

Rising Cost of Care in Kansas: Employer Perspectives & State Policy Options

AGENDA

June 16, 2022

- 10:30 a.m.** **Welcome**
Kari M. Bruffett, President and CEO, Kansas Health Institute
- 10:35 a.m.** **Employer-Sponsored Health Insurance Premiums**
Phillip Steiner, M.A., Senior Analyst, Kansas Health Institute
- 10:50 a.m.** **Panel Discussion: Employer Perspectives**
Moderator: **Scott A. Glasrud**, President, SAG Enterprises, LLC
Cameron Ahrens, Benefits and Wellness Manager, Johnson County, KS, Government
Collier Case, President & CEO, Mid-America Coalition on Health Care
Shelley Duncan, M.A., L.C.P., Executive Director, Kansas Business Group on Health
Kim Walker, P.H.R., SHRM-CP, HR Benefits Partner, Bartlett & West
- 12:00 p.m.** **Break**
Lunch at KHI
- 1:00 p.m.** **Healthcare Affordability in Kansas and State Policy Options**
Alexandra Allen, Health Policy Analyst, Altarum Healthcare Value Hub
- 1:30 p.m.** **Panel Discussion: State Policy Options**
Moderator: **Robert F. St. Peter, M.D.**, former KHI President & CEO (1998-May 2022)
Louise Probst, M.B.A., R.N., Executive Director, Midwest Health Initiative and St. Louis Area Business Health Coalition
Samantha Scotti, Project Manager, Health Programs, National Conference of State Legislatures
Joseph W. Thompson, M.D., M.P.H., President & CEO, Arkansas Center for Health Improvement
Utah Rep. Norman Thurston, Executive Director, National Association of Health Data Organizations
- 2:25 p.m.** **Closing Remarks**
- 2:30 p.m.** **Adjourn**



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ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

MORNING SESSION

Listed in alphabetical order by last name



Cameron Ahrens is the Benefits & Wellness Manager for Johnson County, KS, Government. He has been with Johnson County since 2004 and works in the Office of Financial Management and Administration. In this role he manages the Benefits Division for the County, including the County's Health Care Fund which combines all the employer and employee medical and dental contributions and from which medical and dental claims, vision premiums, and dental and medical administration fees are paid. Medical and pharmacy claims and administration fees for 2022 are estimated to cost about \$60 million. Prior to working at Johnson County, Cameron held the position of Second Vice President at AFS Benefits, Inc., a health care consulting firm and stop loss Managing General Underwriter in the Kansas City area. He served as the Missouri Health Insurance Pool as Executive Director from 1993 to 2004. He has worked in the health insurance industry for 42 years, primarily in group health insurance claims. Cameron has held several management positions in the medical claims administration industry and has experience working for insurance carriers, managing general underwriter, third party administrator, and a consulting firm. Cameron graduated from the University of Kansas.



Collier Case is the President and CEO of the Mid-America Coalition on Health Care (MACHC), the second oldest business health coalition in the U.S. This multi-stakeholder organization boasts dozens of members from across the greater Kansas City region representing business, government, and non-profit employers as well as all forms of healthcare provider and insurance organizations, consultants and brokers. The Coalition provides education programs, webinars, forums and resources to positively address health care cost, outcomes, benefit design and delivery solutions within a collaborative framework. The Coalition draws on the expertise of its members in addition to local and national experts.

Prior to joining the Coalition, Collier was the Director Benefits for Sprint for more than 18 years. He was responsible for design and deployment of Sprint's healthcare, well-being, retirement/401(k) and disability/leave programs. Through his leadership, Sprint implemented numerous innovative benefit practices including direct contracting, best-in-market and centers of excellence purchasing strategies, developed award winning well-being programs, operated on-site health centers and adopted condition management and transparency tools to meet a range of employee needs.

In addition to his serving MACHC as a board member and past Chair, Collier was also an advisory board member for the Center for Workplace Mental Health and served as Treasurer of Care Focused Purchasing – a health quality data analytic initiative. He is a past board member of Kansas Foundation for Medical Care. He currently serves on the board of the Kansas City Health Collaborative. Collier's other work history includes Director of Benefits at Westar Energy/Western Resources in Topeka Kansas, pension administration at UMB Bank in Kansas City and labor relations at LTV Steel in Cleveland and Pittsburgh. Collier has a Master of Labor and Human Resources degree from The Ohio State University and BA in Psychology from Miami University, Oxford Ohio.



