



# EMPLOYER BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION

*Unite. Demand. Disrupt. Repeat.*

MAY 5-6, 2026 ■ CHICAGO

Although employers are the true payers of health care and benefits, our current system often feels dysfunctional, opaque and beyond the influence of employers. Employers have the leverage to demand transparency, accountability, and meaningful change, but do they? By following a blueprint for action – unite, demand, disrupt, repeat – employers can reclaim their influence and reset expectations across the health care landscape. This requires strategic use of data, refusing to let conflicted intermediaries dictate decisions, and insisting on true partnership from vendors. Now is the time to move beyond short-term cost cutting to focus on innovative benefits, programs and strategies to improve workforce health and better manage growing long-term costs.

**Join fellow employers at our 46<sup>th</sup> annual conference to put this blueprint in motion—uniting voices, demanding better, disrupting the status quo, and repeating until real change takes hold.**

## Key Topics

- Learn to leverage employer influence to demand greater transparency, accountability, and value in health care and benefits.
- Apply an employer blueprint for action to drive innovation and sustainable change across the health care system.
- Identify and address conflicts of interest with intermediaries to make more informed, data-driven decisions.
- Shift from short-term cost cutting toward long-term investment in prevention, disease management, and employee wellbeing.
- Strengthen partnerships with vendors and hold them accountable for delivering measurable outcomes.

**Health benefits professionals registering for the conference are invited to our employer-only pre-conference on May 4<sup>th</sup>.\***

- 1 to 3 PM – Workshop – *Constructing the Blueprint: Using Data to Bend the High-Cost Claim Curve*
- 4 to 5:30 PM – Chicago architecture boat tour
- 6 to 8 PM – Dinner at a local venue

\* Employers: Learn more when you register for the conference. We will sell out so register early to secure your spot.

**MBGH**   
Midwest Business Group on Health

*"Timely topics for health benefits professionals that highlight disruptive models and challenge norms."*

*"The energy was something I haven't felt at a conference in a long while. Incredible speakers and thought-provoking ideas."*

**REGISTER HERE**

# TUESDAY, MAY 5

7:00 AM  
to 3:00 PM

**Wellness Activities**

7:30 AM **Registration, Breakfast & Exhibits**

8:15 AM **Welcome & Opening**

- Carole Mendoza, VP, Global Benefits & Employee Mobility, HP, Inc. & MBGH Board Chair
- Cheryl Larson, President & CEO, MBGH

8:30 AM **Keynote: Stopping the Theft - The Great American Healthcare Heist**

- Chris Deacon, Author, Healthcare Thought Leader & Disruptor, VerSan Consulting, LLC

9:30 AM **Reactor Panel**

10:25 AM **Networking Break & Exhibits**

11:00 AM **Breakout Sessions**

11:50 AM **Networking Lunch**

12:30 PM **MBGH Updates**

1:00 PM **Employer Keynote: Blueprinting Better Spend - How Employers Can Use Data to Rein in Healthcare Costs**

- Cora Opsahl, Health Fund Director, Building Service 32BJ, Benefit Funds

1:50 PM **Energy Break**

2:00 PM **From Blueprints to Practice: Employer Application Stories**

2:50 PM **Networking Break & Exhibits**

3:15 PM **Future by Design Fireside Chat: Employer Voices Driving the Next Wave of Change**

4:05 PM **Keynote**

5:00 PM  
to 6:30 PM **Networking Reception**

*"The BEST health care conference in the nation."*

*"Each session was engaging & informative, and provided actionable information. Thank you!"*

**REGISTER  
HERE**

# WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

7:00 AM  
to 3:00 PM

## Wellness Activities

8:15 AM

## Annual Member Meeting

- Cheryl Larson, President & CEO, MBGH
- Carole Mendoza, VP, Global Benefits & Employee Mobility, HP, Inc. & MBGH Board Chair

8:30 AM

## Welcome & Opening

- Cheryl Larson, President & CEO, MBGH
- Carole Mendoza, VP, Global Benefits & Employee Mobility, HP, Inc. & MBGH Board Chair

