

## Press Release

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# **MASSACHUSETTS EMPLOYER HEALTH COALITION** **ANNOUNCES NEW STEERING COMMITTEE**

*Employer Coalition Reaffirms Goals and Identifies Potential Pathways to Address Avoidable  
Emergency Department Use*

**BOSTON – Monday, April 22, 2019** – Today, the Massachusetts Employer Health Coalition (MEHC), a group of over 25 business organizations focused on driving change in the health care system, announced the creation of its Steering Committee. The Committee is comprised of 19 business and health care leaders from organizations across the Commonwealth, and held its first meeting on March 26, 2019. The objective of the Committee is to issue recommendations regarding interventions that will achieve MEHC’s goal of reducing potentially avoidable emergency department (ED) utilization by 20% through 2020, resulting in potential savings of as much as \$100 million.

The Steering Committee will provide strategic leadership to spearhead the work of MEHC, offer insights into strategy development and implementation from the perspective of member organizations as well as broader stakeholder groups, and act as ambassadors, advocates, and partners for MEHC by offering commitments moving forward.

“Rather than just sitting around a table talking about solutions, we have an opportunity here to be more proactive, and that’s the goal of MEHC and this group,” said Rick Lord, Coalition Co-Chair and President and CEO of Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM), during his opening remarks.

At its inaugural meeting, the Steering Committee addressed important topics related to its goals, including care redesign, incentive alignment, and information gathering and sharing. Committee members also shared their perspectives as professionals, consumers, and caregivers, and identified a deeper understanding of consumer choices and preferences as an area of interest.

“Not all that’s broken in our health care system can be fixed legislatively. Sometimes it requires private sector action and intervention,” said Eileen McAnneny, Coalition Co-Chair and President of the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation. “The best way to effectuate change in the health

care marketplace, particularly for the commercially insured, is to help educate consumers and better inform them on the consequences of their choices.”

The Employer Coalition is supported by the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission (HPC). David Seltz, HPC Executive Director and Coalition Strategic Partner, announced at the meeting that the HPC would partner with the state’s Center for Health Information and Analysis later this year to field a survey related to consumer awareness of alternative care site options and costs.

“Employers can be a powerful voice in creating change,” said Seltz. “Even beyond the stated goal of the Coalition, this effort can serve as proof of concept that an employer-led, multi-stakeholder group can create change and move the dial.”

Over the next few months, the MEHC Steering Committee will develop an agenda consisting of proven strategies to reduce unnecessary emergency department use. Stakeholder workgroups, MEHC members, and strategic partners will help refine these strategies. This summer, MEHC Employer Members and Strategic Partners will support their members in committing to implementing one or more of the identified strategies.

### **MASSACHUSETTS EMPLOYER HEALTH COALITION** **STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

- ❖ Employer Coalition Co-Chair: Rick Lord, President and CEO, Associated Industries of Massachusetts
- ❖ Employer Coalition Co-Chair: Eileen McAnneny, President, Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation
- ❖ Strategic Partner: David Seltz, Executive Director, Massachusetts Health Policy Commission
- ❖ Small Employer: Liora Stone, Owner and President, Precision Engineering
- ❖ Small Employer: Patricia Begrowicz, Owner and President, Onyx Specialty Papers, Inc.
- ❖ Midsize Employer: Cheryl Corman, EVP and Chief Human Resources Officer, Middlesex Savings Bank
- ❖ Midsize Employer: Stephen Carey, VP of Human Resources, Polar Beverages
- ❖ Large Employer: Maria Fraga, Global Head Benefits & Wellness, John Hancock
- ❖ Large Employer: Erin Sarin, Senior Manager, Corporate Benefits and Well-Being Strategy, MITRE
- ❖ Chamber of Commerce: Nancy Creed, President, Springfield Regional Chamber
- ❖ Provider: Marci Sindell, Chief Strategy Officer and SVP of External Affairs, Atrius Health
- ❖ Community Health Center: Manny Lopes, President and CEO, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center
- ❖ Hospital: Dr. Gene Green, President and CEO, South Shore Health
- ❖ Behavioral Health Provider: Dr. Henry White, Clinical Director, The Brookline Center for Community Mental Health
- ❖ Purchaser: Dr. Roberta Herman, Executive Director, Group Insurance Commission
- ❖ Payer: Michael Caljouw, VP of State Government and Regulatory Affairs, BCBSMA
- ❖ Payer: Dr. Patricia Toro, Associate Medical Director, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care
- ❖ HR/Broker: Steven Tringale, CEO, Tringale Health Strategies and Board Chair, MHA Solutions
- ❖ Consumer: Barbra Rabson, President and CEO, Massachusetts Health Quality Partners

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Founded in 2018, the Massachusetts Employer Health Coalition (MEHC) is an employer-led effort to uncover solutions that drive real change and reduce costs in the health care delivery system. The first initiative is a campaign to improve the appropriateness of emergency department (ED) utilization. MEHC aims to reduce potentially avoidable ED use by 20% over two years, resulting in estimated savings of as much as \$100 million.

MEHC is co-chaired by Rick Lord, President and CEO, Associated Industries of Massachusetts, and Eileen McAnney, President, Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation. The Coalition includes over 25 business organizations representing thousands of large and small employers across the Commonwealth. MEHC is supported by its strategic partners Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans, the Massachusetts College of Emergency Physicians, the Massachusetts Health and Hospital Association, the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission, and Massachusetts Health Quality Partners.

For more information, please contact [info@maemployerhealthcoalition.com](mailto:info@maemployerhealthcoalition.com) or visit [www.maemployerhealthcoalition.com](http://www.maemployerhealthcoalition.com).