

Care in Concert: MHACO Symposium Energizes Value-Based Care Movement

Last month, more than 200 health care leaders from across our network and partner organizations gathered for our second-annual Value-Based Care Symposium—a day focused on the future of care delivery and the work already underway to shape it.

The event opened by engaging attendees in a brief music-making exercise that introduced the theme: *Care in Concert*. Value-based care, like an orchestra, relies on alignment and collaboration to create something greater than the sum of its parts. In contrast, traditional fee-for-service models often encourage solo performances, where individual efforts aren't always in sync. The result can be a cacophony instead of a symphony.

The day's sessions challenged attendees to consider how diverse roles and perspectives can come together to drive meaningful change.

"Our goal was to spark ideas, share innovations, and strengthen the community of people doing this critical work," said MHACO President Jen Moore. "This event was a celebration of what's already happening—and a call to action for what's next."

The agenda delivered on four key goals: deepening understanding of value-based models, highlighting innovation, fostering connections, and building motivation.

Keynote speaker Dr. Asaf Bitton, Executive Director of Ariadne Labs, offered a compelling vision for team-based care, urging attendees to move beyond outdated models. He later joined a panel of state and system leaders to discuss the future of care transformation.

Breakout sessions took a practical turn, tackling topics like access to care, GLP-1 medication costs, substance use disorder care, and the growing impact of community health workers. A lunchtime plenary used a "Choose Your Own Adventure" format to explore ways to reduce avoidable ED use.

Attendees praised the thoughtful pacing, engaging content, and time to reconnect in person. The energy in the room made one thing clear: real progress is happening, and it's driven by people committed to working in harmony.

As Moore reminded the group: "Real change happens when we work together. It's not about being in unison—it's about being in harmony."