RHODE ISLAND BUSINESS GROUP ON HEALTH

Tuesday, November 10
7:30am-11am ET

Crowne Plaza, 801 Greenwich Ave
Warwick, RI 028868

Empowering Employers to Navigate a More Transparent PBM Marketplace



Stephen Kogut

Professor of Pharmacoeconomics and Health Outcomes Research

University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy

8:00 a.m - Opening Remarks

Stephen J. Kogut, PhD, MBA, RPh is Vice Chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Clinical Research. Dr. Kogut specializes in medication outcomes research, and teaches and conducts studies examining the real-world effectiveness, safety and costs of prescription drugs. He began his professional career with Harvard Pilgrim Health Plan of New England, where he contributed to developing and implementing drug management protocols. Dr. Kogut served as project manager for the Study of Clinically Relevant Indicators for Pharmacologic Therapy (the SCRIPT Project), a national initiative led by the Coalition for Quality in Medication Use and sponsored by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). He served as an expert panelist for CMS in its efforts to define quality measures for the Part D drug program, and he contributed to the National Quality Forum's National Voluntary Consensus Standards for Therapeutic Drug Management Quality. Dr. Kogut is a former member and interim Director of the Rhode Island Board of Pharmacy. In 2021, as a Visiting Fellow at the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review (ICER), he explored how pricing dynamics during the drug life cycle influence cost-effectiveness analyses. He is a current member of the Rhode Island Medicaid Drug Utilization Review Board, the AMCP Format for Formulary Submissions Committee, and the Pharmacy Quality Alliance Quality Innovation and Research Center Advisory Committee. He practiced as a pharmacist for more than 30 years.

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Melissa Bartlett

Senior Vice President of Health Policy

The ERISA Industry Committee (ERIC)

8:15-8:30 a.m

Melissa Bartlett is the Senior Vice President, Health Policy for ERIC, leading the development of ERIC's health policy and advocacy for its legislative and regulatory priorities at the federal, state, and local levels. Specifically, she supports ERIC member companies in advancing policies impacting all aspects of employer-sponsored health coverage, including the taxation of benefits, health care costs, quality, safety, and access, as well as laws and regulations affecting how health care benefits are administered on a nationwide basis.

Prior to joining ERIC, Melissa was a Principal at Chamber Hill Strategies, providing a broad range of health care stakeholders with strategic counsel, policy development, and congressional and agency engagement on health care legislative and regulatory matters. A long-time health policy and government relations professional, Melissa brought to the firm her previous experience working within government, corporations, and associations to help drive success for her clients.

She previously served as Associate Vice President for Government Relations for Sanofi. Additionally, Melissa served as Vice President for Government Relations and Representation for Health Care Service Corporation (HCSC) and represented health insurers through her regulatory work for America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP). Her first health policy experience was working with large, multi-specialty group practices as legislative counsel for the American Medical Group Association (AMGA).

Melissa earned her J.D. at the University of Kentucky College of Law, and her B.A. in Journalism from Franklin College.

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Cory King

Health Insurance Commissioner

State of Rhode Island

8:30-8:45 a.m

Health Insurance Commissioner Cory King was confirmed by the Rhode Island Senate on April 2, 2024. He previously served as the Acting Health Insurance Commissioner and Chief of Staff. During his time at OHIC, Commissioner King has led the development of Rhode Island's cost growth benchmark program, called the Health Spending Accountability and Transparency Program, implemented the OHIC Data Hub, and led the first comprehensive analysis of publicly funded social and human service provider reimbursement rates and the state's first review of primary care reimbursement rates.

Commissioner King is a graduate of Tulane University and Brown University.



Nick Taylor, RPh

Vice President of Sales & Account Management

CVS Caremark

8:45-9:00 a.m

Nick Taylor, RPh, is a pharmacist and healthcare executive who is passionate about challenging conventional thinking in healthcare. Inspired by a desire to make healthcare easier for patients and families to navigate, he has spent more than 25 years simplifying complex healthcare challenges and developing innovative solutions that improve access, affordability, and outcomes. As Vice President of Sales and Account Management at CVS Caremark, Nick partners with employers, state and local government plans, and labor unions to design strategies that improve healthcare experiences, lower costs, and deliver better outcomes for the people they serve.

