



News Notes

• www.LVBCH.com •

Quarterly News & Updates

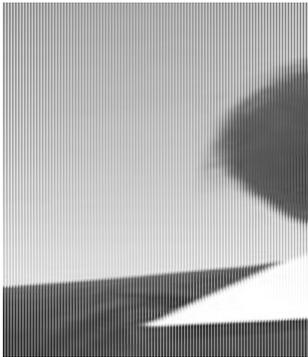
During this extremely difficult situation with the coronavirus (COVID-19), nothing is more important to the Lehigh Valley Business Coalition on Healthcare than the health and safety of our members, your employees, your families, our community, and our Country.

Over the last several months, Coalition Operations and Purchasing Programs have remained committed to providing full services to members. Additionally, we continue to celebrate the Coalition's 40th Anniversary through online educational events.

Please enjoy this latest e-Version of the LVBCH Quarterly News Notes!

[Visit our Website](#)

Welcome Message



Celeste Coffey
Formerly of FL Smidth
Former Chair, LVBCH Board of Directors

In honor of LVBCH's 40th Anniversary, we will be featuring Welcome Messages from past LVBCH Board Members.

This issue features a message from former LVBCH Board of Director Chair, Celeste Coffey. Read our September 2020 interview with Celeste for her thoughts on her time with the Coalition, the challenges faced then and now, COVID-19 and the quarantine, her biggest concerns for benefits managers, and how employers can help to lower their health care costs.

[Read the Full Interview](#)

Welcome 2020 New Members

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our new Coalition members - We encourage all members to get involved and participate in Coalition activities!

- ArtsQuest
- Central Columbia School District
- Commonwealth Charter Academy
- Coordinated Health
- HENRY The Dentist
- Muve Health
- Penn State Health St. Joseph
- Pennsylvania House of Representatives
- Redner's Markets, Inc
- UPMC Health Plan

[View All LVBCH Members Here](#)

LVBCH 40th Anniversary



To continue our celebration of the Coalition's 40th Anniversary, we will be presenting the following virtual webinar/speaker series:

LVBCH 40th Anniversary Webinar Series

BLEED OUT

Documentary Screening
REACTION PANEL

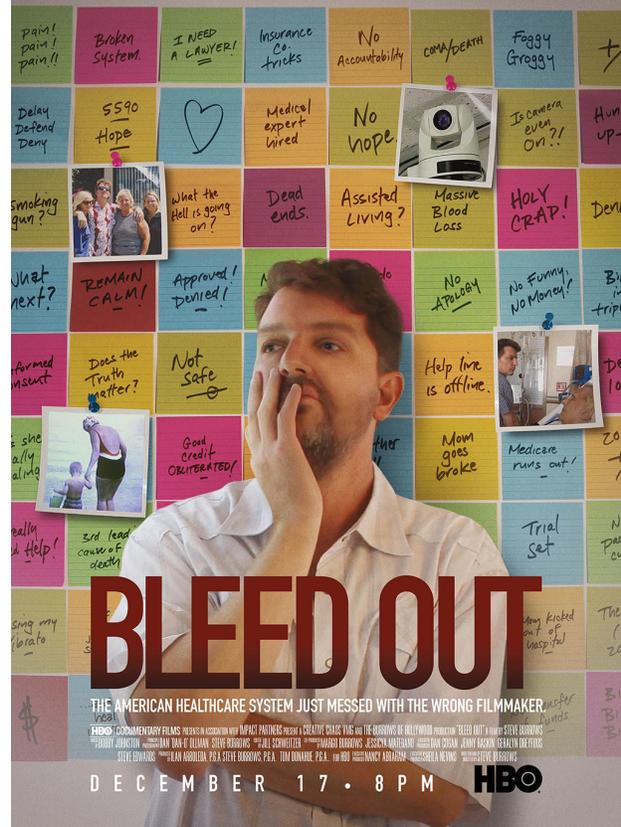
With Steve Burrows, Director

Tuesday , October 6, 2020
Time: 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

[Register Now](#)



FIRST HE GOT MAD. THEN HE GOT HIS CAMERA.