8:40 AM

## Keynote: Fault Lines in Healthcare: Employer Responses to a System Under Strain

- Ford Koles, Vice President & National Spokesperson, The Advisory Board

9:45 AM

## From Blueprints to Practice: Employer Application Stories

10:35 AM

## Networking Break & Exhibits

11:05 AM

## Breakout Sessions

11:55 AM

## Networking Lunch & Prizes

12:35 PM

## Employer Keynote

1:15 PM

## Energy Break

1:25 PM

## Rewriting the Plans Fireside Chat: Employer Insights on Transforming Care & Cost

2:25 PM

## Executive Panel Disruptors and Doers: Framework for the Future

3:15 PM

## Closing Remarks, Grand Prize & Adjournment

3:30 PM

## Adjournment

*"There were many good take-aways that challenged my thinking."*

*"I felt like I was with real people. It was genuine. It was authentic. The best conference ever!"*

*"I especially enjoyed the breadth of people attending and the networking opportunities."*

**REGISTER  
HERE**

# MBGH 46<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE EMPLOYER BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION

***Unite. Demand. Disrupt. Repeat.***

MAY 5-6, 2026 ▪ CHICAGO



## Registration Fees:

	<i>On or Before 1/31</i>	<i>2/1 or After</i>
• Employer Members*	\$299	\$399
• Partner Members ( <i>limit 2 passes per company</i> )	\$449	\$549
• Employer Non-Members	\$599	\$699
• All Other Non-Members ( <i>limit 1 pass per company</i> )	\$2,499	\$2,499

\* Employer member organizations receive 1 FREE pass. The redemption process will be emailed to the employer member primary contact.

## REGISTER HERE

Uncertain if your company is a member?  
Go to [www.mbg.org/membership/memberlist](http://www.mbg.org/membership/memberlist)

## Conference Venue & Hotel Accommodations:

JW Marriott Chicago  
151 W. Adams Street  
Chicago, IL 60603

[Website](#) (information only)  
Phone: 312.660.8200 (information only)

The hotel reservation link will be provided in your conference registration confirmation email. **Limited rooms available.**

- Discounted Rate: \$366 per night (single/double, plus taxes)
- Deadline for discounted rate: April 10th, 5:00pm CT

## Anticipated HRCI Accreditation:

This program is expected to be approved for 12 recertification credit hours through the HR Certification Institute (HRCI). For more information about certification or recertification, visit [www.hrci.org](http://www.hrci.org). The use of the official seal confirms this program has met HRCI's criteria for re-certification credit pre-approval.

## Conference Registration Policies:

Registration is required and will close at 12:00 PM CT April 30. Walk-in registration is not available.

Cancellations received via email on or before April 1, 2026 will receive a refund minus a \$50.00 administrative fee. Registrations submitted after April 1, 2026 are nonrefundable. Substitutions are acceptable. View the FAQs webpage for details.



Midwest Business Group on Health

Midwest Business Group on Health (MBGH) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit supporting employers seeking solutions to better manage the high cost of health care and the health and productivity of their covered populations. Founded in 1980, MBGH offers members leading educational programs, employer-directed research projects, purchasing opportunities and community-based activities that increase the value of health care services and the health benefits they offer to members. MBGH serves over 170 companies who provide benefits to over 4 million lives, with employer members spending more than \$15 billion on health care each year.

[www.mbg.org](http://www.mbg.org)

## Wellness Screenings

Don't miss this opportunity to focus on your personal health and wellbeing! Screening appointments are available on May 5 & 6 – 7AM to 3PM. Registration to the conference is required.

Watch for more information in your attendee confirmation emails.



# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**Tuesday, May 5**  
*Opening Keynote*

**Chris Deacon**

Author of *Healthcare Thought Leader & Disruptor*  
VerSan Consulting, LLC



**Tuesday, May 5**  
*Employer Keynote*

**Cora Opsahl**

Health Fund Director  
Building Service 32BJ,  
Benefit Funds



**Wednesday, May 6**  
*Opening Keynote*

**Ford Koles**

Vice President & National  
Spokesperson  
The Advisory Board



**Wednesday, May 6**  
*Employer Keynote*

**Rosemary Sams**

Sr Manager  
Employee Benefits  
Univar Solutions

## THANKS TO OUR 46<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPONSORS

### Case Study Sponsors



### Breakout Sponsors



### Fireside Chat Panel Sponsors



### Pre-Conference Sponsors



*"There's something exceptional about the MBGH team and the level of care put into ensuring a good experience."*

*"The vibe was so positive. Tremendous conversations and engagement!"*

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