

# The Obesity Epidemic and Its Impact on the Workplace

Wednesday, June 8 | 9:00am – 11:00am



# Introduction



Melina Kambitsi, Ph.D.

Sr. Vice President, Business  
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The Alliance



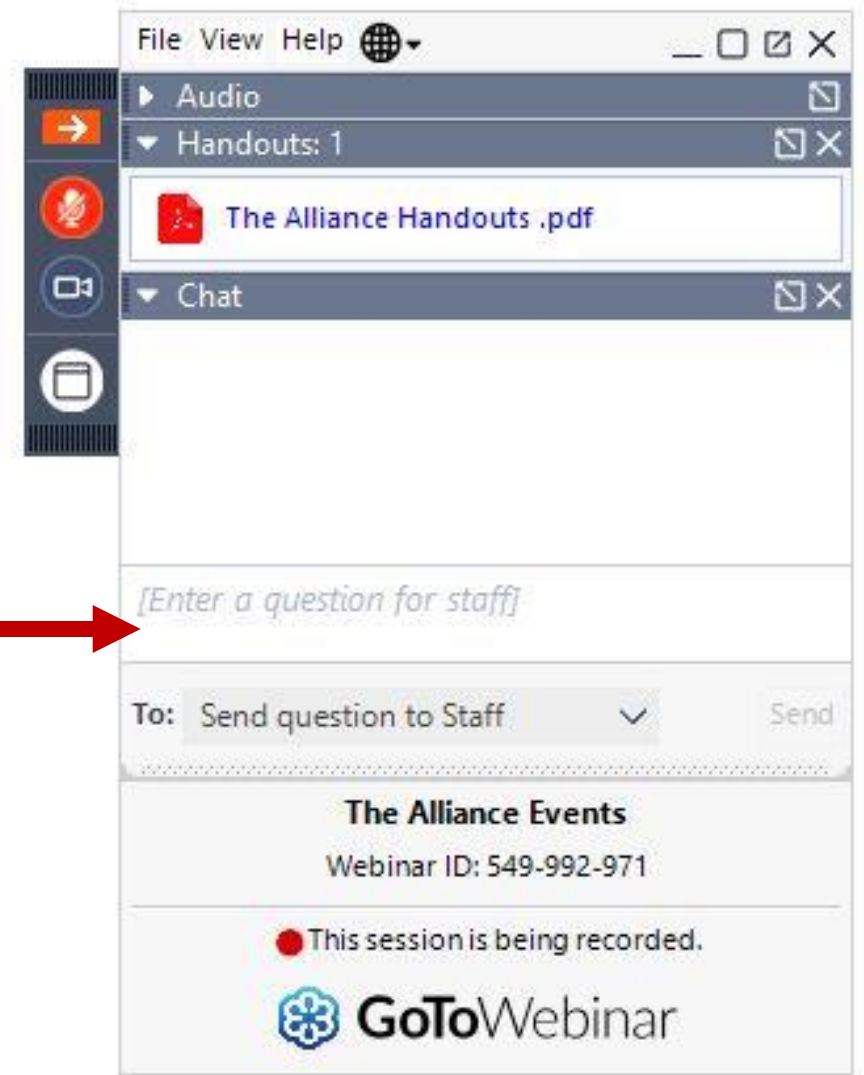
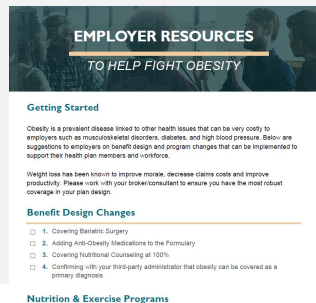
Jen Koberstein

Program Manager  
Wisconsin Collaborative for  
Healthcare Quality



# Housekeeping

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# Introduction

## Obesity in Wisconsin



## Treating Obesity



## The Costs, Behavior, and Psychology of Obesity



# Obesity in Wisconsin



**Christopher Weber, MD**

Bariatric Medical Director  
Ascension Wisconsin

# Treating Obesity



**Melanie Smith, DO**

Family Practice, Diplomate in Obesity Medicine  
Medical Director, HMR  
Advocate Aurora Waterford Clinic



# The Costs, Behavior, and Psychology of Obesity



**John Briggs, Ph.D., LP**  
President  
ThedaCare Behavioral Health

# Q&A: Doctor Panel



Christopher Weber, MD

Bariatric Medical Director  
Ascension Wisconsin



Melanie Smith, DO

Family Medicine and Obesity  
Advocate Aurora



John Briggs, Ph.D, LP

President  
ThedaCare Behavioral Health



# Q&A: Employer Panel



**Abby Ammerman, MPH**  
Manager Benefits Program,  
H-E-B Grocery Company



**Teresa Pulvermacher,  
APNP, FNP-C**  
President and Medical Director,  
Weber Group



**Lauren Schrage**  
Director of Operations,  
Aspirus Health Plan



# Download the Handout



## Getting Started

Obesity is a prevalent disease linked to other health issues that can be very costly to employers such as musculoskeletal disorders, diabetes, and high blood pressure. Below are suggestions to employers on benefit design and program changes that can be implemented to support their health plan members and workforce.

Weight loss has been known to improve morale, decrease claims costs and improve productivity. Please work with your broker/consultant to ensure you have the most robust coverage in your plan design.

## Benefit Design Changes

- 1. Covering Bariatric Surgery
- 2. Adding Anti-Obesity Medications to the Formulary
- 3. Covering Nutritional Counseling at 100%
- 4. Confirming with your third-party administrator that obesity can be covered as a primary diagnosis

## Nutrition & Exercise Programs



## Upcoming Events

**SAVE THE DATE**

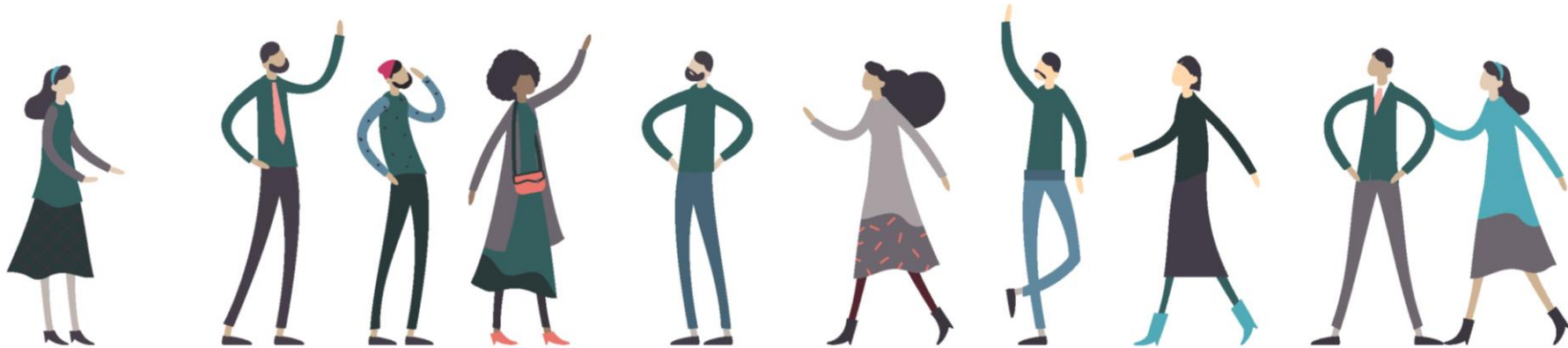
**October 25:**

**Fall Symposium and  
Annual Meeting**

(in person at Monona Terrace)

# Thank You

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