

NABIP OKLAHOMA CITY CHAPTER

MARCH 2024

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Happy Spring Everyone! I am so happy to be past daylight savings time and getting off work during the light of day! For most of us this can be a slower time than Q4. It can give us time to focus on family and for some a time for **education and growth in our industry!** If you are interested in enhancing your skills for your current job or looking for a way to make yourself more marketable in this industry or even for your next job, now is a perfect time to take advantage of all of the great courses and certifications that NABIP offers.

I encourage you to visit the [Professional Development](#) section of the NABIP website.

Select a course that is of interest to you- some have a cost and *some are at no charge*. I just want to encourage everyone to take advantage of the tools available-***invest in yourself!***

As part of NABIP's ongoing efforts to enhance communication and collaboration within our association, I'm excited to announce the launch of a new initiative called "**Your Voice Matters.**"



"Your Voice Matters" is a social button feedback form that will be included in the email signatures of all NABIP staff members, promoted on the website, and encouraged for all to use to share their thoughts and ideas.

Continued on page 2





CONTINUED

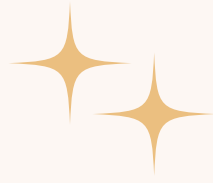
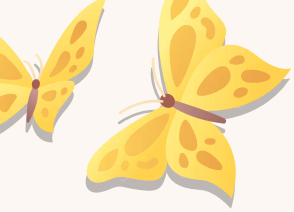
This initiative aims to provide a streamlined channel for gathering feedback, suggestions, and ideas directly from our diverse community, including NABIP members, vendors, and other stakeholders. By clicking on the "Your Voice Matters" button, individuals will be directed to a user-friendly form where they can share their thoughts on various aspects of our association, such as events, resources, communication, and any other areas they deem important. We believe that this direct feedback mechanism will empower us to better understand the needs and preferences of all stakeholders, ultimately enabling us to serve you more effectively. With so many changes these last couple of years I am encouraged to know that the NABIP staff is taking a frontline approach to hearing from all of us! Speaking of your voice matters ~

APRIL 11TH IS OUR DAY AT THE CAPITOL!

Please check your inbox for the official invitation and registration – See the flyer in this newsletter.

Thank you all for your continued support of NABIP Oklahoma City and I look forward to seeing you on the hill!





Day At The Capitol



4/11/2024
Start at 11:30 a.m.

1 Hour CE at No Cost Box Lunch will be Provided

2300 N Lincoln Blvd Oklahoma City, OK
73105, Room 4S.3

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., 1 hour Legislative Update CE,
& Guest Speakers from the House and Senate

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Meet with Legislators
at the Capitol (Senate and House)

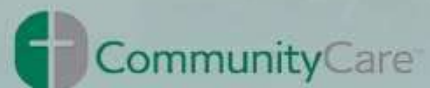
4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Happy Hour:
Kamp's 1910 Cafe' 10 NE 10th St,
Oklahoma City, OK 73104

RSVP Here



Register for this Event using QR Code

Sponsored by:



Thank
you!

CAPITOL CONFERENCE WAS A SUCCESS!

AWARDS FOR LEGISLATION ACTION!

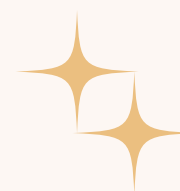
OKC and Tulsa were recognized for Legislative action. Attendees from the State Chapter: Andrea Blevins Jennifer Brittan, James Ashford. OKC Chapter: Theresa Clagg, Jodi Cooper, Kelley Harmon, Michael Weller. Tulsa Chapter: Tim Brooks, Michael Stevens, Cindy Ramirez. Cindy Ramirez and Michael Weller were first-time attendees!



This is why we do what we do!! Representing those who serve the health insurance needs of employers and individuals seeking health insurance coverage.

Cool side note: At our March member meeting James Ashford also won the “Operation Shout” free lunch with a chance to draw the Ace of Spades! But he drew the 2 of clubs so now the pot is at \$568.00!! Get your tickets at the member meetings April 11!





HEALTHCARE BILL OF RIGHTS

NABIP Launches Groundbreaking Healthcare Bill of Rights Campaign to Revolutionize the American Healthcare System

Washington, D.C. — The National Association of Benefits and Insurance Professionals (NABIP) proudly unveils its Healthcare Bill of Rights, a transformative initiative aimed at improving the healthcare delivery system for all Americans. This foundational document outlines the rights of American citizens in accessing affordable, high-quality healthcare, representing a critical step towards a more holistic, equitable, and compassionate American healthcare system.

