

# HFPN News



Dear Colleague,

As executive leadership of the HFPN shifts, it offers a good time to reflect on the first decade-plus of the Network. The HFPN team recently gathered for a retreat at the home of our President and CEO **Bruce Muma, MD, FACP** (photo to the right). As part of that day, the team looked at the genesis of the HFPN and how it has been able to gather steam throughout the years to bring us to where it is today.

Spurred by that exercise, HFPN Vice President of Operations **Jane Thornhill, MSA**, who will retire at the beginning of August, wanted to provide a retrospective on how the HFPN began and has maintained its success since Dr. Muma joined the team in 2013. Below are her thoughts:



**Q.** You began with the HFPN in 2019, but before that you held several positions within Henry Ford Health. What did you observe about the HFPN prior to joining the team?

**A.** “I knew that the HFPN was an early adopter of value-based care models. This was due, in large part, to its expert leadership and vision from the start. There was also a strong commitment to remove waste and to make sure the patients it was privileged to serve received the care they needed, when they needed it and without increased costs or delays in care. Overall, it was pretty remarkable to watch.”

**Q.** What are the major impacts you saw Dr. Muma make on the construct and direction of the HFPN?

**A.** “I was most impressed by his ability to traverse, while fully respecting, the different archetypes the HFPN was there to serve. As an employed Primary Care doctor, Bruce understands his colleagues’ challenges. Additionally, he has been committed to pluralism from the onset and has established strong relationships and appreciation for private practice providers in our communities.”

**Q.** What do you see as Dr. Muma’s greatest impact on the HFPN over the years?

**A.** “Without a doubt, it’s his presence! He is respected in every room he enters. His knowledge about ACOs, Clinically Integrated Networks, Direct-to-Employer contracts and payors is unparalleled at Henry Ford Health. He has an innate ability to understand what is being solved for and can bring all the right people together to collaborate in finding a meaningful solution for everyone ... most especially the patient.”

**Q.** Dr. Muma, obviously, has a passion for value-based care. How has that translated to members of the HFPN and the community of patients served by these contracts?

**A.** “Bruce’s dedication to removing waste cuts across the board. He has been focused on never wasting the time of the members of the HFPN, in addition to cutting waste in its contracts. Moreover, he has built

a team of people around him who are experts at what they do. His careful construct of the team has reduced or eliminated any of the heaving lifting on the part of our members. Bruce seeks HFPN members' honest and direct feedback, then takes everything he hears to heart. When committees meet, the topics are meaningful and timely. Bruce always has his eye on how to better serve our community of providers and patients."

**Q.** What type of growth do you see ahead for the HFPN?

**A.** "The initial success of being granted the General Motors Connected Care direct-to-employer contract in 2018 (for Performance Year 2019) was extraordinary for Henry Ford Health and the HFPN. What I think has been an even greater measure of success is the contract extension with GM. Through Bruce's leadership, along with internal experts at Henry Ford and valued colleagues at GM, we were able to renegotiate terms for a contract extension for five more years (starting with Performance Year 2024). That is a HUGE sign of success. This positions the HFPN in the Southeast Michigan market to be the Network of choice for additional D2E contracts."

**Q.** You mentioned that Bruce has built a team to lead and sustain the HFPN. Are they ready to "fly" on their own?

**A.** "Through the years both Bruce and I have taken our hands off the steering wheel more and more to allow our directors, managers and other team members the chance to work more autonomously. This was done very purposefully, knowing that the day would eventually come when we would step aside. Without exception, every single HFPN team member has excelled beyond where we anticipated they would be at this juncture. They take ownership and pride in the work they do and recognize their impact on the health and wellbeing of our Network. As I said, most of our HFPN leaders and administrative team members have been doing much of the heavy lifting for some time now. They are laser focused on staying the course and keeping the HFPN growing and succeeding for years to come."

**Q.** Any final thoughts you would like to share?

**A.** "It has been an honor and a privilege to work for and alongside Bruce Muma, MD for the last 20 years in Henry Ford Health and directly over the past five years. I can say without hesitation I am the professional I am today due in large part to his investment in my professional and personal development. Bruce is a trusted healthcare provider to my family members, a friend to me and is someone I absolutely treasure. If not for him, my career would not have been what it turned out to be."

*Our entire HFPN team wishes Jane all the best as she kicks back and enjoys her well-deserved retirement.*

### **Announcing New Co-Chairs for JOC**

We are fortunate in the HFPN to have several Network and team members who are both qualified and willing to step into committee leadership roles. This is particularly important as we usher in a changing of the guard, so to speak, at our Chair level for the HFPN Joint Operating Committee (JOC).

With the pending retirement of HFPN Vice President of Business Operations Jane Thornhill, HFPN Director of Network Performance **Sharon Thomas, MHSA** will take over Jane's role as Co-Chair of the JOC.

Also, after serving since 2019 in the role as the other Co-Chair, Executive Director of Oakland Southfield Physicians **Jenifer Hughes**, will also be stepping down. Taking Jeni's place will be Executive Director of Greater Macomb Physician Network **Angela Vanker, MPH**.