Steve Burrows, Director



Leah Binder,
The Leapfrog Group



David Mayer, MD
MedStar



Sharon Castillo,
Presbyterian Board of Pensions

[Read Our Interview with Director Steve Burrows](#)

HEALTHCARE POLICY: TO THE 2020 ELECTION & BEYOND

With Scott Wham, NAHU

Tuesday, October 13, 2020
12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

[Register Now](#)



Thank You! LVBCH 40th Anniversary Sponsors

Premier Sponsors



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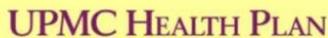
Geisinger
Health Plan



Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors

ASR Media, ELMC Rx, Sanofi

Upcoming Events

NOW AVAILABLE - ON DEMAND WEBINARS
Register to start watching at any time!



September 2020
COVID-19 Impact on Utilization and Health Outcomes
LVBEH Webinar



September 2020
COVID-19 Impact on Mental Health and Substance Abuse
LVBEH Webinar



COVID-19 Impact on
Utilization and Health
Outcomes

Watch Now

View Presentation Slides

COVID-19 Impact on
Mental Health and
Substance Abuse

Watch Now

View Presentation Slides

WEBINAR FOR BROKERS & CONSULTANTS

With WellDyne

Tuesday, October 20, 2020
12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

Register Now



ONLINE EVENT Introduction to the New Pennsylvania Health Insurance Exchange

Co-Sponsored with
CPBGH, GPBGH, PBGHPA

Thursday, October 29, 2020
8:30 am - 9:30 a.m.

*Select the image to view
the flyer and additional
information.*

Register Now

ONLINE EVENT Introduction to the New Pennsylvania Health Insurance Exchange

Open enrollment for the **NEW Pennsylvania State Health Insurance Exchange (Pennie)** is here! In 2019, Pennsylvania enacted legislation that calls for the state to establish its own health insurance exchange that will be operational in time for the 2021 plan year. The exchange will be run under the direction of Pennsylvania Health Insurance Exchange Authority (PHIEA) and open enrollment for the 2021 plan year will begin **November 1, 2020**.

Join us to learn important details about the exchange, including:

1. Who is eligible to enroll
2. What the process looks like for people currently covered by Healthcare.gov
3. Who receives financial assistance
4. How to enroll
5. The importance of having coverage
6. The role of brokers in the distribution process, and much more

Speaker: Zachary Sherman, Executive Director for PHIEA

Date: Thursday, October 29, 2020
Time: 8:30 am – 9:30 am

Cost: There is no cost to participate in this event. Registration is required.

Co-Sponsored By:



REGISTER ONLINE
<https://www.CPBGH.org>



SAVE THE DATE:

8TH ANNUAL

LEHIGH HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS
ENGINEERING SYMPOSIUM



Tuesday, February 2, 2021



LEHIGH
UNIVERSITY

HEALTHCARE
SYSTEMS
ENGINEERING



Employers for Healthcare Value Since 1980

LVBCH Updates

LVBCH BOARD ANNOUNCES PHARMACY
BENEFITS MANAGEMENT (PBM) PARTNERS



EXPRESS SCRIPTS®



[Read the Press Release](#)

LVBCH AND CAPITAL BLUECROSS EXTEND



[Read the Press Release](#)

LVBCH PRESIDENT PARTICIPATES ON PANEL: TRENDS IN HEALTHCARE FOR EMPLOYERS

Lehigh Valley Business - Health Care Symposium
Thursday, August 6, 2020

[Read the Summary](#)



Employer Forum

All LVBCH Employer Members are invited to participate in this ongoing peer-to-peer discussion between local employers on the topics most important to you!

Thank you to all Employer Members who have participated in these calls to date – and for sharing your organizations' experiences with COVID-19, the impact on your organizations, planning for return to work, issues related to testing and CARES Act implementation. As these session progress, they will continue to focus on issues employers are facing related to the coronavirus pandemic, and provide assistance and resources to help you navigate your organizations questions and concerns.

Thank you also to our special guest expert, Jack Gross of Gross McGinley who provided an update on the Payroll Tax Deferral.

The next employer forum is scheduled for October 29, 2020; 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Please contact Donna Corsi, at dmcorsi@lvbch.com for additional information.