“NABIP’s Healthcare Bill of Rights articulates the core values and principles of the association,” stated NABIP CEO Jessica Brooks-Woods. “They represent not just our beliefs but NABIP’s commitment to ensuring that every American is empowered with the right to high-quality, affordable healthcare. These rights stand as the pillars by which we define our mission, measure our progress, and drive toward a future where equitable healthcare is not a privilege but a standard for all.”

“The announcement of NABIP’s Healthcare Bill of Rights took place at our recent Capitol Conference, showcasing NABIP’s dedication to shaping a healthcare system that prioritizes the well-being and rights of all Americans. This significant milestone is a cornerstone in our commitment to creating a healthcare landscape that is privately accessible and affordable for every citizen.”

Key Highlights of NABIP’s Healthcare Bill of Rights:

1. Affordable Healthcare Access: Emphasizing the right of every American to affordable healthcare services.
2. Quality Care Standards: Holding healthcare providers accountable to maintain the highest levels of care.
3. Privacy and Confidentiality: Ensuring the protection of patients’ medical information.
4. Individual Autonomy in Healthcare: Upholding the right to informed decision-making in medical treatments.
5. Health Equity: Addressing and eliminating health disparities to ensure equitable healthcare for all.
6. Health Education: Prioritizing comprehensive health education to empower individuals.
7. Affordable Medications: Implementing policies for affordable and accessible medications.
8. Emergency Care for All: Guaranteeing the right to emergency medical care without financial hardship.
9. Effective Healthcare Advocacy: Establishing systems for healthcare advocacy and assistance.
10. State Consumer Protection: Empowering states to protect healthcare consumers within their jurisdictions.

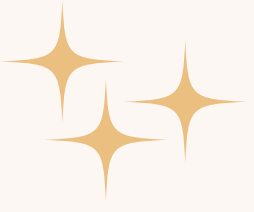
“Here in the United States, we have the best and brightest minds in the healthcare space, but unfortunately the system has become too cumbersome for so many people,” said NABIP President Eric Kohlsdorf. “We believe every American should have the ability to control their health outcomes, encompassing access to affordable healthcare that prioritizes privacy and confidentiality. We look forward to working with policymakers, industry leaders, and healthcare consumers to enact these principles and catalyze a paradigm shift in the American healthcare system. Our vision is one where healthcare is not merely a reactive ‘sick-care’ system but a proactive and consumer-centric approach that puts individuals back in the driver’s seat of their health and well-being.”

###

[NABIP](#) is the preeminent organization for health insurance and employee benefits professionals, working diligently to ensure all Americans have access to high-quality, affordable healthcare and related benefits. NABIP represents and provides professional development opportunities for more than 100,000 licensed health insurance agents, brokers, general agents, consultants, and benefit professionals through more than 200 chapters across America.



Weigh in on social media!



UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 11- MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE 11:30AM AT THE STATE CAPITOL: 2300 N LINCOLN BLVD, RM 4S.3, OKC, 73105

APRIL 11-DAY AT THE CAPITOL!! SEE FLYER IN THIS NEWSLETTER FOR REGISTRATION DETAILS AND AGENDA.

APRIL 11- FOLLOWING THE DAY AT THE CAPITOL, THERE WILL BE A COCKTAIL RECEPTION FROM 4:30PM-6:00PM AT KAMPS 1910 CAFE, 10 NE 10TH ST, OKC, 73104.

THE NABIP VALUE PROPOSITION...

CREDIBILITY-YOUR KNOWLEDGE, EXPERTISE, AND EXPERIENCE ARE PRICELESS WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR PROFESSIONAL CAREER. NABIP MEMBERS ARE THE EXPERTS IN OUR INDUSTRY-THE BEST OF THE BEST.

The Oklahoma City Chapter would love to have you on the team! Some of the benefits of joining the Association are continuing education, monthly lunch meetings at The Greens Country Club, legislative advocacy, networking with other Health Insurance Professionals, and more business tools to help us promote affordable and responsible private health insurance.



Welcome New Member: Kim Arnold, Insurance Producer at Birchall and Hampton. Serving our board as Annual Partners Chair.



