

# The Summit

MountainWest Chapter



## President's Message

By Katie Harwood, CRCE-I  
Utah MountainWest President

Hello Summer!

The summer newsletter is being prepared in the month of June, and it happens to be Pride Month. I have been reflecting on Pride and the support of an inclusive society where all of us can contribute to the success of our professional organization, AAHAM, and the Utah Mountain West chapter. I have brothers and other gay family members. I grew up in a household that was active in the LGBTQ community from a fairly young age. I took for granted the support my brothers have received their entire lives. I know this was not common, especially in the 90s when we came of age. They had friends that did not have the same security, and my mom was there for those whose families could not extend their acceptance to their sons. Sometimes I am surprised that there is still work to be done to ensure everyone has a right to be who they are without fear. Pride is just one of many areas of focus to ensure Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion for all.

Many healthcare organizations recognize that social disparities have a negative impact on the health of their patients and the communities we live in. So much work is being done to address the disparities, there is no limit to where we may contribute our time and passion. We each have an opportunity to develop our own skill set to contribute to outcomes that benefit the entire community.

One thing that I can do to support our professional colleagues from all backgrounds, is to continue my own education on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. I encourage each of you to also further your knowledge and I am pleased to share resources that are available at the end of this message. These resources are accessible to all of the Utah Mountain West members, feel free to share with others.

<https://uofuhealth.utah.edu/community/>

<https://utahpridecenter.org/pride-and-center/>

<https://diversity.utah.edu/>

Summer

## Newsletter Highlights

President's Message

Legislative Day 2022

Board Members

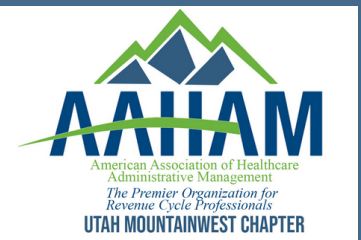
Resources

Blood Drive

Event

Certification

Sponsors



# 2022 Legislative Day

The legislative day brings us face to face with the decision-makers in Washington D.C. once a year. The legislative day was held on June 21 and 22, 2022. I was excited to join 3 other members of the Utah Mountain West chapter who had not previously been in attendance. Amber Rector, Miguel Garay-Carson, and Noah Carter were part of the Utah representation for Leg Day.

We had the opportunity to meet with members of the Senate and the House to reform healthcare regulations. This year we focused on the following three topics:

- 1.No Surprise Billing Act
- 2.Prior Authorization Act
- 3.Medical Debt Reporting

We provided an overview of the issues with our state Senator Mitt Romney's and Congressman Burgess Owens's staff members. A brief synopsis of what we are requesting support of:

In regards to the No Surprise Billing Act, we asked for a review of the current Federal IDR timelines to be re-evaluated and the interim final ruling favors the insurer to define the median contracted rate as the appropriate payment. In addition, the time frame providers are required to comply with in supplying all patients with a good faith estimate is not reasonable without adding additional resources that many providers do not have available today.

The Prior Authorization Act is an active bill - Prior Authorization/H.R. 3173 Improving Seniors' Timely Access Care Act of 2021.

This proposed legislation has the bipartisan support of 284 members and is primarily focused on Medicare Advantage plans. The Prior Authorizations issues we would like to have addressed through a bill are

1. A bill that applies to all health plans, including commercial health plans
2. A bill that establishes an electronic standard -including requiring all health plans to accept electronic clinical information
3. A bill that requires health plans to meet the quality and timeliness of prior authorization standards
4. National standardization as to what makes a specific test medically necessary
5. Authorization that covers a "family of codes" that is consistent across the country
6. One standard list of tests that would apply to all health plans across the country for what tests require a prior authorization before they can be performed



Continued

The final position we presented is Medical Debt Reporting. During the pandemic, many state and federal agencies suppressed debt collection activities related to the public health emergency. While AAHAM supports the initiatives to develop patient-friendly collections, there should also be some considerations for the following:

1. Ensure consistent medical debt reporting practices from all health care providers along with all collection agency partners from state to state
2. Must exhaust debt collection letters or letter + call campaign before credit reporting
3. AAHAM agrees with the removal of trade lines 30-45 days after medical debt is paid, regardless of the source of payment
4. AAHAM and providers support medical debt reporting for true self-pay balances so long as all other efforts to satisfy this debt have been exhausted such as financial assistance programs, loan programs, and payment plans

All in all, this was a wonderful Legislative day. In addition to being able to meet with the staff of our Utah leaders, we had an opportunity to meet Senator Mitt Romney for a photo op and brief conversations. He wowed a young man from Maryland who joined our group to meet his hero! Jake Taylor was a local to Maryland, and his mom is on the National Executive Board. He shared his passion for being involved on the local level of his community politics and hopes to make a difference through Public Service.