Sharon has been a member of the HFPN team for three years and has ascended to her current role as the leader of the Practice Transformation Consulting team and general oversight of network performance. A former Administrative Fellow Henry Ford



Health serving in the Office of the CEO, Sharon has a great understanding of effective administration in addition to the many aspects of our network contracts and their corresponding performance metrics. She is sure to be a fantastic leader in this role as Co-Chair of the JOC.

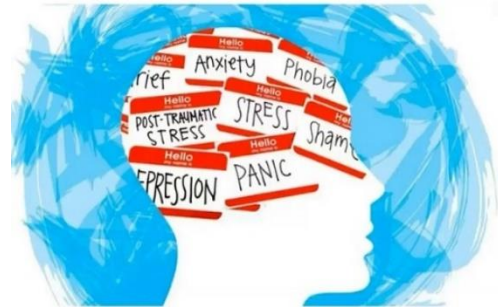
Meanwhile, Angela has been a presence in the HFPN for years and has vast experience in many of the aspects that make value-based contracting and care successful. She has over 15 years of experience working with and advocating for physician practices and has served as the Director of Practice Transformation at Alliance Health. In that role, she designed and implemented integrated care teams in primary care. She also served as a Director of Quality Initiatives at MPRO, a quality improvement service provider for the State of Michigan. We are overjoyed that Angela has agreed to step into this leadership position, lending her years of expertise and perspective to the HFPN.



We are confident that Sharon and Angela will lead the JOC in much the same fashion as their predecessors, Jane and Jeni. We offer our most sincere thanks to Jane and Jeni for their outstanding leadership in the Co-Chair roles. Our Network has benefited in immeasurable ways thanks to their pinpoint guidance and leadership through the years.

### [Replay of Webinar Now Available](#)

If you missed the most recent HFPN webinar, held on May 23 and titled [De-stigmatizing Stigma: Bridging Mental Health Equity Gap](#), you can now watch the replay. Our panel of experts were outstanding in highlighting areas of mental health in patients that might otherwise go unnoticed. They also cited important research and trends in the care of patients that will connect with any provider, whether primary care or specialty.



We encourage you to find the time to watch this one-hour webinar to gain fascinating and vital knowledge on how to positively impact your patients who can benefit from a mental health intervention.

Our team plans on hosting another webinar late summer/early fall. Subject matter and details will be sent via email notice and will be posted to the HFPN website soon.

### [Mosaic ACO Application Open Until July 18](#)

Henry Ford Health's rich history of participation in the world of accountable care organizations (ACOs) – via the HFPN – began more than a decade ago. Since then, every year this ACO has resulted in considerable shared savings, which is passed on to participants.

We are currently in the third year of our Mosaic ACO, uniting providers and beneficiaries from the HFPN (Southeast Michigan and Jackson) and Covenant HealthCare Partners (Saginaw). This model for Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries is an upside/downside risk contract.



Because of your affiliation with the HFPN you have the opportunity to join Mosaic ACO for 2025. The application for inclusion is **due July 18**. For any PO leaders or providers interested in joining Mosaic ACO or for learning more about it, please connect with HFPN Director of Contracting and Compliance [Aaron Sohaski](#).

### Everyone Who Cooks Recap

Eight members of our HFPN team participated in the annual *Everyone Who Cooks* fundraising event held on the grounds of Henry Ford Hospital on Wednesday, June 5. While the evening of food was a huge success, it wasn't without its drama.

As background, each year teams sign up to cook up themed items for the event. Patrons then pay \$20 to enter and enjoy more than 50 food items created by these volunteer chefs. This year's theme was Tailgating, with items ranging from chili and sliders, to Bundt cakes and creme Brulé to our HFPN team's offering of a fresh and fantastic grilled corn salsa. Proceeds from the event go to the Tom Groth Medical Needs Fund.



While our team didn't win any of the special awards, it was successful in finishing the grilling of 200 ears of corn, creating the multi-ingredient salsa and loading it into several large server pans before a powerful storm hit around 4 p.m. – just one hour before the event opened to the public. As the winds, thunder, lightning and torrential rain hit, all participants had to evacuate the tent and run into any of the adjacent buildings for shelter. Fortunately, other than some minor flooding on the floor of the event area, all food items were untouched.

Thank you to this fearless team that created a delicious, healthy and popular entry for this year's event, and for representing our HFPN with their funny hats and all!

### Tour de Cure

A huge thank you to all who donated or participated in the June 8 [Tour de Cure Michigan](#) bicycle event at Domino Farms, organized by the American Diabetes Association. Dr. Muma and his wife, Mary, raised nearly \$9,000 of the more than \$12,000 amassed by the Henry's Wellness Warriors team. Much of those funds came from HFPN-affiliated contributors!

The weather for the event, which raises money to help support research, care and programs for those with diabetes, was perfect for both beginner and seasoned bicyclists.



Again, sincere thanks to all HFPN-affiliated members who contributed to make this event the success it was.

**June 2024**

Please go to the [HFPN website](#) to view previous newsletters.