Welcome New Member: Corinne Henyan, Sales at American Public Life. Serving our board as Membership/Retention Chair.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- MAR 26 Live Virtual Level-Funded Health Plans Course @ 1:00pm →
- MAR 27 NABIP Power Hour @ 6:30pm →
- MAR 28 Leadership Monthly Webinar @ 1:00pm →
- MAR 28 New Member Orientation @ 12:00pm →
- APR 24 NABIP Power Hour @ 6:30pm →
- APR 9 NABIP Membership Chair Training @ 2:00pm →
- APR 25 New Member Orientation @ 12:00pm →



EXPAND YOUR EXPERTISE WITH NABIP'S BENEFIT SPECIALISTS INSTITUTE

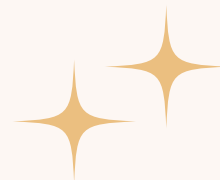


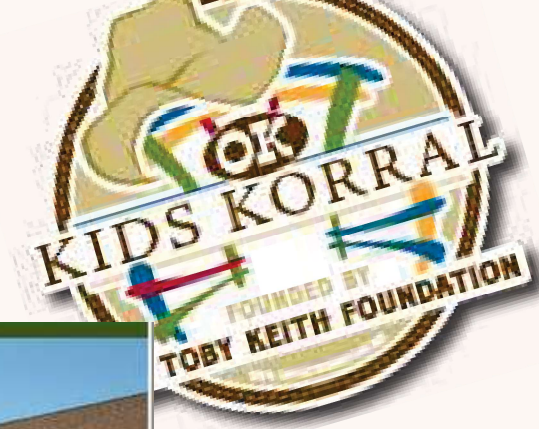
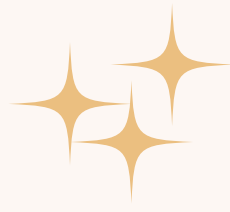
NABIP Benefit Specialist Institute courses are ideal for employee benefit advisors, consultants, HR, and legal professionals looking to grow their knowledge of public and private healthcare structures. Continued professional development advances careers and provides an edge over the competition. Affordable courses are available in NABIP's Online Learning Institute library, which provides 24-hour access to the course curriculum. Online courses are self-paced, succinctly explain complex concepts for professionals of varying knowledge levels and backgrounds, and allow learners up to one year to complete. The online courses consist of recordings, supporting documents, quizzes, and a final exam. Upon completing any of the certification courses, students receive a logo brand representing professional academic achievement recognized by clients and peers. Most of the courses offer continuing education credits to maintain state licenses and SHRM certification credits.

Courses can be taken one at a time and most work towards earning the **Registered Employee Benefits Consultant® (REBC) designation**. Lastly, NABIP members receive a savings of 30% off of NABIP course tuition and a plethora of resources that pair with continued professional success.

EXPAND YOUR EXPERTISE WITH NABIP'S BENEFIT SPECIALIST
INSTITUTE

JOIN NABIP TODAY





OK Kids Korral is a haven for the entire family as a child with cancer receives treatment. Proudly supported by the Toby Keith Foundation

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A PART OF A LOCAL MISSION?
COME OUT TO HELP MAKE A DINNER FOR PATIENTS
AND FAMILIES AT**

**THE TOBY KEITH FOUNDATION AT 818 N.E. 8TH ST,
OKC, OK 73104. CONTACT**

DANA@BIRCHALLANDHAMPTON.COM

- May 1, 2024 at 6pm
- July 29, 2024 at 6pm
- September 19 at 6pm





Did you know you and your business can take part in the Political Action Committees to help raise funds for the purpose of supporting the political campaigns of candidates who believe in private sector solutions for the health and financial security of all Americans.

Consider a Corporate Partnership.

A corporate partnership with NABIP allows you to access membership benefits on behalf of your business, bringing your employees specialized programs and information specific to your company's needs.

Consider becoming a member of your local chapter and contributing to your local Political Action Committee:

In addition to the benefits of being a member of your local chapter, your dollars can go to advocate to educate your local politicians.

PLEASE JOIN US APRIL 11 AT THE OKLAHOMA STATE CAPITOL FOR LEGISLATIVE DAY AT THE CAPITOL. MEET YOUR LOCAL LEGISLATOR AND HELP US GET IMPORTANT INFORMATION IN THEIR HANDS.

WASHINGTON UPDATES

HHS launched a new website on Thursday, February 1st – <https://www.LowerDrugCosts.gov> – which the agency intends to be a one-stop-shop on Medicare drug price negotiations, including resources for Medicare enrollees and information on the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

DID YOU SEE A NOTICE TO GET INVOLVED IN OPERATION SHOUT??

Look for your Operation Shout notice to OPPOSE HB 3383. HB 3383 changed the definition of “covered services”. This law could cost Oklahoman’s \$10 million. Not only does this bill establish a 80% MLR for dental coverage, but also would eliminate the negotiated rate for those services not covered by the dental insurance or for those that have met their maximums.



