

HBCH is growing rapidly and now represents more than 600,000 local employer-sponsored lives and 1.5 million nationally. The current success of HBCH has been attributed primarily to the value of its actionable programming in which employers present to other employers those strategies and practices that have demonstrated to impact cost, quality and experience. More recently, HBCH has established several committees that support the HBCH mission. New committees include Programming, Annual Conference, Wellness, Membership and Marketing & Communications. HBCH is one of 50 members of the National Business Coalition on Health which represents more than 41 million employer-sponsored lives. HBCH is working with its sister coalitions and with the national organization to leverage HBCH membership with other coalitions in which HBCH members may have operations and employees. All health care is ultimately local so the availability to employers of services and resources offered by other local coalitions has the potential to support an employers national strategy. You will hear more about this in the coming months.

There is so much good work being done on a national level by NBCH coalitions. I was recently nominated and named to the NBCH National Board of Governors. All of the 50 NBCH coalitions have the common goal of assisting employers to impact the cost, quality and experience in health benefits design and delivery. However, each coalition is an independent entity and offers a wide variety of options at the local level. To that end, the HBCH Board of Directors held a retreat recently to begin discussions on the types of services and resources it will develop for Houston employers over the next few years. Initiatives receiving the most support from the Board include HBCH becoming more of an employer voice in health-related issues at the local , state and national levels; HBCH developing a repository of health data to better support the benefits decision-making process and demonstrate impact of current initiatives; HBCH establishing its own events to recognize Houston's Healthiest Employers and other outstanding work in health benefits design and delivery; and HBCH utilizing its employer collective influence to discuss and develop new or improved models of health care purchasing and delivery.

HBCH is a member-driven organization and your voice matters. Please contact us at administrator@houstonbch.org to let us know your thoughts on our future direction or to get involved in one of our committees!

Chris Skisak, PhD
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