Shelley Duncan, M.A., L.C.P., is the Executive Director of the Kansas Business Group on Health. Shelley has spent her career in the social service sector after graduating from Wichita State University with undergraduate and graduate degrees in psychology. Her career spans from working at a maximum-security prison providing psychological evaluations and therapy, to working at a community mental health center as director of a sexual abuse treatment program followed by directing a children's mental health program. She worked at EmberHope (a child welfare organization) for 19 years, serving as President and CEO for her last 12 years. She implemented one of the first trauma programs specifically designed for youth in foster care.

Shelley has been the Executive Director of Project Access (an affiliate of the Medical Society of Sedgwick County) since July of 2017. In 2018 she also assumed two other programs as Executive Director; Health ICT (a CDC grant funded program focused on improving chronic health conditions) and the Kansas Business Group on Health. In her current roles, she is focused on innovative methods for improving the health and wellness of those served by these programs. She is passionate about helping employers improve the value of their health care benefits through quality improvement and cost reduction. Shelley has served on various boards and statewide committees.



Scott A. Glasrud is the President of SAG Enterprises LLC. His career in health care has spanned over four decades as both a financial consultant and executive. In 2016, he founded SAG Enterprises LLC, whose mission is to consult with, invest in and promote organizations with innovative approaches to enhancing broader access to more affordable, effective and high-quality healthcare. In 2020, he established healthcarebigideas.com, which provides both industry commentary and consumer education regarding current health care finance issues.

Scott previously served as Executive Vice President & CFO of The University of Kansas Hospital, where in 1998 he helped lead the transition of the Hospital's assets and operations from a division of the University of Kansas Medical Center to an independent public authority of the State of Kansas. During his fifteen years as CFO, he was instrumental in helping direct a financial turnaround in this academic medical center. Subsequently, Scott served as Executive Vice President & COO of University HealthSystem Consortium (UHC), a 400+ member health services cooperative of the nation's academic medical centers and their health system entities. In 2015, he helped negotiate and consummate a transaction to combine UHC's operations with Voluntary Hospitals of America (VHA) to create what is now Vizient.

His past community service activity has included being past Chair, Audit Committee of the American Heart Association and past Treasurer and Chair, REACH Healthcare Foundation. He currently serves on the Advisory Board of careMESH, a health care technology company which provides electronic medical record interoperability and care coordination solutions.



Phillip Steiner, M.A., Senior Analyst, provides data management and statistical analysis for projects focused on access to care, market innovation and population health. He helps uncover patterns and trends in data that can inform policymakers and other stakeholders as they make decisions that impact health. Prior to joining KHI, Phillip was a social science research analyst at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, where he worked to improve payment policy in the Medicare Advantage program. Phillip holds a master's degree in economics from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and a bachelor's degree in economics and history from Rockhurst University.



Kim Walker, P.H.R., SHRM-CP, is the HR Benefits Partner at Bartlett & West's headquarters in Topeka, KS. She has 30 years of experience in Human Resources, most of which has been focused in area of employee benefits. She is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the group insurance and ESOP benefits programs for Bartlett & West's 350+ employee-owners. She also serves as a liaison with outside insurance carriers or other agencies relative to the benefits function, monitoring costs, compliance with applicable government regulations and recommends cost containment strategies. She is a member of the national Society of Human Resources Management and holds certifications as a Professional In Human Resources and SHRM Certified Professional.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Listed in alphabetical order by last name



Alexandra Allen works at the Altarum Healthcare Value Hub in D.C. conducting policy research on healthcare affordability and promoting state-level strategies to reduce healthcare costs and financial burdens for marginalized communities. She also provides technical assistance to multiple state-based advocacy groups. Before coming to the Hub, Alexandra worked as a health systems navigator at community organization El Centro de la Raza in Seattle, Washington, and then received her Master's in Public Policy and Management at Carnegie Mellon University through the PPIA program.



Louise Probst, M.B.A., R.N., is Executive Director of the St. Louis Area Business Health Coalition (BHC) and the Midwest Health Initiative (MHI). BHC represents the region's employers in their pursuit of better health and health care value. MHI, a separate nonprofit organization, brings together those who provide, pay for and use health care to address some of the region's most pressing health care challenges. A belief in the power of information and collaboration to transform health care is the common thread that binds the organizations.

