Three for Three: How Can We Transform, Drive, and Impact the Health Care System Amid COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis

CHERYL LARSON
President & Chief Executive Officer
Midwest Business Group on Health

Cheryl Larson is President and CEO of the non-profit Midwest Business Group on Health (MBGH), a coalition of 130 mid, large and jumbo, self-funded, public and private companies who represent more than 4.5M lives. She oversees all coalition activities including advocacy, membership, administration, research projects and educational activities, working closely with MBGH’s employer-led Board of Directors to establish the strategic direction of the coalition. Ms. Larson also leads MBGH’s National Employer Initiative on Specialty Drugs, the first major purchaser-driven research project that supports employers in managing the higher costs of biologic and specialty drugs.

Ms. Larson joined MBGH in 1983 as the Director of Membership Development, returning in 2006 as Vice President, after spending 10 years with a population health management company. In 2018, she became President & CEO. She is a nationally recognized speaker on employer best practices in managing specialty drugs, value-based benefit design, wellbeing, consumerism, engagement and benefit communications. She currently serves on IOMC’s Board of Directors, National Alliance of Healthcare Purchasing Coalitions – Board of Governors, University of Michigan Value Based Insurance Design (VBID) – National Task Force on Low-Value Care.

CARRIE NELSON, MD, MS, FAAFP
System Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Population Health and Health Outcomes, Chief Clinical Officer
Advocate Physician Partners

Dr. Carrie Nelson serves as System VP and Chief Medical Officer for Health Outcomes and Population Health at Advocate Aurora Health. With accountability to the chief medical officer and the senior vice president of population health and managed care, her system wide responsibilities include patient safety, quality and clinical risk management—in addition to

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population health across Advocate Aurora Health’s 400-mile footprint.

On the clinical side for population health, she focuses on care management, the pharmacy, and medical leadership. The emphasis is on improving chronic illness care, reducing readmissions, advanced end-of-life care planning and programs to deliver high value care.

Dr. Nelson graduated from Rush Medical College in 1989. She received her master’s in administrative medicine and population health from the University of Wisconsin in 2002. She is past president of the Institute of Medicine of Chicago and has served as president of the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians.

CHERYL RUCKER-WHITAKER, MD, MPH, FACP
Chief Executive Officer
Nextlevel Health Partners, Inc.

Dr. Cheryl Rucker-Whitaker, a physician, healthcare executive and entrepreneur, has dedicated her career to developing and executing innovative healthcare solutions for underserved populations. In 2014, she co-founded NextLevel Health, a groundbreaking insurance company dedicated to helping Cook County’s underserved access and manage Medicaid services. NextLevel Health has over 100 employees fully focused on helping members access preventive care, maternity care, and care for chronic conditions including mental health and substance abuse treatment. NextLevel is particularly focused on addressing health disparities and inequities in services like pre-and post-natal care for black women.

Dr. Rucker-Whitaker is chair of the state’s Medicaid advisory committee and incoming President of the Institute of Medicine Board of Governors. She received the LaRabida Community Leadership Award in 2013, Fifth Third Bank’s Community Leaders Award in 2015, was named both one of Chicago Business Journal’s 2018 Women of Influence and more recently Crain’s 2020 Notable Women Executives Over 50. She is a Member of The Chicago Network and a Member of the Economic Club of Chicago. She serves on the board of the Hyde Park Jazz Festival and XS Tennis Foundation.

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