



## Weekly Bulletin – May 9, 2025

This Weekly Bulletin is a benefit of your organization's Employer Membership in the Florida Alliance and is meant to **ONLY** be shared within Employer Member organizations unless approval has been given by the Florida Alliance CEO.



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

#### Florida Alliance 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference Attendee Materials

Thank you to our valued Employer Members for joining us at this year's 32nd Annual Conference which was held at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando. It was a pleasure to see so many of you in attendance, and we missed those who were unable to join us.

A special thank you to Rosa Novo, Administrative Benefits Director at Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Chair of the Florida Alliance Board of Directors, and Nancy Bolton, Director of Risk & Benefits Management at The School District of Palm Beach County, for serving as panelists. Your insights and leadership helped make the conference a meaningful and impactful experience for all.



**Congratulations to Patriot Rail on receiving our *Harris Rosen "Most Engaged Employer" Award*.** This year was the first time we gave this award in Harris Rosen's honor. The award is given to the Employer Member that has significantly participated in our research and educational activities and has implemented changes in their benefit plan as a result.

Susan McBroom, Director of Human Resources at Patriot Rail and Florida Alliance Board At-Large Director, graciously accepted the award during the conference luncheon.

Patriot Rail's commitment to employee health and engagement is truly commendable. Thank you very much for supporting our mission and vision!

**Matthew Davies, Founder and Board of Directors member at The CORE Foundation, received this year's *Dr. Jack Mahoney "Healthcare Hero" Award*.** The Florida Alliance Board of Directors recognized Matt's extraordinary spirit, determination, and success in significantly improving the health and well-being of Floridians after having endured incredible challenges following a tragic accident that left him paralyzed from the neck down.



Matt had been the United Healthcare CEO for Florida at the time of the accident and was actively involved with the Florida Alliance in developing the Central Florida Regional Health Information Organization.

Along with his wife Melodie, Matt started CORE (Center of Recovery and Exercise) and The CORE Foundation. The CORE Foundation is dedicated to supporting individuals with spinal cord injuries and other neurological conditions by providing financial assistance and education to help them engage in activity-based recovery programs. The Foundation concentrates its efforts in two key areas: offering financial grants to individuals for participation in approved

activity-based training programs that are typically not covered by insurance and supporting educational and recreational initiatives aimed at the paralysis community to enhance access to essential services and improve overall quality of life.



*Left to right: Nicholas Abrahams, MNM, President and CEO, Winter Park Health Foundation John Rivers, CEO, 4 Rivers and 4Roots*

### **Fireside Chat: Food as Medicine**

John Rivers and Nick Abrahams kicked off our event by sharing insights on how food is critical to health and wellbeing as well as for the treatment of health conditions. Their respective organizations are dedicated to researching the benefits of Food as Medicine to build a bridge between soil and human health.

With a focus on advancing whole-person care, the 4Roots Culinary Health Institute emphasizes education, services, and clinical programs while examining the impact of nutrition on health, from seed germination to measurable outcomes.

In the attendee materials, you will find a document that identifies actions employers can take to incorporate Food as Medicine into benefit design and outreach.

### **The “Pink Tax”: Inequities and Financial Burdens in Women’s Health**

Our Women’s Health panelists shared the work they are doing to further the health of women as well as their passion for the topic. Karen van Caulil moderated the panel and explained that women historically consume more healthcare dollars than their male counterparts, in part due to being charged higher prices but that there are other reasons that women’s health care is more expensive than men’s health care – later diagnosis, inappropriate treatment, and more serious complications. Attendees explored the concept of this “pink tax” and examined its impact on women and learned strategies to ensure benefit designs and healthcare programs offered equitable support.



*Left to right: Karen van Caulil, PhD (Moderator), President and CEO, Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value, Nancy Bolton, MPA, Director, Risk & Benefits Management, The School District of Palm Beach County, Florida, Rocio Diaz, MBA, Director, Healthcare Market, Florida and Puerto Rico, and Health Equity Ambassador, Genentech, and Leah Tribus, BSN, RN, IBCLC, Senior Director, Clinical and Strategic Partnerships, The Lactation Network*

## The Future of Employer-Sponsored Health Insurance: Is There One?



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

In Shawn Gremminger's thought-provoking session, attendees gained insight into how market distortions and failures affect the commercial health insurance market, and the challenges employers face in providing employer sponsored healthcare coverage.

Shawn explained how employers can help restore functional markets for hospitals and prescription drugs, and why proactive purchasing and advocacy for policy change are crucial. Additionally, Shawn discussed how federal and state policy changes could either support or hinder employers in delivering high-quality, affordable care to employees and plan members.

Shawn's talk was a great lead in for the health policy session that was held in the afternoon.

## Engaging in Health Policy and Advocacy to Drive Value in Health Care

Attendees learned how employers are engaging with state and federal elected officials to advocate for health policy reforms designed to enhance transparency, reduce costs, improve quality, and establish a more equitable environment for employer-sponsored health care. Several important resources were shared that can be accessed in the attendee materials.

