# 2023 Annual Report



Greater Philadelphia

Business Coalition on Health

Employers Collaborating to Advance Healthcare Value in Southeastern Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey and Delaware



## **About GPBCH**

Established in 2012, the Greater Philadelphia Business Coalition on Health (GPBCH) is a membership organization open to any employer that is corporately based or that has a significantly employed population in our service area. The Coalition's service area includes the Philadelphia five-county region (Philadelphia, Bucks, Montgomery, Chester, and Delaware counties), Southern New Jersey (Camden, Burlington, Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland, Atlantic and Cape May counties), and Delaware (New Castle, Kent and Sussex counties). GPBCH also offers affiliate memberships to organizations that do not participate as employers but have an interest in supporting the Coalition's mission.

Our mission is to increase the value of health benefit spending for the region's employers. We do this by improving workforce and community health, increasing healthcare quality and safety, and reducing healthcare costs. The Coalition represents employer interests in working with health plans, healthcare providers, benefits consultants, suppliers and other system stakeholders to address population health priorities and to ensure that when healthcare is needed it is accessible, affordable, equitable, high-quality, and safe.





### Message from the President & Chair of the Board



### **NEIL I. GOLDFARB** PRESIDENT AND CEO

On behalf of the entire staff of the Greater Philadelphia Business Coalition on Health I am pleased to share with you our Annual Report for 2023. Putting together the content for this report reminds us of how much we have been able to accomplish, as well as all the opportunities and hard work that still lie ahead. Our organization exists to support and serve the needs of our region's employers. While I am very proud of all that we have done to drive transparency of quality, safety, and price information, and to promote best practices for benefit design, I also recognize the critical role we play in helping employers to advance workforce and community health. Increasingly I have come to believe that the best thing employers can do to bend their cost curves is to advance a culture of health within their organization, and prevent chronic diseases that drive so much of care utilization and cost. Our work addressing best practices for preventing and managing diabetes, obesity, hypertension and other cardiovascular diseases is therefore critical. Employers cannot in isolation solve all of the health and healthcare challenges they face, but, in working with other employers and affiliate members of GPBCH we know they can have a significant impact. I want to thank all of our members for their support, not only through dues, but also through attending programs, contributing ideas, sharing best practices, and working with us to drive improvement. I especially appreciate the guidance and support provided by our Board of Directors. If you are a GPBCH member, I hope you will share in our pride and sense of accomplishment as you read through the Annual Report. And, if not yet a member, I hope we will be talking soon!



### MARSHA GREENE-JONES CHAIR OF THE BOARD

It is my pleasure to continue to serve as the Board Chair for the Greater Philadelphia Business Coalition on Health, and to partner with my fellow Board members in making sure our great organization stays mission-focused and supports the needs of employers. Although we have emerged from the worst of the COVID pandemic, the nature of work has changed dramatically, and as employers we have increased concern about the mental health of our workers and our communities. While employer expectations regarding return to office-based work have many employees feeling stressed, others, especially those in positions that are still largely virtual, are experiencing social isolation and depression. Either the prevalence of mental health concerns is increasing or our recognition of these issues is improving - or both. We realize there is more to mental health management than offering an EAP, but we are still struggling to mobilize our existing resources, fill gaps, and address health equity, staffing shortages and access difficulties in the mental health care system. I rely on GPBCH as a valuable source of information on how I can address these challenges. The Coalition offers not only high-quality education programs with national experts, but also resources through our National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions, and the ability for me to speak with colleagues from throughout the region to learn about their approaches and identify best practices. I thank my fellow Board members, the Coalition staff, and all of the employer and affiliate members who have helped me, as a benefits professional, help our workers thrive and build a culture of health for the City of Philadelphia.

