

Bi-monthly Publication

LEGISLATION

NABIP-TX Legislative Update Mike & Shannon Meroney, Meroney Public Affairs



Change... it's the only constant in politics. Every election cycle, dozens of elected officials decide to leave office: either they retire or run for another office. It's always challenging for groups like NABIP-Texas who are trying to affect policies enacted by lawmakers, especially when we spend plenty of time and energy educating these elected officials – only for them to move on.

And while it's a challenge, every retirement or run for higher office is an excellent opportunity to form a new relationship with the candidate(s) who would replace them. It's like "getting in on the ground floor" with future lawmakers. The formula is simple: 1) develop relationship; 2) help them get elected; 3) become a trusted source of information and advice; 4) help shape policy so that lawmakers in Austin value and respect our profession and our opinions; 5) rinse & repeat.

NABIP-Texas has a Key Contacts pro-gram that seeks to pair lawmakers (or candidates) with our trade association members so we can be trusted advisors to our local elected officials. In the coming weeks and months, we'll have more information to share about Key Contacts, including detailed instruc-

tions and steps on how to develop deeper and meaningful relationships with elected officials and their valuable staff members. Stay tuned.

In the meantime, here's a list of law-makers who have announced they are either retiring, or running for another office:

- Sen. John Whitmire (D, SD 15 in Houston, 64.9% DEM District) is the longest serving state Senator, first elected to his seat 40 years ago. Whitmire is running for Mayor of Houston.

- Sen. Roland Gutierrez (D, SD 19 in San Antonio) is running for the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate against Democratic Cong. Colin Allred, with the winner to take on incumbent U.S. Senator Ted Cruz in 2024's general election. But Gutierrez does not have to give up his state Senate seat to run, because SD 19 not up until 2026 (state Senate seats are staggered).

- Rep. Julie Johnson (D, HD 115 in Carrollton, 56.95% DEM District) served on the House Insurance session in 2023 and 2019. She is now running for Congress in Congressional District 32, which is the seat being vacated by Cong. Colin Allred.

- Rep. Abel Herrero (D, HD 34 in Corpus Christi, 57.42% DEM District) announced his retirement in July, and NABIP-TX member and current City Councilman Roland Barrera (D-Corpus Christi) has thrown his hat in the ring. We wish Roland the very best in

his campaign for State Representative!

- Rep. Tracy King (D, HD 80 in Batesville/Uvalde, 54.61% DEM District) is not running for re-election after more than 20 years in the legislature. Uvalde Mayor Don McLaughlin (R-Uvalde) has announced he'll run, as well as Pleasanton Mayor Clint Powell and Cecilia Castellano, President of AZ-TECA Designs & Construction.

- Rep. Four Price (R, HD 87 in Amarillo/Panhandle, 76.81% GOP District) has announced his retirement.

- Rep. Lina Ortega (D, HD 77 in El Paso, 79.07% DEM District) announced her retirement. Several people have expressed an interest including former El Paso Councilman Vince Perez, former Rep. Norma Chavez, and former legislative staffer Elisa Tamayo.

- Rep. John Raney (R, HD 14 in College Station, 56.49% GOP District) said he'll not run for re-election after 12 years in office.

- And finally, Rep. Matt Schaefer (R, HD 6 in Tyler, 68.79% GOP District) has announced he will not seek re-election in 2024. Schaefer said he would consider running for the Texas Senate if Sen. Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) were to run for higher office.

We'll be keeping a running list of legislative vacancies, and as candidates emerge for House and Senate districts, we'll be reaching out and meeting many of these aspiring lawmakers. You never know... they could be NABIP-Texas' next legislative champion!

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Marketplace Premiums Could Increase by 6% in 2024, Report Shows

By [Marissa Plescia](#) - Health insurers are proposing a median premium increase of 6% for Affordable Care Act Marketplaces in 2024, a new analysis shows. Most proposed premium increase rates from insurers are between 2% and 10%.

The [analysis](#) was published last week by KFF. The organization collected the proposed rates from 320 insurers from RateReview found here at [Healthcare.gov](#). It also collected 58 insurer actuarial memoranda from state rate review sites. [Read Full Article...](#)



TDI NEWS

Having a detailed home inventory is important if you ever need to make an insurance claim.