[Register Now](#)

Recent Events



**Uncertainty, Stress & Anxiety:
A Closer Look into Sleep's Role
for Total Person Well-Being**

Tuesday, September 29, 2020
12:00 noon - 1:00 pm



[Watch the Recording](#)

[View Presentation Slides](#)

**HEALTHCARE POLICY:
PHARMACY, OPIOIDS &
MARIJUANA**

With James Gelfand, ERIC
& Loren Speziale, Gross McGinley

Tuesday, September 15, 2020
12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.



[View
Presentation
Slides](#)

[View
Presentation
Slides](#)

[Read the Summary](#)

[Watch the Recording](#)

**REPRESENTATIVE
CHARLIE DENT**

Celebrating 40 Years of Employers
for Leadership and Value in
Healthcare

Tuesday, September 1, 2020
12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.



[Read the Summary](#)

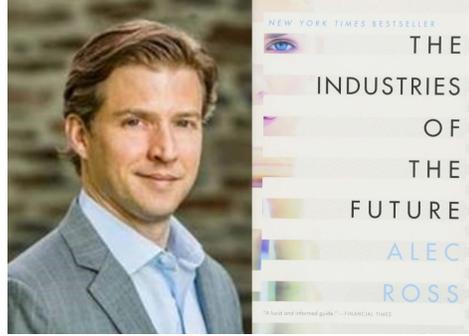
[Watch the Recording](#)

ALEC ROSS

COVID-19 Employer Impact on the
Industries of the Future

Tuesday, August 11, 2020
12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m

[Read the Summary](#)



GETTING BACK TO BUSINESS

Monday, July 27, 2020
12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

[Read the Summary](#)

[Watch the Recording](#)

[View Presentation Slides](#)

Geisinger Caring
Health Plan

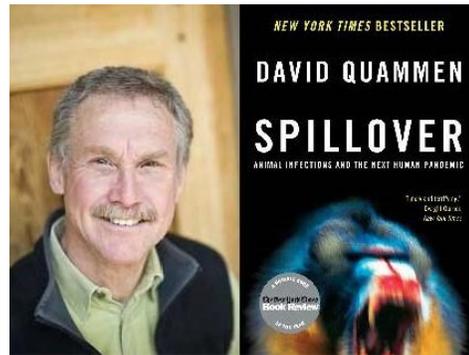


DAVID QUAMMEN

THIS IS IT! THIS IS NOT IT!
Pandemic Preparedness
Before and After COVID-19

Tuesday, July 21, 2020
12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m

[Read the Summary](#)



Employer Meetings

Capital BLUE 

August 25, 2020

[Read the Summary](#)

 geneia®

August 25, 2020

[Read the Summary](#)

National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser

Coalitions (NAHPC) Updates



LVBCH partners with the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions to drive innovation, health, and value through the collective action of public and private purchasers. Together, both organizations seek to accelerate the nation's progress toward safe, efficient, high-quality healthcare and the improved status of the American population.

Update

National Alliance Update (2020)



Action Briefs

Integrating Mental Health Services and Primary Care (July 2020)

ACTION BRIEF
Employer Strategies that Drive Value

INTEGRATING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND PRIMARY CARE
IMPROVING OUTCOMES, LOWERING COSTS, REDUCING STIGMA

ACTION STEPS FOR EMPLOYERS

1. Identify the unmet needs of your population and work to close gaps by integrating more mental health services through existing EAPs, telemental health, and other mental and behavioral health resources.
2. Ask your health plans and/or consultants to foster partnerships with local providers and medical specialists who are already offering proven integrative medical care with mental health services.
3. Insist that your health plan support and promote an evidence-based integrative approach.
4. Use your integrative healthcare approach as a pathway for developing total-person care and a culture of wellbeing.

INTRODUCTION (THE PROBLEM)

Research shows that 60% of people diagnosed with mental illness, particularly depression, have higher rates of comorbidities than the general population. These patients also are more likely to die prematurely and are at greater risk for unfavorable outcomes when they experience illness or disease. In fact, the American Heart Association has recognized depression as a risk factor for poor prognosis after a heart attack. But research shows that care and outcomes significantly improve when mental health services are integrated into primary care strategies.

Historically, the healthcare system has not addressed mental health and physical health with an integrative approach.

Medical and mental conditions have high rates of co-occurrence!

29% of mental health conditions also have medical conditions. 68% of mental health conditions also have medical conditions.

