

Alabama Association of Health Plans 2021 Annual Conference

Welcome to our premier event of the year!

The past year has been anything short of normal. Most of us have been locked up in our homes attempting to maintain a resemblance of normalcy to our businesses. It has been difficult for everyone and the AAHP is still feeling the pains of 2020. For those of you who have attended this event in the past, you will notice something a bit different. The size of our conference is approximately half the normal attendance. Unfortunately, many of our friends and members are still under strict travel restrictions with their companies and unable to attend our meeting this year. We are optimistic that by this time next year, we will be back to our pre-COVID attendance.

Even with the limited number of attendees and sponsors, the board of the Alabama Association of Health Plans has strived to make this year's event equal to past events. There have been a few minor changes, but our goal to offer our attendees a warm, friendly environment to build lifelong relationships within the industry has not changed. So, let's turn lemons into lemonade and focus on the positives of a smaller, more intimate conference!

I am really excited to have some amazing guests and speakers this year. Commissioner Ridling and Deputy Commissioner Fowler are in attendance and if you have never had the pleasure of meeting them, I suggest you take a minute to say hello. Alabama is blessed to have an insurance department that is not only accessible, but willing to listen and react positively for the people of our great state. Also attending is a close personal friend of mine and Jeannie's, Jeff Fusile and his amazing wife, Teresa. Jeff will be one of our keynote speakers and as the recently retired CEO of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, I'm sure he will have some interesting things to share. Also speaking this year is David Galardi, COO of PaydHealth in Dallas, Texas. David and his organization assist employers in reducing specialty pharmacy costs which has been a driver of rising healthcare costs in recent years.

We are also proud to have Lynda Blanchard, candidate for US Senate in Alabama. Jeannie and I have had the pleasure to meet with Lynda on numerous occasions and we are confident you will love her story. It's refreshing to see a successful business person offering her time in public service. The state of Alabama would be well served with someone like Lynda representing us in Washington, DC.

We are also proud to have Dr. Don Williamson, CEO, Alabama Hospital Association, Dr. Zack Studstill, CEO, Alabama Dental Association and Jeff Drozda, CEO, Louisiana Association of Health Plans as our special guests! Please make it a point to make them feel welcome!

As you can see, we have some amazing speakers and guests most, if not all, will be at our reception on Monday, July 19th at 6:00 pm. To control costs, we will not be using an electronic app this year, although we plan to go back to an app for next year's event. In the meantime, you will get a packet containing information regarding the conference and can get everything electronically off our website at www.alhealthplans.org.

Our meeting is business/resort casual. We strongly suggest you dress in layers for morning sessions if you tend to get cold. We will have large groups of attendees at the pool and beach in the afternoons. As with our receptions and sessions, do not hesitate to join a group. Some of our best ideas have come through these work sessions around the pool!

If you need anything, or if we can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact Jeannie at 334.462.1200 or me at 334.462.1300. Our goal is to make this event productive and valuable for all our attendees.

This should be a great week! Don't forget to check out the Tips Page and be sure to thank each of our sponsors for their financial assistance in making this meeting the premier event of the south!