# NEWS
## FROM SIIA MEMBERS

## JULY 2026

*SIIA boasts a very active and dynamic membership. Here are some of the latest developments from member companies and individuals powering the self-insurance industry.*

### *VBA Taps Rick Ellsworth to Head Operations*

VBA, a leading provider of healthcare core administration software and technology solutions, announced that Rick Ellsworth has joined the company as Chief Operating Officer.

According to a company statement, Rick brings deep expertise in healthcare technology, claims operations, and product leadership. He most recently served as General Manager of In-Network Products at Zelis, where he held full P&L responsibility for the Payer Compass product lines following its acquisition in 2022.

"Rick brings a strong track record of operational leadership and a deep understanding of the healthcare technology landscape," said Daniel Laroue, CEO of VBA. "As we continue to invest in our team and expand our capabilities, Rick's experience will be instrumental in helping us scale thoughtfully, strengthen our connection to our customers, and deliver the level of performance and service our clients expect."

In his role at VBA, Rick will oversee EDI and integration services, account management, and customer support. He will focus on strengthening operational execution, deepening alignment with customer needs, and ensuring VBA continues to deliver consistent, high-quality service as the company grows. His leadership will play a key role in helping VBA scale while maintaining its strong reputation as a customer-focused organization.

### *IMA Completes Recapitalization*

IMA Financial Group of North America announced the completion of an equity recapitalization transaction. Oak Hill Capital and New Mountain Capital are each taking minority positions, with additional participation from HarbourVest Partners and a select group of prominent institutional co-investors.IMA employees will continue to own a majority of the Company, with 100% of associates participating as shareholders. SkyKnight Capital and The Stephens Group will exit in connection with the transaction. New Mountain will exit its existing position and reinvest alongside the broader investor group.

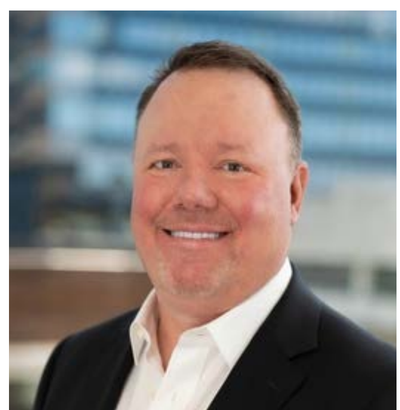
"We accomplished every goal we set out to achieve: preserving majority employee ownership, maintaining our independence and strengthening our ability to build on what makes us successful — our talent, our future focus and people-first culture," said IMA Financial Group Chairman and CEO Rob Cohen. "With the support of our investors, we will continue scaling our platform, expanding our expertise and investing in the people and partnerships that have fueled IMA's growth."

### *Horizon Blue Cross of New Jersey Teams up with HealthEZ*

Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey is entering the third-party administrator (TPA) market through HealthEZ, a Minnesota-based TPA that Horizon purchased last year.

The move grants Horizon direct access to the self-funded employer market in New Jersey, with the insurer making new solutions available to businesses with 50 to 2,000 employees this summer for Jan. 1 effective dates.

According to Becker's Payer Issues, under the arrangement, HealthEZ will serve as the only TPA in New Jersey with access to Horizon's provider network and stop-loss, dental, and vision products. Employers using HealthEZ will also have access to the BCBS national network, which includes more than 2 million providers.


*Jeff Sealey*

### *Jeff Sealey to Lead Stop-Loss Captive Division at Symetra*

Symetra Life Insurance Company announced the appointment of Jeff Sealey as vice president, Stop-Loss Captives.

# Rethink what's possible with your stop-loss partner

For over 40 years, Sun Life has been a trusted partner in risk management for self-funded employers. Now, we're taking it further—combining proven cost savings with innovative health solutions that give your employees access to expert care when and where they need it most.

## Clinical 360+: Optimizing care, maximizing value

Our enhanced program builds on the industry-leading Clinical 360 foundation, which achieved over **$68 million in savings** in 2025. Available for select clients, this advancement adds personalized care pathways and expert navigation with the goal to deliver even greater value. Through proactive outreach and dedicated support, your employees gain seamless access to specialized programs, digital health tools, and clinical guidance—all designed to improve health outcomes while managing costs effectively.

It's time to reconsider what you expect from your stop-loss partner. Let Sun Life support your business with innovative health solutions that prioritize access to quality care.*

**Ask your Sun Life Stop-Loss Specialist about Clinical 360+ today.**

*Hinge Health will be provided to eligible members at Sun Life's expense through the first policy year.

Sun Life is not responsible or liable for the care, services, or advice provided by Somatus, OptiMed Health Partners, or Hinge Health, and reserves the right to discontinue this service at any time.

Sun Life will collaborate with your TPA on eligibility and applicability of programs.