**-Katie Harwood**





2022  
Legislation

2022 AAHAM  
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**Garth Brooks on  
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**Eagles on  
May 25 at  
Vivint Arena**

**Donate in June for a Chance to Win Two Tickets To:**

**REO Speedwagon, Styx,  
and Loverboy on July 9  
at USANA Amphitheatre**

**Jason Aldean on  
July 23 at  
USANA Amphitheatre**

**Donate in July for a Chance to Win Two Tickets To:**

**Backstreet Boys on  
August 4 at USANA Amphitheatre**

**Rob Zombie and Mudvayne on  
August 10 at USANA Amphitheatre**

**Imagine Dragons on  
August 5 at Rice-Eccles Stadium**

**Sammy Hagar & The Circle with  
George Thorogood on August 30  
at USANA Amphitheatre**

**Donate in August for a Chance to Win Two Tickets To:**

**Keith Urban on  
September 15 at  
USANA Amphitheatre**

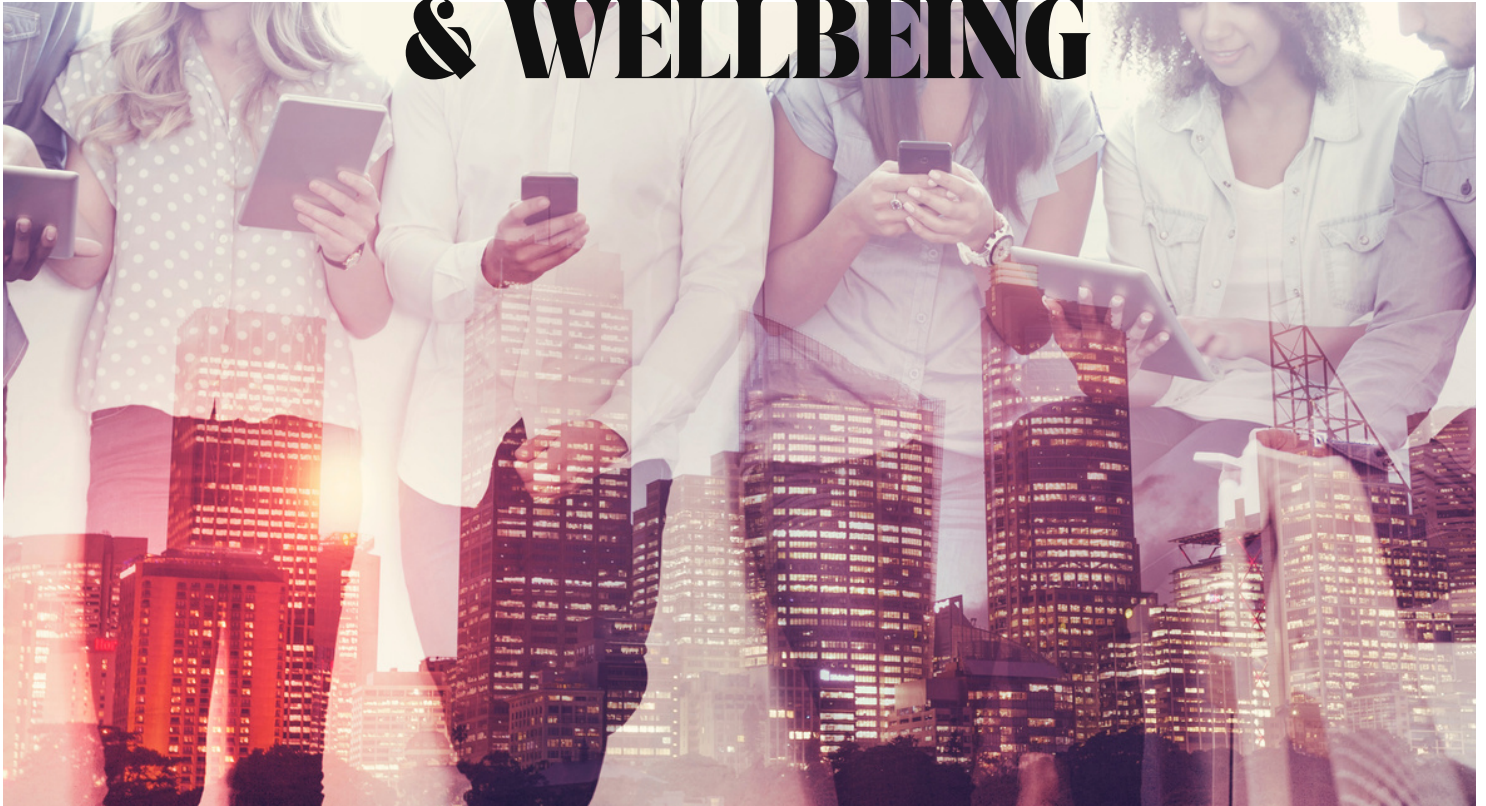
**Iron Maiden on  
September 19 at  
USANA Amphitheatre**