Louise began her career as a critical care nurse and has a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Denver. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the St. Louis Visiting Nurses Association. Louise has served on the Board and Executive Committee of the National Quality Forum and as a purchaser representative on both its MAP Hospital Workgroup and Clinician Workgroup, and various measurement steering committees. She has served on the Board and Executive Committee of the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement, the Commonwealth Fund's Commission on a High Performance Health System, and the National Committee for Quality Assurance's Clinical Programs Committee and Standards Committee. She has also served on the Board and as a Chairperson of the National Alliance.

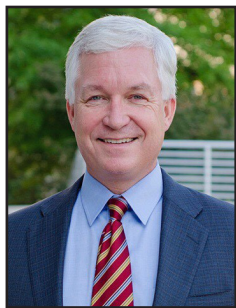


Samantha Scotti is a Project Manager with the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). In her role, Samantha focuses on state policy issues relating to health care access, costs and coverage. Samantha has over 7 years of experience working with state legislators, legislative staff and other partners on a variety of health topics, developing tools, publications and collaborative meetings. Prior to joining NCSL, Samantha worked as legislative staff at the Colorado General Assembly and has a dual degree in political science and international studies from Colorado State University.



Robert F. St. Peter, M.D., served as President and CEO of the Kansas Health Institute for 24 years, until May 2022. Bob is a physician with experience in health services research and health policy development. Prior to joining KHI, he served as a senior medical researcher at Mathematica Policy Research and the Center for Studying Health System Change in Washington, D.C. He also served as a health policy adviser on the U.S. Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources during consideration of comprehensive health reform legislation in 1993–94, and as the Luther L. Terry Senior Fellow in Preventive Medicine in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Bob is a research associate professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. His work on access to care, the Medicaid program, quality improvement and health system change has been published in leading journals.

Bob serves on the board of directors of Stormont Vail Health, an integrated health system in Topeka. Previous roles have included Chair of the Committee on Advocacy and Public Policy for AcademyHealth, board member and Treasurer of AcademyHealth, founding board member and former Chair of the National Network of Public Health Institutes, member of the National Advisory Committee for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Clinical Scholars Program, and member of the Technical Advisory Committee for the RWJF Scholars in Health and Society program. Bob received his undergraduate degree in business administration from the University of Kansas and his medical degree from Duke University. He completed his residency and chief residency in pediatrics at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Bob was an international health fellow in Nigeria, West Africa, and an RWJF Clinical Scholar at the University of California San Francisco/Stanford University.



Joseph W. Thompson, M.D., M.P.H., works at the intersection of clinical care, public health, and health policy. A nationally recognized leader in the quality and financing of healthcare, the improvement in public health, and the strategic response to threats to public health, Dr. Thompson endeavors to advance science within an environment of political and economic reality. As president and CEO of the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement, he leads that organization in its current efforts to address emerging and legacy health issues through individual choice and influential policy. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, he and ACHI have assisted in Arkansas's response to the public health emergency, including analyzing local data and disseminating vital information to decision-makers statewide.

Dr. Thompson led vanguard state and national efforts in planning and implementing healthcare financing reform, health promotion and disease prevention efforts focusing on health threats from tobacco and obesity, and emergency response efforts during periods of crisis. He worked with Arkansas's executive and legislative leadership and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on healthcare financing innovation through novel Medicaid expansion strategies and their evaluation. He currently leads the Arkansas Healthcare Transparency Initiative, overseeing the linked integration of health data from the public and private sectors to improve health system access, quality, and cost.

Dr. Thompson was the inaugural surgeon general of Arkansas, serving for 10 years in the administrations of Mike Huckabee (R) and Mike Beebe (D), and has more than 35 years of experience on state and national corporate and public boards. Previously, he was the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's first Child and Adolescent Health Scholar, a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar, and assistant vice president of the National Committee for Quality Assurance. He is a professor of pediatrics and public health at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.



Utah Rep. Norman Thurston is the executive director at the National Association of Health Data Organizations (NAHDO). Dr. Thurston was a policy analyst and health economist for the Utah Department of Health from 2003 until 2013. From 2013 to 2019 he was the Director of the Office of Health Care Statistics which is responsible for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of data related to health care cost and quality for the State of Utah. In previous roles he served as policy adviser and executive staff for health system reform efforts in the State of Utah. Before joining the state, Dr. Thurston worked for eight years as an assistant professor of economics at Brigham Young University and has a Masters and Ph.D. in economics from Princeton University. Dr. Thurston was elected to the Utah House of Representatives in 2014.



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