



## This Issue:

Letter from President and CEO on Ohio health plans' response to the earthquake in Haiti

Healthcare reform - Where are we now?

Ohio Association of Health Plans 10 Annual Convention and Trade Show is July 25-26

OTLIGHT on OHHP Member Company: CIGNA

Study shows consumer-driven health plans lower costs, improve quality



## Ohio Association of Health Plans' Member Companies Lend a Helping Hand to Haiti

Last month I outlined health insurers' many efforts to help their communities through the holidays. Ohio's health plans' generosity is not limited to their local communities; it extends past our borders to Haiti.

As part of the effort to send aid to relieve the suffering of the earthquake victims in Haiti, several member companies of the Ohio Association of Health Plans and their parent companies are making grants and matching donations made by their employees to help the people of Haiti.

Below is a list of efforts so far:

**Aetna** – The Aetna foundation has already given \$60,000 to six organizations assisting in Haiti and is matching employee contributions to relief agencies dollar for dollar for up to \$25,000 for a total possible donation of \$ 50,000. In addition, Aetna Volunteer Councils, including those in Ohio, will be collecting goods and funds and offering other assistance.

**Anthem** - Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield's parent company has committed to providing \$50,000 in disaster relief toward earthquake recovery efforts in Haiti.

**Aultcare** – The Aultman Health Foundation has established a Haiti Disaster Relief Fund. All contributions will then be donated to the American Red Cross, which is affiliated with United Way.

**CareSource** – The CareSource Foundation has made an emergency grant of \$10,000 to the American Red Cross International Response Fund.

**CIGNA** made a donation of \$50,000 to the American Red Cross to support relief efforts and aid victims in Haiti. In addition, the CIGNA Foundation has pledged an additional \$50,000 to the American Red Cross to match CIGNA employee donations.



As overall medical costs continue to increase by double digits annually, medical costs for individuals in account-based consumer-driven health plans (CDHPs) went down 26% over four years, while levels of care for their preventive medicine, chronic disease management and evidence-based treatments were higher than their counterparts in traditional PPO and HMO health plans, according to a new multi-year study of health care claims experience of 655,000 CIGNA customers.

The Fourth Annual CIGNA Choice Fund Experience Study is the latest evidence that more than any health reform proposal currently on the table, these innovative free

Humana has given \$100,000 for immediate support of earthquake-relief efforts in Haiti through its foundation. The Humana Foundation will also match – dollar for dollar – contributions from Humana associates up to \$50,000 – for a total possible Humana Foundation donation of \$150,000.

Mount Carmel Health Plan's parent company, Trinity Health, is donating a total of \$100,000 to the relief efforts being coordinated by Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Medical Mission Board and Project Haiti, an organization that supports St. Damien's Children's Hospital in Port-au-Prince and a 550-bed orphanage. MediGold associates are also directly making donations to these three organizations.

United Health Group has donated \$100,000 to the American Red Cross International Response Fund, which helps victims of countless crises around the world, including the recent earthquake in Haiti. In addition, the company will match employee contributions to charitable partner Global Impact, dollar for dollar up to \$50,000.

Wellcare has an existing corporate partnership with the American Red Cross and has forwarded the link to the Red Cross to all of its associates.

The devastation in Haiti is overwhelming, but we can all do something to help. I encourage you to go to [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or the charity of your choice to see how you can help.

Sincerely,

Kelly McGivern  
President and CEO  
Ohio Association of Health Plans

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## Health Care Reform - Where are we now?

After the special election for the U.S. Senate seat in Massachusetts, voters sent a message that they were unhappy with the current direction of health care reform. In the wake of the vote, it is a good time to remind everyone of what health insurers have offered in terms of constructive solutions for reform.

Below are five key points that the insurance industry believes:

- The status quo is unacceptable and unsustainable.
- Health plans have proposed and continue to support insurance market reform and an overhaul of health care administration.
- Reform should cover all Americans, ensure that no one falls through the cracks,

market plans have been consistently proven to deliver actual quality, accessible health coverage at substantially lower costs.

“The empirical data is in and it’s undeniable: when health plans provide incentives for people to be engaged, their health care quality goes up and costs go down,” said CIGNA President and Chief Operating Officer, David M. Cordani.

“CIGNA’s study shows that the incentives offered by consumer-driven plans – such as lower premiums, freedom of choice, and the ability to build up health savings – result in an immediate and sustained improvement in health care quality and lower costs.”

For more information and key findings of the Fourth Annual CIGNA Choice Fund Experience,

and make pre-existing conditions a thing of the past.

- Reform must make health care more affordable for working families and small businesses, and put the health care system on a sustainable path.
- These goals are achievable and should be pursued on a bipartisan basis.

Health insurers remain committed to our principles for national reform, and will keep urging lawmakers to work toward a bi-partisan national solution that builds on the strengths of the current system, provides all Americans with health security, ensures that individuals are able to retain their existing coverage, and puts the entire healthcare system on a financially sustainable path.

## **OAHP Annual Convention May 25-26, 2010**

Mark your calendars and set your GPS devices for The Columbus, A Renaissance Hotel May 25-26, 2010 - the site of the 2010 Ohio Association of Health Plans Annual Convention and Trade Show.

You won't want to miss the outstanding speakers to help attendees "Navigating a New Landscape" in healthcare. More information will be coming soon, but for any immediate questions, please contact Jason Smith at 614-228-4662.

click [here](#).




Ohio Association of Health Plans  
230 E. Town Street, Suite 200 • Columbus, Ohio 43215 • 614-228-4662

The Ohio Association of Health Plans (OAHP) is the statewide trade association representing companies that provide health insurance benefits to more than 6 million Ohioans. OAHP's mission is to promote and advocate quality health care and access to a variety of affordable health care benefits for all Ohioans.

This message was sent from Lisa Hackley to [lhackley@oahp.org](mailto:lhackley@oahp.org). It was sent from: Ohio Association of Health Plans, 230 E. Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. You can modify/update your subscription via the link below.

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