As you can tell, our panelists had a good time talking about their experience and encouraging others to join them!



*Left to right: Bret Jackson (Moderator), President and CEO, Economic Alliance for Michigan, Claire Brockbank, MS, Director of Policy and Strategy, 32BJ Benefit Funds, Russell DuBose, Vice President of Human Resources, Phifer, Inc., and Rosa Novo, Administrative Benefits Director, Miami-Dade County Public Schools*



*Left to right: Donovan Ryckis, CEO and Co-Founder, Ethos Benefits, Chelsea Ryckis, President and Co-Founder, Ethos Benefits, and Bryan Orr, President and Co-Founder, Kalos Services*

## Beyond Blind Trust: A Fiduciary Framework for Managing Employer Healthcare Programs

Affiliate Member Ethos Benefits explained how employers fulfilling their required fiduciary role also presents an opportunity for plan sponsors to innovate and more effectively manage their healthcare expenditures and outcomes. Chelsea and Donovan Ryckis shared key resources that can be found in the attendee materials for how to drive more value out of healthcare benefits. Bryan Orr with Kalos Services shared his best practice strategies during the session.



## Future Health: AI's Role in Population Health and Cost Management

Karen moderated this panel session as well with three experts in the artificial intelligence (AI) space. They discussed how AI currently serves as a valuable resource for employers and plan sponsors in managing population health and controlling healthcare costs, enabling the development of targeted programs and services that address the current and emerging needs of employees and beneficiaries.

The panelists wrapped up our event with a thought-provoking discussion on the future of AI in health care.



*Left to right: Karen van Caulil, PhD (Moderator), President and CEO, Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value, Kendall Cortelyou, PhD, Professor and Director of the School of Global Health Management and Informatics, University of Central Florida, Jim Arnold, CPA, CME, CFE, Founder and CEO, finHealth, and Chuck Wood, Co-Founder, mode.life LLC*

**Thank you to Rosen Hotels & Resorts for their generous support of the Florida Alliance in making the Rosen Centre Hotel venue possible for us.**



**Thank You to our Generous Sponsors**



ETHOS  
BENEFITS



**Thank You to our Supporting Partners**



Click [HERE](#) to access the attendee materials from the Annual Conference. New content has been added this week, including follow-up materials related to the conference sessions.

If you provided your information on the sign-in sheet for SHRM credit, your certificate will be emailed to the address you listed as soon as we receive them from SHRM, typically within 2–3 weeks. If you have any questions, please contact Hannah McChesney at [hannah@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:hannah@flhealthvalue.org).

Please contact Karen van Caulil at [karen@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:karen@flhealthvalue.org) if you have any questions.

## Employer Member Benefit: Employer Guide and Insights for Oncology Management



On Wednesday, May 7, Florida Alliance President and CEO Karen van Caulil, along with Rosa Novo, Administrative Benefits Director for Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Board Chair of the Florida Alliance, visited the Houston Business Coalition on Health.

The following day, Thursday, May 8, they traveled to the Dallas/Fort Worth Business Group on Health to meet with our sister coalitions and their employer members. During these visits, they presented the updated [Employer Guide and Insights for Oncology Management](#).



This initiative was funded by Affiliate Members Merck, Genentech, and Pfizer. Without their support, this guide would not be possible.

To view the Placemat, click [HERE](#).

Please contact Karen van Caulil at [karen@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:karen@flhealthvalue.org) if you have any questions.

## Employer Member Benefit: Beyond Cost Shifting: Market Power as the Key Driver of Hospital Prices Webinar – Tuesday, May 20, 1:00PM – 2:00PM EDT



ERIC and Charm Economics will be presenting ERIC's new paper, *Beyond Cost Shifting: Market Power as the Key Driver of Hospital Prices*. This analysis explores the validity of the cost-shifting hypothesis and assesses the primary factors influencing hospital pricing within employer-sponsored health plans. While traditional narratives suggest that hospitals offset lower public reimbursement rates by increasing prices for private payers, a growing body of economic research, including studies from the RAND Corporation, the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), the Kaiser Family Foundation, and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), indicate that market power and provider consolidation are the predominant drivers of negotiated hospital rates.

To register for the webinar, click [HERE](#).

Please contact Karen van Caulil at [karen@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:karen@flhealthvalue.org) if you have any questions.

## Employer Member Benefit: Save the Date! National Alliance Strategic Leadership Summit – June 9-11, 2025



The National Alliance will host its Strategic Leadership Summit at the Westin Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas in Irving, TX, from June 9-11, 2025.

On Monday, June 9, from 12:00 PM – 5:30 PM EDT, **the National Alliance will feature a Pharmacy Benefit Management (PBM) Hub, designed to equip employers and plan sponsors with the tools needed to take control of their pharmacy benefits and drive meaningful change.**

Registration for the **Summit** and **PBM Hub** must be completed separately. The National Alliance is allocating 10 complimentary tickets to Florida Alliance employer members for admission to the Leadership Summit using the code **NAPURCHASERPASS25**. This offer is first-come, first-served! If you need additional help registering, please contact Lisa Hain at [Lisa@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:Lisa@flhealthvalue.org).

