



AGENDA

NEEBC 2024 Annual Summit & Trade Show Full Throttle: Navigating the Accelerating Benefits Landscape May 15, 2024

7:30-8:30 AM	Registration, Exhibitor Trade Show and Breakfast – <i>Terrace Reception Area</i>	
8:30-8:45 AM	Welcome and Introductions – <i>Tiffany Ballroom</i> Robin Antonellis, Executive Director, NEEBC Co-Chair: Michelle Fatsi, Vice President, National and Major Accounts, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Co-Chair: Anita Verheul, Area Executive Vice President, Gallagher	
8:45-9:30 AM Keynote	Racing to the Future: AI Trends Shaping HR and Employee Benefits – <i>Tiffany Ballroom</i> Presenter: Dr. Rodica Neamtu, Professor of Teaching, Computer Science, Worcester Polytechnic Institute Join us as we embark on a journey to explore the dynamic landscape of employee benefits in the face of accelerated change. Our keynote will delve into futuristic trends, artificial intelligence, and the speed at which the workforce and skills are evolving.	
9:30-10:00 AM	NEEBC’s 2024 Annual General Meeting – <i>Tiffany Ballroom</i> NEEBC Board President: Erin Lenox, Sr. VP, Sales & Client Management, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Annually, we gather in support of our 44-year-old community’s mission. Erin Lenox will reflect on NEEBC’s good health and engage all members in this year’s Board activity, to include membership votes.	
10:00-10:30 AM	Break Networking Trade Show – <i>Terrace Reception Area</i>	
10:30-11:15 AM Breakout Sessions <i>(Choose one)</i>	The GLP-1 Drug Speedway: A Diabetes and Weight Loss Traffic Jam – <i>Tiffany Ballroom</i> Panelists: Kim Haywood, Pharm.D., Lead Director, Clinical Innovation & Specialty Client Solutions, CVS Health Miriam Sullivan, VP, Pharmacy, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Moderator: EJ Russo, Director, New Business Sales, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care GLP-1’s are an effective tool in helping Type II diabetics control blood sugars and lose weight. New versions of the drugs are being approved for weight loss in non-diabetic patients. Weight loss drugs are expected to generate \$100 billion in annual sales by 2030. While effective, employers, health insurance carriers and advisors are all watching the growth in GLP-1’s for weight loss and its impact on pharmacy spend.	A Successful Journey: Tuning-Up PTO and Leave Programs – <i>Lennox Room</i> Panelists: Kyle Daquanna, Dir., Strategic Partnerships, Empathy Kristin Matthews, LICSW, Chief Clinical Officer, KGA Daniel Zainulbhai, Chief Business Development Officer, Goodpath Moderator: Tom DeSimone, Principal, Mercer Taking extended time off to care for oneself or a loved one, or to grieve a loss, is paramount to employee well-being and to maintain productivity in the workplace. This session explores proven ways that employers can supportively intervene towards preventing the need for extended leaves of absence or reducing the overall duration. We will also look at innovative ways employers can support the grieving process, which is multifaceted. Expert panelists will share insights on effectively managing chronic illness, evolving solutions to address mental health and addiction, and exploring new perspectives on bereavement support.

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11:15-11:20 AM

Transition between Sessions – Terrace Reception Area

11:20 AM-12:05 PM

Breakout Sessions
(Choose one)

Accelerating Women Worker Retention Woes: Caregiving and Beyond – Tiffany Ballroom

Panelists:

Sharon Hidalgo, VP, Segal
Amanda Hemm, Dir., Parent Experience, Parento

Moderator: Liz Spath, Sr. Principal, Relationship Manager & Lead Strategist, Mercer

In 2023, the average day care cost in the US increased 9% over the prior year. Increases in care costs disproportionately affect women and their ability to stay in the workforce. Unaffordable or inaccessible childcare, along with other caregiving, are the top reasons women change jobs or leave the workforce altogether. This phenomenon affects women in many ways including their emotional and mental health and economic empowerment.

Innovation Pit Stop: Revving your Retirement Benefits – Lennox Room

Panelists:

Nan Ives & Lisa Stornaielo, Co-Founders, The Future of You
Tom Wilson, President, Wilson Group, Inc.