**Shawn Mendes on  
September 21 at  
Vivint Arena**



25 AUGUST, 2022

# WORKPLACE CULTURE & WELLBEING



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*More*  
INFORMATION

**25TH AUGUST, 2022**  
**09:30 AM - 2:00 PM**

**TRACY AVIARY**  
589 E 1300 S, SALT LAKE CITY,  
UT 84105

*Speaker*  
PROFESSIONAL



**SHANNON KINSEY**  
CRCP-I  
Manager,  
Revenue Cycle,  
University of  
Utah Health



**KIM LOPEZ**  
CRCP-I  
Training Specialist,  
SR., University of  
Utah Health

MORE INFORMATION

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**OCTOBER 2022**

10/17/2022-10/21/2022

**NOVEMBER 2022**

11/14/2022-11/18/2022

**DECEMBER 2022**

12/12/2022-12/16/2022

**[HTTPS://AAHAMMTNWEST.ORG](https://aaHAMMTNWest.org)**

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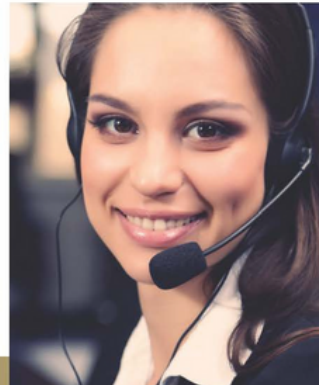
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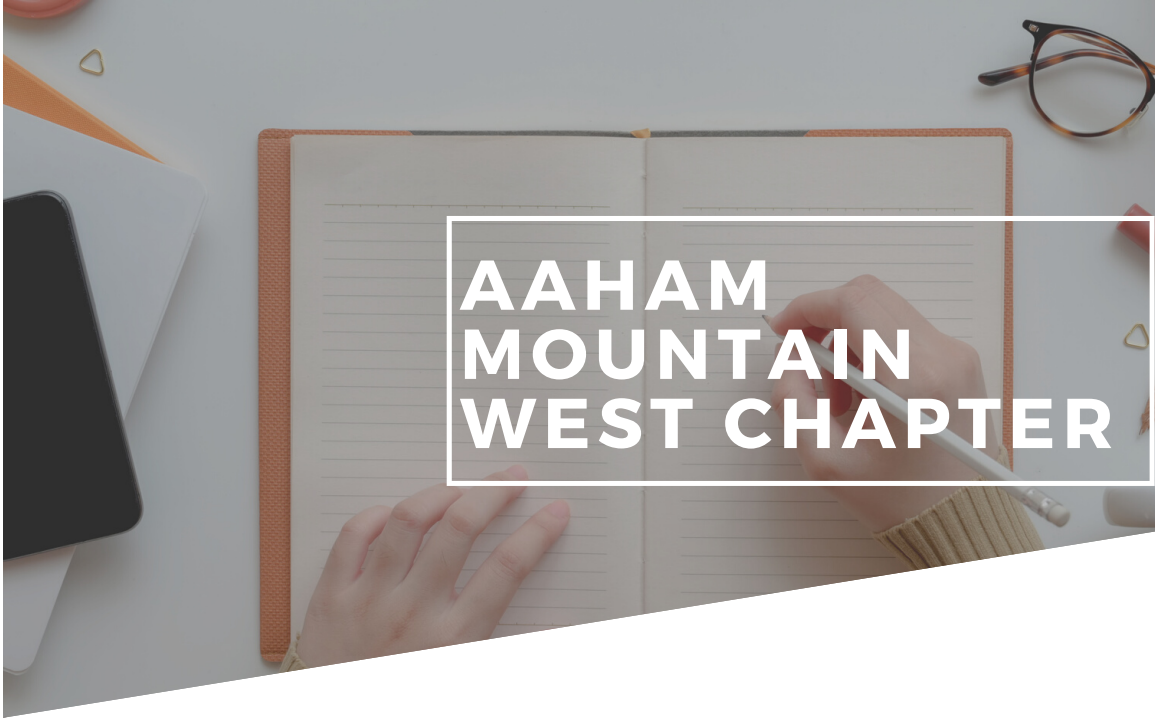
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