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Renzo Luzzatti

President

US-RX Care

9:00-9:15 a.m

Renzo Luzzatti, President of US-Rx Care, has over 25 years' experience in the healthcare industry with a primary focus in managed care, pharmacy, and pharmacy benefits. His healthcare career has included management roles in almost every facet of the pharmacy world from drug development, manufacturing, and marketing to dispensing and care delivery as well as pharmacy benefit risk management. Renzo has an undergraduate degree in Biology and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. He has served in numerous management capacities at well-known companies including Ernest & Young, Abbott Laboratories, and WellPoint/Anthem.



Monica Giotta

AVP Strategy and Market Insights

Prime Therapeutics

9:15-9:30 a.m

As assistant vice president of strategy and market insights with Prime Therapeutics (Prime), Monica Giotta brings over 20 years of experience in the healthcare industry and deep expertise in pharmacy strategy and operations. With a career spanning strategic development, competitive intelligence and market analysis, she enables organizations to navigate complex benefit structures and optimize pharmacy programs.

Giotta has spent 17 years collaborating closely with Prime and previously held leadership roles at Florida Blue, where she specialized in self-funded clients, national accounts and fully insured group business.

Giotta holds a Master of Science in pharmaceutical outcomes and policy, with a minor in pharmacy managed care, from the University of Florida and is a licensed health, life and variable annuity agent in Florida

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Candace Shaffer

Associate Vice President of Benefits & Payroll

Purdue University

9:40-9:55 a.m

Candace Shaffer's commitment to improving the well-being of others is at the core of her professional successes and personal motivation. In 2014, she began her career in benefits at Purdue University. From 2017 to 2023, she served as senior director of benefits, leading the university's benefit team and was responsible for the overall strategic and financial approach to Purdue University's and Purdue University global benefit packages.

Today, as associate vice president, benefits and payroll, she provides visionary, strategic leadership to plan, develop, maintain and enhance the university's comprehensive benefits package and payroll processes. She is responsible for generating new ideas, leading and persuading others to reach a consensus to drive alignment across different areas, including oversight of personnel appointment processing, HR service center benefit administration for the Purdue University system.

As a result of Shaffer's dedication to overall health and well-being, Purdue was named the 2023 Healthiest Employer in Indiana.

Additionally, she received the following awards the 2023 Health Care Innovation Award (Employers' Forum of Indiana) and 2023 Hoosier Health and Well-being Workplace Champion (Wellness Council of Indiana).

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Joe Toniolo

Senior Director of Healthcare & Wellness Plans (Ret)

US Foods

9:55-10:10 a.m

Joe Toniolo is a seasoned human resource professional with over 30 years of leadership experience. Currently serving as the senior director of health and welfare plans for US Foods, Joe has dedicated 19 years to the company. His extensive experience in benefit strategy, administration, and compliance has contributed to US Foods' success.

US Foods is recognized as one of the country's most progressive companies, having successfully implemented multiple digital health solutions. These initiatives encompass areas such as diabetes, musculoskeletal (MSK), direct contracting with centers of excellence (COE), mental health, family planning, cancer care, and more. As a member of the Employer Health Innovation Roundtable (EHIR), Joe participates in "Shark Tank"–style events alongside over 100 large progressive employers to review and explore the most promising emerging health and wellness solutions. Joe's industry involvement extends to his role as a board member for the Midwest Business Group on Health and his participation in their finance committee. Additionally, he serves as a corporate advisory board member for various point solutions and as a steering committee member for a pharmacy coalition of 25 companies.

A sought-after speaker, Joe has presented as a keynote speaker at various benefit industry groups. In his role at US Foods, Joe provides strategic support to the labor relations team for over 50 unions, as well as the M&A team. Joe holds a master of business administration degree from Dominican University and a bachelor of science degree in finance from Northern Illinois University

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Chris Laverty

Employee Benefits Pharmacy Consultant

USI New England

10:10-10:25 a.m

Chris has worked to provide strategic advice and support to plan sponsors on all aspects of pharmacy benefit plans since 2012; from needs analysis to plan design, funding options, implementation, contract enhancements, and administration.

More recently he has focused on PBM risk management consulting, concentrating on net acquisition cost, clean contracts, pharmacy RFP's, and clinical management. Across his career, Chris has managed and consulted for dozens of clients across the country.

Chris is a licensed Life, Accident, and Health producer and a graduate of LeMoyne College in Syracuse, NY. He currently lives in Cicero, NY with his wife of 12 years, Sharon, and their 3 children: Teagan, Taryn, and Logan.