Moderator: Ann Dexter, VP of Human Resources, GBH

Retirement is one of life’s significant transitions; virtually everything changes. Employees spend almost all their working lives preparing for the *financial needs* of not working. But have they planned *to be ready* for their season of life when they have the freedom to choose what they want to do and when they want to do it? *How can employers support* this planning and give tools to those nearing retirement to help them create a plan and transition to this new state of living?

12:05-1:15 PM

Lunch | Scholarship Presentation | Announcements | Networking | Trade Show – Tiffany Ballroom

1:15-2:15 PM

Keynote Panel

Need for Speed: Addressing Drivers of Soaring Healthcare Costs – Tiffany Ballroom

Moderator: Jeffrey Hogan, President, Upside Health Advisers, Podcaster, Board Member, Moving to Value Alliance

Panelists:

David Auerbach, Ph.D., Sr. Director, Research & Cost Trends, Massachusetts Health Policy Commission
John F. Rodis, M.D., M.B.A., Founder & President, Arista Healthcare, LLC & Retired President, Saint Francis Hospital
Ellie Adair, Chief Operating Officer, Institute for Clinical and Economic Review (ICER)

In this thought-provoking panel discussion, you’ll find out how three factors are accelerating healthcare costs beyond what we’ve seen in the past and strategies for slowing down these budget collisions.

2:15-2:20 PM

Transition between Sessions – Terrace Reception Area

2:20-3:05 PM

Breakout Sessions
(Choose one)

Steering to Limit Financial Impact: Approaches to Managing Bio-Similar and Gene Therapy Treatments – Tiffany Ballroom

Panelists:

Mary Beth Erwin, MPH, RPh, Chief Pharmacy Officer, BCBS of Massachusetts

Kim Haywood, Pharm. D., Lead Dir., Clinical Innovation & Specialty Client Solutions, CVS Health

Tiffany L. Pierce, M.D., M.S., NE Market Medical Exec., Cigna

Moderator: Jessica Chaput, Sr. Dir., Pharm Sales, BCBS of Massachusetts

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Who’s in the Driver Seat?: Customizing Benefits for Differing Needs by Age and Sex – Lennox Room

Panelists:

Brent Atkins, Sr. VP, Growth, Progyny

James Fauver, VP, Business Development, Kashable

Will Porteous, Chief Growth Officer, Maven Clinic

Jannine Versi, Co-founder & COO, Elektra

Moderator: Orlagh Pawlyk, Sr. Account Exec., Cigna

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Bio-similar and gene therapy are terms bantered about when talking about new trends in healthcare. However, they are quite different in their approach and cost structure. The regulatory process for bio-similar development is shorter and less costly than its biologic counterpart. The increased development of bio-similar treatments is expected to generate overall savings in healthcare costs. Gene therapy uses genetic material to prevent, treat and can potentially cure diseases. But gene therapies are typically very expensive. This session will help clarify the differences between bio-similar and gene therapy solutions.

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Research shows that a worker's gender and age impact their benefit choices. Workers over age 35 typically want richer retirement benefits than younger workers who would like more time off. Women tend to want more flexibility around their work schedules than men. How do you ensure you have benefits that meet the needs of both genders at different ages? What trending benefits help younger employees potentially building families versus employees whose needs change as they age?

3:05-3:20 PM

Break | Networking | Trade Show – *Terrace Reception Area*

3:20-4:05 PM

Fast & Furious: How to Keep the “Human” in Human Resources – *Tiffany Ballroom*

Keynote Panel

Panelists:

Kevin Close, Corporate Vice President, Total Rewards, Intel Corporation

Shari Stier, Chief People Officer, Fenway Health

Jeffrey Stohlberg, Director, Corporate Benefits, Moderna

Robin Vann Ricca, Chief People & Equity Officer, Institute for Nonprofit Practice

Moderator: Sarah Quick, Senior Benefits Consultant, Talent Practices & Employee Rewards, Liberty Mutual Insurance

In 2024 the number of available benefit offerings continues to grow. At the same time, the nature of work has changed to a predominantly hybrid basis, and people are re-evaluating their relationship to work-life balance. What does this mean for your HR and benefits approach? A panel of Senior HR Leaders will discuss strategies for retaining human connection and supporting employee well-being in this age of non-stop work and blurred lines for work and life.

4:05-5:00 PM

Social Reception – *Terrace Reception Area*