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## **GPBCH Staff**





NEIL GOLDFARB President & CEO

JILL HUTT Vice President of Member Services



ERIC CROFT Director of Operations



TANIKA SMITH Director of Program Development and Communication



MARTHA ROMEY Project Director



RAY FABIUS, MD Consulting Medical Director

## **Board of Directors**

- Marsha Greene-Jones, Deputy Human Resources Director, City of Philadelphia (Board Chair)
- Mark Angelo, MD, President & CEO, Delaware Valley ACO
- Samantha Boyd, Benefits Manager, Five Below
- Sharon Castillo, Director, Plan Administration, Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- Edgar Chou, MD, Enterprise Medical Director Employee Population Health & Value Based Care, Thomas Jefferson University
- Maureen Clancy, Vice President of Human Resources, Comcast NBCUniversal
- Michelle Denault, Senior Benefits Administrator, Wawa
- Aileen Espiritu, Benefits Manager, Essity North America
- Lorna Haley, Occupational Health Nurse, SEPTA
- James Miller, Executive Director, Specialty Business, Aetna
- April Reilly, Director, Health Care Improvement Foundation
- James Rhodes, Deputy County Administrator, Camden County
- Peggy Schubert, Area Vice President, Gallagher
- James Startare, Vice President of Benefits, Aramark
- Pam Teufel, Senior Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer, Main Line Health
- Marnie Vaughan, Vice President of Human Resources, Inframark



## Member Organizations

(Membership as of January 2024)

QualTek

**TD Bank** 

**Toll Brothers** 

Virtua Health

Woods Services

YMCA Delaware

**Utz Quality Foods** 

Truveris

Wawa

**Resources for Human Development** 

Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority

Teamsters Health & Welfare Fund of Philadelphia

\*Premier Members

**Thomas Jefferson University & Hospitals** 

**Veolia Water Technologies & Solutions** 

**Tioga Diabetic Optical Laboratories** 

School District of Philadelphia

Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young

State of Delaware

## **Employer**

**Alliance Cancer Specialists** AmeriGas Aramark **Ballard Spahr Beebe Healthcare** Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A)\* **Bucks County Community College** Camden County Cencora **Center City District** Children's Hospital of Philadelphia ChristianaCare City of Philadelphia City of Wilmington Comcast NBCUniversal\* Community College of Philadelphia Day & Zimmermann **Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health** 

Essity **Five Below** Independence Blue Cross Inframark J&J Snack Foods **JEVS Human Services** Johnson & Johnson Lincoln Financial Group Main Line Health MedRisk Merck and Co.\* **MJH Life Sciences** Multiple Sclerosis Association of America National Comprehensive Cancer Network **PAISBOA Health Benefit Trust** Pfizer\* Philadelphia Gas Works **Public Health Management Corporation** 

## Affiliate

- Eli Lilly and Company **Employer Direct Healthcare** Gallagher Garner Health Genentech Health Advocate Health Care Improvement Foundation HealthNEXT Healthshare Exchange of Souheastern Pennsylvania **Highmark Blue Shield Hinge Health** Homestead Smart Health Plans Independence Blue Cross Kelly Benefits Strategies Lockton Companies Marsh McLennan Agency
- MedWorks Mercer Moderna Noom Novo Nordisk **Otsuka America Pharmaceuticals** Primasun Progyny Ramp Health **Rittenhouse Benefits** Sandoz Sanofi **Tandigm Health TFG Partners** Tria Health United Concordia Dental WellSpark Health WellWorks For You

Abbvie Accolade Aetna Alliant Insurance Services Aon Archetype Solutions Group **Boehringer Ingelheim** Buck **Businessolver** Capital Rx Ciba Health **Coherus BioSciences** Color Health **Conner Strong & Buckelew** Dario Health **Delaware Valley ACO** 

#### WWW.GPBCH.ORG | Pg. 5

## Working Together to Improve Population Health

As the purchasers of nearly half of the nation's healthcare, employers have the ability to hold the system more accountable for improving quality and controlling utilization and cost – but only when they work collectively to influence care. GPBCH represents 750,000 lives in the local market and 1.5 million lives nationally, and is one of 40 business coalitions that collaborate through the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions to influence national policy, and to share expertise and best practices to improve population health and drive healthcare value.