[Watch a one-minute video](#) for home inventory tips.

[A home inventory](#): Why you need it and how to do it [\(Español\)](#)

Biden's health care wins are being undone — and at the worst possible time

By [Adam Cancryn](#) and [Megan Messerly](#)

The U.S. is dismantling one of the last major pillars of its Covid-era safety net. For President Joe Biden, the timing couldn't be worse.

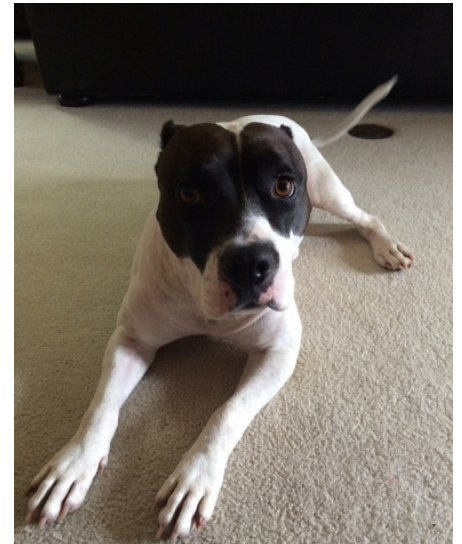
States across the country, both blue and red, are purging their Medicaid programs of millions of low-income enrollees for the first time in three years, after a pandemic policy meant to prevent vulnerable people from suddenly losing health coverage expired earlier this spring. [Read Full Article...](#)

The latest trend in employee retention? Even more pet benefits

By [Dawn Kawamoto](#) - As HR leaders struggled with recruiting and retention in recent years, many set their sights on expanding benefits for employees.

With the added challenge of getting talent to come back into the office today, experts say, HR needs to double down on innovation in benefits—and one way to do that is to broaden the focus to include pets.

[Read Full Article...](#)



How job & wage growth is affecting workers' comp

By Steve Hallo - The U.S. labor market continues to show strength, with employment increasing an average of 200,000 jobs a month during the second quarter, which is above the average pre-pandemic growth of around 150,000 jobs, according to the latest quarterly economic briefing from the National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI).

[Read Full Article...](#)

YouTube announces new policies to target medical misinformation

YouTube on Tuesday announced it is creating a new framework to crack down on medical misinformation on the platform.

[Read Full Article...](#)



Inside the push to get weight loss treatment covered by Medicare

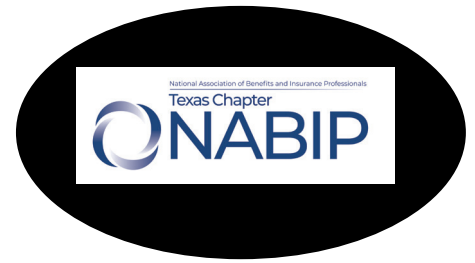
A push to have more obesity care services covered under Medicare is picking up steam in Congress, buoyed by enthusiasm for newer medications and recognition of the massive cost of chronic health issues linked to being overweight.

Under the Medicare Modernization Act passed in 2003, Medicare is prohibited from covering medications used for weight loss. At the time, the reasoning was that certain weight loss drugs carried dangerous side effects.

[Read Full Article...](#)

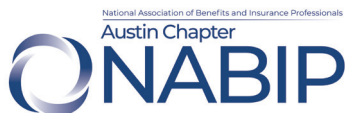
Thanks to our NABIP-TX Sponsors

Click on each logo to visit their website



August Chapter Agendas

AUSTIN



NABIP AUSTIN AUGUST 17TH MONTHLY MEETING- ETHICS, JEOPARDY, FOOD AND WINE. Earn 3 Hours of Ethics CE and Meet the 2023-2024 NABIP-Austin Board Members!

Speaker: Krista Palmer

Krista Palmer has 20-years of experience in the employee benefits industry with an extensive background in compliance.

