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Lehigh Valley Business Coalition on Healthcare (LVBCH) Receives Grant to Convene Employer Roundtable on Mental Health and Major Depressive Disorder

Bethlehem, PA – The Lehigh Valley Business Coalition on Healthcare (LVBCH) was selected as one of three organizations to receive a grant through the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions related to mental health and major depressive disorder, a top priority for many employers.

According to the 2021 State of Mental Health in America report, anxiety has reached the highest level since the start of the pandemic, and the depression rate has tripled. Depression has become one of America’s most costly illnesses and, if left untreated, can be as costly as heart disease.

As part of this grant opportunity, LVBCH will be convening a roundtable of local employer members. The goal of the roundtable is to identify employer priorities and directions related to mental health, post-COVID, and determine what drives value for employers in supporting the mental health of their workforce. This roundtable, which will be held virtually on November 17, 2022; 8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., will include LVBCH employer members of various sizes and representing diverse industries. The discussion will provide an opportunity for employer members to share their thoughts and needs.

“LVBCH has been committed to supporting our employer members’ mental health initiatives through purchasing, education, and quality programs that benefit the membership,” said Carl Seitz, President, LVBCH. “Selection of LVBCH as a grant recipient recognizes the coalition’s commitment to work in the area of mental health and prior successes in facilitating grant work related to primary care, biosimilars, and oncology.”

Later this year, an *Employer Guidebook to Addressing Mental Health & Major Depressive Disorder* summarizing feedback from the nationwide roundtables is expected. The guidebook will provide an overview of current employer priorities related to mental health, including national prevalence data on mental health and major depressive disorder in the workplace, as well as provide key considerations for delivering appropriate care, providing holistic-focused treatments, addressing health equity, and more.



For additional information, or if you are interested in participating in the employer roundtable, please contact Amanda Greene, Director of Operations, LVBCH at agreene@lvbch.com.

About LVBCH

LVBCH is a multi-state, not-for-profit, coalition of employers striving to provide access to quality affordable healthcare for their employees. The Coalition's mission is to improve the delivery, cost and quality of health care in our communities through: Collective employer action; Quality and data initiatives; Value based purchasing; and, Providing forums for the exchange of information, ideas and resources. The Coalition is also a member of the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions, the National Quality Forum and The Leapfrog Group. For more information, visit www.LVBCH.com.

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