Additionally, if you register for the Summit, you will receive one complimentary ticket to attend the PBM Hub, using the code **PBMPURCHASER25**.

To register for the Summit, click [HERE](#) and/or to register for the PBM Hub, click [HERE](#).

If you plan to attend the PBM Hub and/or Summit, please let Karen van Caulil know as she will be attending these events. She can be reached at [karen@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:karen@flhealthvalue.org)

## Employer Member Benefit: Affordable Access to GLP-1 Obesity Medications: Strategies to Guide Market Action and Policy Solutions Webinar



On Tuesday, April 22, ICER hosted a webinar to discuss potential market strategies and federal policy solutions presented in its latest white paper, *Affordable Access to GLP-1 Obesity Medications: Strategies to Guide Market Action and Policy Solutions*. The webinar focused on the growing tension between the promising health benefits of GLP-1 obesity medications and the significant financial challenges associated with their widespread use. The discussion explored various policy and market-based approaches for improving access to these medications while managing long-term affordability and sustainability concerns.

The white paper highlights the growing tension between the significant health benefits offered by new obesity medications and the substantial financial impact these treatments may have on payers. ICER examines a range of market and policy strategies aimed at addressing this challenge, evaluating the relative strengths, limitations, and potential unintended consequences associated with each. Additionally, the paper explores how combining approaches, either within insurance systems or through external partnerships with stand-alone weight management providers—could influence access, cost, and outcomes in obesity care.

To view the recorded webinar, click [HERE](#). To access the presentation slides, click [HERE](#).

To read the white paper, click [HERE](#).

Please contact Hannah McChesney at [hannah@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:hannah@flhealthvalue.org) if you have any questions.



## THE LEAPFROG GROUP

### The Leapfrog Group – Spring Safety Grades Released

On Thursday, May 1, 2025, The Leapfrog Group, a national independent nonprofit dedicated to patient safety, announced the release of its Spring 2025 Hospital Safety Grade. This biannual assessment assigns letter grades of “A,” “B,” “C,” “D,” or “F” to all general hospitals in the United States, evaluating how well they safeguard patients from medical errors, accidents, injuries, and infections.



**In Florida, 191 hospitals were graded and 70 earned an “A,” 57 earned a “B,” 57 earned a “C,” 4 earned a “D,” and 3 earned an “F.” Overall, Florida came in as 14<sup>th</sup> of 48 states ranked with 36.6% of the hospitals in Florida earning an “A” grade.**

“We applaud the hospitals in Florida that have earned an A Hospital Safety Grade. Congratulations to the staff, volunteers, leaders, Board and all the clinicians who work so hard for their patients,” said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group.

**How did the hospitals in your market do? To access the Spring 2025 Hospital Safety Grades, click [HERE](#).**

As you may have heard, a lawsuit has been filed against The Leapfrog Group on behalf of five hospitals in Palm Beach County requesting that The Leapfrog Group suppress their grades on the safety score website. We have been asked not to respond to any questions or inquiries from anyone who reaches out to us. We request that you do not respond to any outreach as well and that you direct all inquiries, questions, and concerns to Karen Jupiter [kjupiter@leapfrog-group.org](mailto:kjupiter@leapfrog-group.org).

Please contact Ashley Tait-Dinger at [ashley@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:ashley@flhealthvalue.org) if you have any questions.



## NATIONAL INVOLVEMENT OF FL ALLIANCE TEAM & EMPLOYER MEMEBERS

### NCDR Public Reporting Advisory Work Group



**Congratulations to Florida Alliance Vice President Ashley Tait-Dinger on her re-appointment to the National Cardiovascular Data Registry’s (NCDR) Public Reporting Advisory Work Group.**

Her continued selection reflects a strong commitment to advancing cardiovascular care and improving patient outcomes. Through this role, Ashley will contribute to the NCDR’s mission of promoting excellence in heart health by guiding transparent, evidence-based public reporting practices that support quality improvement across the field.

The NCDR is a suite of clinical data registries developed and maintained by the American College of Cardiology. The NCDR collects and analyzes data from hospitals and other healthcare providers to

improve cardiovascular care quality, support clinical decision-making, and promote patient-centered outcomes. The NCDR helps providers track performance, benchmark against national standards, and identify opportunities for improvement in treating heart conditions such as heart attacks, heart failure, atrial fibrillation, and more. It also supports research, public reporting, and policy development related to cardiovascular health.

Please contact Ashley Tait-Dinger at [ashley@flhealthvalue.org](mailto:ashley@flhealthvalue.org) if you have any questions

**Wishing all mothers a joyful and meaningful Mother's Day filled with appreciation, love, and well-deserved recognition.**



**The Central Florida Health Care Coalition, Incorporated d/b/a Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value is providing this information to our employer members solely in our capacity as a 501c3 nonprofit education organization and not as advice in any capacity. The information that is not in the public domain is private and confidential.**