### **Coalition Initiatives**

GPBCH's Officers and Board of Directors set the Coalition agenda with input from interest groups that are open to all members. Coalition key initiatives and clinical areas of focus driving healthcare quality and value include:

- promoting value-based benefit design
- national thought leadership on diabetes, obesity and hypertension
- developing tools to improve employee health and well-being
- oncology care
- specialty pharmaceuticals
- mental health
- women's health
- health equity

GPBCH collaborates with members and healthcare stakeholder partners to support employer engagement in population health improvement in the workforce and the community. We do this by driving initiatives to improve healthcare value in quality and safety, chronic disease management and prevention. Examples of GPBCH population health initiatives include:

- Partnering with the CDC Foundation to develop an employer guide that identifies best practices for managing hypertension in the workforce.
- Promoting the Fair Price initiative with the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions to help employer purchasers utilize transparency tools to achieve fair price for hospital services.
- Driving transparency of quality and safety by achieving 80% hospital participation in the 2023 Leapfrog Hospital Survey in southeastern Pennsylvania and Delaware.

 Working with Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) to increase awareness and implementation of the National Diabetes Prevention Program (NDPP) among Delaware employers.



Employer Guide on Hypertension

Fair Price Initiative

## Educational Programs



GPBCH hosts in-person and virtual education programs for members and the community. These programs provide actionable information focused on the advancement of workforce health improvement and value-based healthcare.

### **ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The 2023 GPBCH Annual Conference, *Driving Toward Value: Step on the Gas!*, focused on key strategies for employers to consider in their quest for greater value from their health benefits spend. Keynote speaker Dr. Mark Fendrick, Director of the V-BID Center at University of Michigan, urged employers to promote high-value services and increase health equity.



Key Note Speaker, Dr. Mark Fendrick



**Employer Member Panel** 



Members and other attendees engaged in conference sessions.



GPBCH members networking and visiting exhibits at the conference.

### **WELLNESS SUMMIT**

The annual GPBCH Wellness Summit held in September covered topics important to employers that included the latest thinking on long COVID, advancing health equity, sleep and wellbeing, improving mental health in the workplace, and the impact of diabetes self-management.



### **Educational Programs**

(Continued)

### **ONCOLOGY SUMMIT**

The Oncology Management Summit, *Best Practices Towards Achieving Value in Cancer Care*, addressed topics on genomics and personalized care, use of biosimilars, and how to identify high-quality providers. Attendees learned about best practices for prevention, care coordination, steerage toward high-quality care, and pharmacy benefit design.



### **EMPLOYER ONLY FORUMS AND MONTHLY WEBINARS**

GPBCH also hosts employer only forums to give members the opportunity to interact with peers to discuss innovative solutions to control costs of benefits and improve the health and productivity of their employee populations. In addition, monthly educational webinars focus on critical issues and best practices to support a healthy workforce. 2023 webinar topics included:

- Implementing Actions to Help Employees
  Quit Smoking
- Pharmacy Trends: Strategies Employers Should Consider to Control Costs
- Biology of Obesity
- Employer Resources for CPR and AED Training
- Legal and Regulatory Update for Health Benefits and Wellness

- Healthcare Quality, Safety and Price Transparency
- Raising the Bar for High-Quality Mental Health
- Science is Finally Catching Up to Chronic Pain
- Diabetes and Obesity Prevention in the Workforce
- Health and Benefits Design:
  Recommendations to Address Hypertension

## Recognizing Innovation and Leadership

#### **GPBCH HEALTH BENEFITS INNOVATION AWARDS**

At the Annual Conference, GPBCH recognized two members with the Health Benefits Innovation Award, City of Wilmington and Health Promotion Council, and three members with Honorable Mention, State of Delaware, Health Advocate and MJH Life Sciences. The GPBCH award seeks to recognize members who have implemented innovative health and well-being management programs or benefit design changes in order to advance the science of health benefits management.



2023 Health Benefits Innovation Award Winners



### Recognizing Innovation and Leadership (Continued)



GPBCH Leapfrog Quality and Safety Award Winners

### GPBCH LEAPFROG QUALITY AND SAFETY AWARDS

GPBCH and Health Care Improvement Foundation hosted the second annual regional Leapfrog Quality and Safety Awards in April recognizing twelve hospitals and one ambulatory surgery center (ASC) in the region for performance excellence based on the 2022 Leapfrog Surveys and Hospital Safety Grade results.

## Legislative and Policy Work

GPBCH has cultivated relationships with local and national legislators and groups, such as The ERISA Industry Committee (ERIC), that advocate on behalf of employers. Through these relationships, GPBCH keeps employer members informed on benefit policy and works on issues that serve the interests of employers who provide healthcare benefits.

