



## **The Health Transformation Alliance Announces New Chairman & Vice Chairman**

**WESTMONT, NJ- January 27, 2026-** The [Health Transformation Alliance](#) (HTA), a cooperative of 75+ leading self-insured employers committed to improving healthcare quality and affordability for employees and their families, announced Denise Merle, Senior Vice President & Chief Administration Officer at Weyerhaeuser as the next HTA Board and Executive Committee Chairman and Johnni Beckel, Chief Administrative Officer at OhioHealth as Vice Chairman, effective immediately. The leadership transitions follow the departure of outgoing Chair and CHRO of International Paper Tom Plath, who has helped drive two years of transformative growth for the employer-led healthcare alliance.

This leadership transition comes at a pivotal time, as HTA prepares to expand its employer-led solutions to include electronic health records as part of its unique and powerful analytics capabilities.

“HTA has succeeded due to Tom’s stewardship,” said Rob Andrews, CEO of HTA. “Tom always encouraged us to make the views of our Members/Owners the foundation of our daily work, and that orientation has taken us to new levels of achievement. We wish him well as he enters a new chapter in his career following a highly successful tenure as CHRO of International Paper and distinguished service as HTA Chair.”

“HTA’s mission has never been more urgent. I’m proud to have helped lay the groundwork, and I’m confident Denise and Johnni will take it further with fresh energy and proven insight,” said Tom Plath, HTA Board Chairman and CHRO of International Paper. “Our progress has been driven by a clear commitment to our Member/Owners, and I’m proud of what we’ve accomplished together over the past two years.”

Denise began her career at Weyerhaeuser more than 40 years ago and now serves as Senior Vice President and Chief Administration Officer. She oversees Human Resources, Information Technology and Innovation, Communications, Government Affairs, Environmental Affairs, Sustainability and Safety. Over the course of her tenure, she has held senior leadership roles across Human Resources, Finance, Audit, Compliance, and Investor Relations. A licensed CPA in Washington, Denise holds degrees from Seattle University and Pacific Lutheran University. She also serves on the boards of HTA and Compass Minerals.

Johnni provides executive leadership of the non-clinical support functions at OhioHealth, where she serves as Chief Administrative Officer. She leads Consumer Experience, Human Resources, Information Technology, Marketing and Communications, Mission and Ministry, Sustainability, Security, and Protective Services. She plays a key role in shaping OhioHealth's culture and customer experience across more than 35,000 associates, physicians, and volunteers. Prior to joining OhioHealth, she held multiple global senior leadership roles in operations, hospitality, retail, entertainment, restaurant, financial services, and healthcare. Johnni holds degrees from the Pennsylvania State University and the University of Central Florida, is Six Sigma Black Belt certified, and serves on the boards of the HTA, the CHRO Association, and White Castle System Inc.

"We're extremely fortunate to have Denise and Johnni taking on these critical roles," said Andrews. "Their commitment, experience, and understanding of our mission will help lead us in this time of advanced opportunities. I look forward to HTA's continued growth and success under their leadership as we work to deliver better healthcare outcomes for the employees and families we serve."

#### **About Health Transformation Alliance**

The Health Transformation Alliance (HTA) is a cooperative of 75+ of America's leading employers that have come together to fix our broken healthcare system. With responsibility for more than 5 million lives in the United States and a collective annual health care spend of \$30 billion, the member companies of the HTA have combined their resources, knowledge, and experience to transform the way healthcare is delivered. To that end, the HTA has developed value-driven solutions in data and analytics, pharmacy, medical and consumer engagement specifically designed to improve patient care and economic value. For more information, please visit <https://www.htahealth.com/>.

#### **Media Contact:**

Keara Donnelly and Mackenzie Meyers at Berkeley Communications  
[Htaus@berkeleypr.com](mailto:Htaus@berkeleypr.com)