CE: 3.0 Hour of Ethics CE

Provider: #32408

Course #130113

Date: August 17, 2023

TICKETS

\$50.00 Member - 2 drink tickets and light appetizers, plus 3 CE hours for Ethics

\$50.00 Guests - 2 drink tickets and light appetizers, plus 3 CE hours for Ethics

www.austinhahu.org

DALLAS



Leverage the Full Power of LinkedIn

Wednesday, August 23, 2023

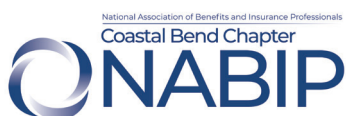
2:30 - 3:00pm CT

Zoom Webinar

Join us for an educational webinar where you'll learn how to leverage the full power of LinkedIn to identify and engage with your ideal prospects.

www.dahu.org

COASTAL BEND



www.cbahu.org

EAST TEXAS



2023 Annual Sales Symposium

Friday – August 18, 2023

Studio Movie Grill, Tyler, Texas

EVENT AGENDA

8:45 A.M TO 9:45 A.M

Speaker: Reid Rasmussen – freshbenies

Topic: “Coffee Wisdom: Lessons From Brokers In Cars Getting Coffee”

Course: 126430 / Provider: 32408

10:00 A.M TO 11:00 A.M

Speaker: Sarah Borders – Benefits Compliance Solutions

Topic: “CAA Latest Update: What You And Your Employers Need To Know”

11:15 A.M TO 12:15 P.M

Speaker: Jennifer Stanley – StanleyKup Compliance

Topic: “Top 10 traps catching brokers time after time”

Check out the NABIP-ET website for the full schedule.

www.etahu.org

LONESTAR



www.lonestarahu.org

August Chapter Agendas

FORT WORTH

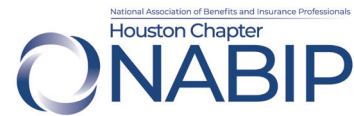


September 21, 2023

"Chicken N Pickle Vanguard Event and Meeting – the Calm Before the Storm -Don't Let 4th Quarter Put You in a Pickle"

www.fwahu.org

HOUSTON



NABIP Houston 43rd Annual Symposium

September 14, 2023
7:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Houston Museum of Natural Science
5555 Hermann Park Dr. Houston, TX 77030

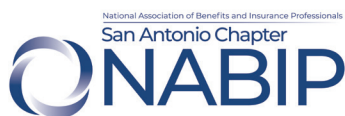
Tickets

\$85.00 Member Ticket
\$75.00 Earlybird rate before August 31
\$105.00 Guest Ticket
\$95.00 Earlybird rate before August 31

\$3,000.00 Event Partner - Group Medical - Only 1 available - \$3,000.00
Event Partner - Individual/Medicare - Only 1 available - \$3,000.00
Event Partner - Ancillary - Only 1 available - \$3,000.00
Event Partner - TPA/HR/Payroll - Only 1 available - \$2,000.00
Platinum Sponsor \$750.00
Exhibitor Booth Only - \$2,000.00
Lunch Sponsor - \$500.00
Gold Sponsor (no booth) - \$5.00
Raffle Ticket - \$75.00
Additional Ticket for Sponsors (Symposium)

www.habip-htx.org

SAN ANTONIO



**NABIP SAN ANTONIO
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

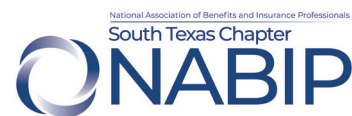
Please join us for our biggest NABIP-San Antonio Annual Char-ity Fundraising Golf Tournament!

September 21, 2023
8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Canyon Springs Golf Club
24405 Wilderness Oak
San Antonio, TX 78260

www.sanantionioahu.org

SOUTH TEXAS



Easterseals Telethon TV Check Presentation
Aug 5, 2023 - 1:15 PM
Bert Odgen Arena

NABIP-SOTX Summit - September 14/15, 2023 - SPI
Join us for our Medicare & Employee Benefits Summit where you can pick up 5 hours of CE credits and learn about your industry. This event cost \$45 to NABIP-SOTX (also NABIP-TX) members and \$85 for non-members.

Here you will enjoy: • 5-CE credits • Hear from industry leaders • Enjoy some great drink and food • Set sail on the SPI Sunset Bay Cruise • Listen to local bands • Enjoy Fire-works • 2 Happy Hour Mixers • Meet Carrier Representatives . Fishing Tournament (extra event) and, spend the week-end with your toes in the water and a cold one in your hand!

www.nabipsotx.org