Examples of GPBCH policy work include:

- Site Neutral Payments
- Drug Prices
- PBM and Hospital Transparency
- Protecting ERISA

Pictured right with the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions, Neil Goldfarb and GPBCH Board Member, Sharon Castillo participated in the National Alliance Capital Hill visit in Washington, D.C. in November.



## **Collaborative Partnerships to Advance Healthcare Value**

To support the GPBCH mission, Coalition staff and members engage with many organizations locally and nationally to represent employers' interests in driving improvement in population health and advancing health benefits value.

**LOCALLY**, GPBCH collaborates with American Diabetes Association, Health Care Improvement Foundation, Get Healthy Philly, Health Promotion Council, HealthShare Exchange, Live Healthy PA, Delaware Health and Social Services, Delaware Health Information Network, Delaware State Chamber of Commerce, Delaware SHRM, and Chamber of Commerce of Southern New Jersey (CCSNJ).



American Diabetes Association

Tanika Smith, David Glatter (GPBCH Volunteer) and Neil Goldfarb participate in the American Diabetes Association Step Out Walk in Philadelphia.



**Chamber of Commerce of Southern New Jersey** Neil Goldfarb participated as a guest speaker to discuss the climate of healthcare benefits costs and the work GPBCH does at the CCSNJ Health Issues Committee Meeting.

**NATIONALLY**, GPBCH collaborates with National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions, The Leapfrog Group, Employee Benefits Research Institute, Integrated Benefits Institute, ERISA Industry Committee, Get the Medications Right Institute, Coalition Against Surprise Medical Billing, CDC Foundation, American Journal of Managed Care, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and Choosing Wisely.



Pictured: Leah Binder (center), Leapfrog Group, Jill Hutt (right), GPBCH, with Leapfrog Top Hospital Award winner Jefferson Einstein Montgomery Hospital. The Leapfrog Group

GPBCH is Regional Leader for The Leapfrog Group, a leading national advocate for improving healthcare transparency of quality and safety information for hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers.







### Delaware Health and Social Services

Jill Hutt and Wendy Bailey (DHSS) participate in the Delaware SHRM Statewide Annual Conference in Delaware.





#### **Employers Health**

Through an agreement with Employers Health, an employer-led, national group purchasing organization for pharmacy benefits, GPBCH employer members can access PBM and other services at affordable pricing.

#### American Journal of Managed Care

GPBCH has contributed articles and podcasts on diabetes, obesity, oncology, migraine and value-based care to the American Journal of Managed Care, a leading peerreviewed journal.





## Networking and Events

In October, GPBCH hosted its first member Fall Soiree at the iconic Comcast Technology Center in Philadelphia. Members enjoyed a casual evening of peer to peer networking, food and fun at the memorable mixer.

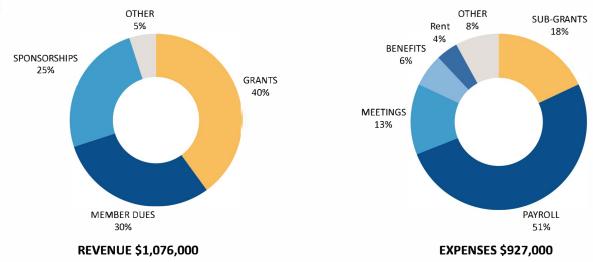


GPBCH participated in the 100 Black Men of Delaware MAN UP Health Fair in December. The event featured free health screenings and education on preventive care and chronic disease management. GPBCH affiliate member, LeVar Johnson from Novo Nordisk offered remarks during the program.





## Fiscal Year 2023 Finances



GPBCH is recognized by the US Internal Revenue Service as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. The Coalition operates on a July to June fiscal year. GPBCH is registered as a charitable organization with the United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey (#52988). To make a donation, please visit www.GPBCH.org.

"Employers want to ensure that they have access to local and national solutions and resources to build upon and add value to their employee benefits programs. GPBCH membership provides me the opportunity to network and learn from like-minded employers in the region to identify what I consider essential groundwork for future healthcare value for employees." Benefits Manager, Five Below



Serving Southeastern Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey and Delaware