For nearly a century, the National Association of Benefits and Insurance Professionals (NABIP), formerly NAHU, has advocated on behalf of benefits and insurance professionals. NABIP members work to obtain insurance for clients who are struggling to balance their desire to purchase high-quality and comprehensive health coverage with the reality of rapidly escalating medical care costs. As such, one of NABIP's primary goals is to do everything we can to promote access to affordable health insurance coverage.

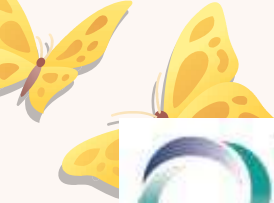
Preserving and Strengthening Employer-Sponsored Health Coverage

- **NABIP supports relief for employers complying with ACA reporting requirements.** The employer reporting requirements are needlessly burdensome and confusing for employers, consumers, health insurance exchanges, and the IRS. The current system exposes employers to threats of tax penalties and demands unnecessary personal identifying information from individuals. **The Employer Reporting Improvement Act (S. 3204)** and **The Paperwork Burden Reduction Act (S. 3207)** will ease the complex compliance reporting requirements for employers offering health insurance coverage to their employees. The bills allow employers to substitute certain identifying information, provide a larger window of time for employers to respond to IRS letters, limit the window of time for IRS lookback for prior compliance periods in accordance with regulation, and more.
- **NABIP supports ERISA and opposes any attempt to circumvent or preempt the law.** The Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) was enacted to protect the interests of employee benefit plan participants and their beneficiaries. It sets minimum standards for plans while also setting standards for providing information, fiduciary responsibility, procedures for handling benefits, and remedies for beneficiaries. NABIP emphasizes that maintaining ERISA's preemption is essential to avoid a fragmented legal landscape and ensure consistent, effective administration of employee benefit plans nationwide.

Addressing the Cost of Care

- **NABIP supports site-neutral rules to deter location-based gaming of coverage.** One of the single most important things Congress can do is ensure that the cost of a service does not vary based on the site where it is delivered. The price of the same X-ray, MRI or physician's visit should not differ if it is delivered in a free-standing facility vs. in an outpatient hospital setting. **The Lower Costs, More Transparency Act (H.R. 5378)** will enact a site-neutral payment policy to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries are paying the same rates for physician-administered (Part B) drugs in off-campus hospital outpatient departments as they do in physician offices. **H.R. 5378 passed the House in December and must be introduced in passed by the Senate to become law.**

For more information, please contact NABIP's Government Relations Team at legislative@nabip.org.



National Association of Benefits and Insurance Professionals

NABIP

Shaping the future of healthcare

118th Congress: Federal Talking Points

- **NABIP supports permanent expansion of telehealth flexibilities.**
Legislative action taken during the pandemic allowed Health Savings Account (HSA)-qualified high-deductible health plans (HDHPs) to cover telehealth services before reaching the deductible. It also allowed patients to choose and purchase telehealth services outside their HDHP, without impacting their eligibility for an HSA. These flexibilities will expire at the end of 2024 unless action is taken. Many large employers are already making benefits decisions for the 2025 plan year, and need to know if these flexibilities will be in place. The **Telehealth Expansion Act of 2023 (H.R. 1843 and S. 1001)** would make these flexibilities permanent.

Medicare

- **NABIP supports excluding licensed agents and brokers from burdensome marketing restrictions.**
NABIP supports legislation to explicitly exclude independent agents and brokers from the current requirement to record calls with beneficiaries, in addition to any future regulations related to recording calls with beneficiaries. NABIP recognizes the increase in unscrupulous actors in the Medicare market; however, the CMS regulations released last year do not adequately address these entities and inappropriately target licensed and certified agents and brokers committed to acting in the best interest of Medicare beneficiaries.
- **NABIP opposes proposed changes to the Medicare agent and FMO compensation model.**
Recent proposed regulations by CMS would effectively eliminate the existing model of servicing agents working with and through Field Marketing Organizations (FMOs). These regulations would deny the marketplace of the benefits that FMOs provide to agents, brokers, and Medicare beneficiaries. The proposed rule would also further cap enrollment compensation and reduce fees for certain "administrative services."

Without licensed and certified agents assisting in enrollments, Medicare beneficiaries will have fewer choices in finding accurate enrollment assistance; without FMOs to provide necessary services to agents, carriers will need create the infrastructure to provide those services – something that would likely increase premiums.

For more information, please contact NABIP's Government Relations Team at legislative@nabip.org.

999 E Street NW, Suite 400 | Washington, DC 20004 | www.NABIP.org



Thank
you!