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Group stop-loss insurance policies are underwritten by Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada (Wellesley Hills, MA) in all states, except New York, under Policy Form Series 07-SL REV 7-12 and 22-SL. In New York, Group stop-loss insurance policies are underwritten by Sun Life and Health Insurance Company (U.S.) (Lansing, MI) under Policy Form Series 07-NYSL REV 7-12 and 22-NYSL. Policy offerings may not be available in all states and may vary due to state laws and regulations. Not approved for use in New Mexico.



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In this new role, Mr. Sealey will lead the strategic development and growth of Symetra's captive solutions, expanding the company's capabilities to meet the evolving needs of clients and partners. With deep expertise in alternative risk financing, he will play a key role in advancing Symetra's commitment to delivering flexible, client-focused risk solutions.

"We are delighted to welcome Jeff Sealey to the stop-loss team," said Jeremy Freestone, senior vice president, Stop-Loss Business Strategy. "Jeff brings a diverse background spanning U.S. Navy service, commercial finance, and more than a decade in the health insurance industry. Since transitioning into healthcare in 2009, he has partnered with employers to navigate complex funding decisions, including onsite and near-site employer clinic evaluation and group stop-loss captive strategies designed to help stabilize self-funded risk."

Mr. Sealey joins Symetra from Crumdale Specialty, where, as vice president of stop-loss sales, he led the nationwide team responsible for the distribution of self-funded products and PBM solutions.

### *Lockton Names New Leader for its Alternative Risk Solutions Practice*

Lockton has appointed Ashleigh Sears as Alternative Risk Solutions Practice Leader, charging her with the strategic direction of the brokerage's US alternative risk team.

Sears leads a team of finance, accounting and credit specialists who design programs aligned to clients' risk financing and insurance needs. The practice covers captive consulting, parametric insurance,

Kimberly Kline

structured risk solutions, fronting arrangements, alternative collateral strategies and other customized program structures.

She joins from Everest, where she was head of alternative risk and national accounts excess casualty. Before Everest, Sears was head of casualty at USQ Risk, overseeing the development and execution of structured and alternative risk transfer solutions in the casualty sector.

### *Kimberly Kline Promoted to CRO at MedWatch*

MedWatch, a leader in medical management services, announced the promotion of Kimberly Kline to Chief Revenue Officer (CRO). In this role, Kline will lead MedWatch's enterprise revenue strategy, overseeing sales, account management, and marketing to enable coordinated growth and enhance the client experience.

Kline joined MedWatch in 2012 and has played a key role in the company's evolution, most recently serving as Vice President, Client Success & Strategic Initiatives. Throughout her tenure at MedWatch, Kline has played a critical role in strategic initiatives that have significantly strengthened partnerships and elevated MedWatch's reputation as a trusted, results-driven solutions provider. She is most proud of her contributions to the company's development of innovative programs, including a best-in-class concierge model that has put MedWatch at the forefront of enhancing the member experience and elevating its impact on clinical outcomes while delivering measurable value to clients.

"Kim has a proven ability to turn strategy into execution and deliver meaningful results for our clients and our organization," said Sally-Ann Polson, MedWatch President & CEO. "Her leadership will be instrumental as we continue to scale our commercial operations and strengthen our position in the health cost containment market."

### *HMIG Names New Regional Vice President*

HM Insurance Group (HMIG) has named Vic Parker, regional sales vice president, Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Regions, replacing Carolyn Coleman, who will retire in July 2026 after 12 years of service to the company.

In this role, Parker will be responsible for the Atlanta, Charlotte, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, New England, New York, and Washington, D.C., territories. He has been with HM since 2014 when he joined the company as an account manager for the Syracuse Regional Sales Office.

Victor Parker

### *Tim Kessler Named President at RxBenefits*

RxBenefits announced Tim Kessler has joined the company as President.
His appointment reflects RxBenefits' continued focus on helping benefits advisors and self-funded employers manage pharmacy benefits costs through stronger technology, deeper data insights, and innovation while providing exceptional member care.

Tim Kessler

Kessler brings more than 20 years of leadership across healthcare operations, product, information technology, and project management. He joins RxBenefits from TurningPoint Healthcare Solutions, where he served as Chief Operating Officer and previously held senior operations and technology leadership roles.

"As the pharmacy benefits space shifts rapidly, we're committed to bringing clients new tools, data, and technology to help them stay ahead," said Robert Gamble, CEO of RxBenefits. "Tim's experience leading technology transformation and building solutions that address real-world needs stands out. By welcoming him as President, we're strengthening our promise to help advisors and employers make smarter decisions, respond to change faster, and set a new direction for innovation." ■

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- Access to national networks or reference-based pricing
- Supporting employer groups from 2 to 5,000+ members

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Plan availability varies by state. Ask your sales representative for more information.

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