to your employer sponsored plans, and share employer best practices.

This two-day program is approved for 3 hours of recertification credit through the HR Certification Institute and SHRM's Professional Development Credit (PDC) program.

This 2-part webinar series is offered by Florida Alliance Affiliate Member, Gallagher.

To register, click [HERE](#). If you are unable to attend the live session but are interested in the content be sure to register to receive the on-demand recording via email.

For more information on this free event, contact Amy Mullen, Area Senior Vice President, Health & Welfare Consulting, Gallagher, amy_mullen@ajg.com



Employer Member Benefit – Complimentary Webinar – 5 Myths of Obesity Management: Separating Truth from Hype – January 31, 1:00PM – 2:00PM (ET)

Obesity has reached epidemic proportions in the US. Estimates show that nearly half of all Americans will have obesity by 2030, including 1 in 4 who will have severe obesity. Those numbers carry serious implications for Americans’ health – and healthcare costs. The US already spends over a trillion dollars on obesity-related complications every year, and that amount will only grow if we continue down this path.



Employers, health plans, and their partners are considering various strategies to get a handle on obesity and curb cost trends. Some hope that new GLP-1 medications can solve the obesity crisis; others want to shut off access to the pricey drugs completely. Even more folks sit somewhere in between.

Join this upcoming webinar offered by Florida Affiliate Member, Vida, to learn:

- Five common myths of obesity management
- Key facts about GLP-1s and other anti-obesity medications
- How you can take action this year before obesity expenses completely fall off the rails



Click [HERE](#) to register. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Hain at lisa@flhealthvalue.org

Employer Member Benefit – Complimentary Webinar – Sharing Employer Experience on CAA Attestation – February 22, 12:00PM – 12:30PM (ET)

This fiduciary check-in webinar, hosted by the National Alliance, follows up on their November webinar, “CAA Employer Attestation Requirements” which featured a discussion on employer compliance with the No Gag Clause and attestation requirements of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (CAA).

Panelists, including **Florida Alliance President and CEO Karen van Caulil**, will share what employers have done to achieve compliance by the January 1, 2024 deadline and how they will continue to do so for the long term.

PANELISTS



Jamie Greenleaf
TILT



Shawn Gremminger
National Alliance of
Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions



Karen van Caulil, PhD
Florida Alliance for
Healthcare Value

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please reach out to Karen van Caulil at karen@flhealthvalue.org to share your experience with the CAA attestation. All information shared will be held in confidence but will be very useful in Karen's preparation for this important webinar.

To register, click [HERE](#).



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Justice Department Drops Appeal in Copay Assistance Case

The US Justice Department has dropped its appeal of a September ruling by a US District Court regarding copay assistance from pharmaceutical companies.

Insurance companies and pharmacy benefit managers now have to follow a rule in which copay assistance that patients receive from pharmaceutical manufacturers counts toward deductibles. **As a result, copay accumulator programs, in which any copay assistance would not count, or accumulate, toward patient deductibles, can only be applied to brand name drugs that have generic equivalents available.**



To learn more, read the full article in *Formulary Watch* by clicking [HERE](#).