1. American Psychiatric Association (APA) and Institute of Medicine (IOM) 2003
2. National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions (NAHPC) 2019

Leapfrog Updates



LVBCH continues to develop its relationship with the Leapfrog Group, serving as a Regional Leader. In this role, LVBCH invites and encourages hospitals across Pennsylvania to complete the annual Hospital Survey that assesses hospital safety, quality, and efficiency based on national performance measures.

Search Leapfrog's Rating Website For Hospital & Surgery Center Ratings

Visit www.Ratings.LeanfrogGroup.org

Search Leapfrog's Hospital and Surgery Center Ratings

Search by:



Facility name

Start typing the name of the facility here

Search

Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4) Updates

Mechanical Ventilation in PA Hospitals - Pre-COVID-19

[Read the Research Brief](#)
[Read the Press Release](#)

August 2020

PHC4 Research Briefs

Mechanical Ventilation in PA Hospitals—Pre-COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the important role mechanical ventilation plays in the management of severe respiratory illness. A mechanical ventilator is a machine that does the work of breathing for a patient by delivering oxygen into the lungs and helping to remove carbon dioxide. Mechanical ventilators may be used to treat critical illnesses such as acute respiratory failure, sepsis and severe pneumonia or in conditions where a patient can no longer breathe independently (e.g., drug overdose). PHC4 examined this important life-saving treatment modality to serve as a baseline for future analyses on hospitalizations involving the novel coronavirus responsible for the infectious respiratory illness seen during the COVID-19 pandemic. This brief includes hospitalizations involving mechanical ventilation for patients discharged from Pennsylvania general acute care hospitals in fiscal year (FY) 2019 (July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019).

- There were **46,257** hospitalizations involving mechanical ventilation in FY 2019 (nearly 8% of all hospitalizations that year).
- Hospitalizations involving mechanical ventilation occur most often for adult patients with critical illnesses such as acute respiratory failure, sepsis and severe pneumonia. For patients less than age 18, mechanical ventilation is used most often to treat premature or low birth weight newborns.

Hospitalization Rates Involving Mechanical Ventilation per 10,000 Pennsylvania Residents
Statistical Note: 33.4

In general, population-based data showed higher hospitalization rates* involving mechanical ventilation among other residents, Black (non-Hispanic) residents, residents living in higher poverty areas and male residents. These characteristics are similar to those believed to be at higher risk of developing serious illness from COVID-19.

Age	Rate	Race/Ethnicity	Rate
Age 65 and older	14.2	Black (non-Hispanic)	53.2
Age 45-64	13.9	White (non-Hispanic)	31.7
Age 18-44	39.2	Hispanic	11.8
Age 65 and older	32.2		
Age 18 and older	75.1		

Poverty	Rate	Gender	Rate
High Poverty	49.4	Male	37.5
Low Poverty	26.8	Female	29.8

* Rates are based on Pennsylvania residents with ICD-10 hospitalizations or ICD-9 (all mechanical ventilation cases) and US Census tracts data.
* High poverty: Residents living in census tracts with 20% or more of the population living in poverty. Low poverty: Residents living in areas with 10% or less of the population living in poverty. 2018 US Census Bureau estimates are the data used.

PHC4 Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council

RAND 3.0 Hospital Price Transparency

RAND 3.0 Finds Employers Pay Hospitals 247% More Than Medicare

[Read the Press Release](#)

Guest Articles


[4 Flu Season Etiquette Tips to Keep You \(And Everyone Else\) Healthy](#)
[Novel, Highly Targeted Therapies Offer Great Promise For Patients with](#)



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Devastating Conditions - But Come with High Costs

UNITED CONCORDIA®
DENTAL

Fall Foods and Your Oral Health: How to Enjoy the Foods of the Season Without Hurting Your Teeth



Welcome to the New Eye360 Plans!

Virtual Benefit Fair - A Digital Open Enrollment Experience

Tiered Network: With Eye360 Wellness and Savings are in Sight



Give Your Mental Health a Boost with Digital Health Coaching



Local Resources Help Employers Make Mental Health a Priority



COVID-19: Perfect Time to Implement a Digital Front Door

COVID-19 Partner Resources

Select each partners link below to visit their websites' COVID-19 & coronavirus related resources.



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Our affiliation with these national organizations is a value-added benefit for our members.

