



Business Health Care Group

Driving Meaningful Change

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Business Health Care Group reports strong cost results for 2011; *Continues a pattern of increases lower than market trends*

MILWAUKEE – August 13, 2012 – In 2011 the Business Health Care Group (BHCG) demonstrated continued progress in slowing health care cost increases for its member employers, building on the results the organization has accomplished since its inception. In 2011 self-funded member employers experienced a 6.2 percent increase in medical costs (calculated prior to benefit application to eliminate the impact of benefit design changes) compared to 2010. This increase was lower than the southeast Wisconsin market trend of 8 percent for the same period.

Over the past six years the BHCG's self-funded member employers have experienced an average annual increase in health care costs of 2.3 percent per health plan member when compared with 2005 base-year costs. Over this same six-year time frame, costs in southeast Wisconsin have increased an average of 9 percent per year. In the past six years, BHCG self-funded employers have saved approximately \$577 million when compared with the southeast Wisconsin's market trend over the same period.

“Thanks to the collaborative effort and involvement of our employer members and provider partners, the BHCG has made remarkable progress in slowing health care cost increases for our members over the past six years,” said Dianne Kiehl, BHCG executive director. “While the data show that our efforts to get our members' costs under control are working, there is still work to be done. The

BHCG must continue its efforts to push for accountability from both directions – from health care consumers and providers,” added Kiehl.

The data was pulled from all of the BHCG’s self-funded employers’ 2011 claims activity. The year 2011 represented the sixth year the BHCG has offered its members exclusive access to the Humana Preferred health plan offerings. BHCG members include some of the area’s largest and best-known employers, as well as hundreds of small and mid-sized employers.

“The BHCG’s ability to achieve substantial cost savings in conjunction with its ongoing commitment to health care consumerism and wellness have delivered considerable value to both our associates and our company,” said Paul Purcell, chief executive officer at Robert W. Baird & Co.

About the Business Health Care Group:

The Business Health Care Group is a membership organization of nearly 1,200 employers and employer groups in the 11-county region of southeast Wisconsin. The BHCG and its members share the common goals of moving the health care market through innovative action and partnering for effective change. Visit www.businesshealthcaregroup.org to learn more.

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