



*The Value of Connection*

## Elevate | The HCAA Monthly Brief

*Your connection to the people, policy, and progress shaping self-funding.*



August is here, and we're still riding the energy from TPA Summit while gearing up for the 2026 Executive Forum (see below for a preview and save the date!).

In this month's newsletter, we reflect on the Summit, share industry updates, and highlight what's ahead for the HCAA community.



From the opening keynote to the final session, TPA Summit 2025 brought the self-funding community together for meaningful conversations, perspectives and connections. Whether you were a first-time attendee or a long-time member of the HCAA community, we're grateful you chose to spend your time with us in Dallas. Your energy, ideas, and presence helped make the Summit a true success.

Thank you to our incredible sponsors, speakers, and partners, we couldn't have done it without you.



 HCAA's  
**EXECUTIVE  
FORUM '26**

**BOLD ENOUGH TO LEAD.  
BRAVE ENOUGH TO  
CHANGE.**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**FEBRUARY 23–25, 2026**

**#HCAAEXCFORUM SAN ANTONIO**



Mark your calendars! **HCAA's Executive Forum** returns February 23–25, 2026, in San Antonio, TX. This year's theme, **"Bold enough to lead. Brave enough to change."** challenges us to think bigger, act courageously, and work together to shape the future of our industry. Stay tuned for registration details, speaker announcements, and more.



## HCAA's **EXECUTIVE FORUM '25**

# Executive Forum's Leadership Series: Conversations with Self-Funding's Experts



In the fourth episode of HCAA's Executive Forum interview series, **John Lynn**, Founder and Chief Editor of **Healthcare IT Today**, sits down with **Ramesh Kumar**, CEO and Co-founder of **zakipoint Health**, to explore how podcasting has become a powerful platform for knowledge-sharing in self-funding and what trends are shaping the industry's future



**John Lynn**

Founder and Chief Editor

Healthcare IT Today



**Ramesh Kumar**

Host of the Voices of Self Funding Podcast and CEO

zakipoint Health

[Watch Ramesh's Video](#)

[Read Ramesh's Article](#)



**Meet the Newest Members of the HCAA Community!**



Cressey & Company



**Learn More About Becoming a Member**



# CSFS®

## The Credential That Sets Self-Funding Leaders Apart



**Congratulations** to our newest group of dedicated professionals recognized for their commitment to serving self-funded health plans! We celebrate this group as the largest ever graduating class of CSFS® designees.



Kaelyn Bahrik  
Tasha Byrd  
Brandon Cassidy  
Hannah Cotros  
Jake Eddleman  
Jeffrey Garr  
Tom Goszewski  
Robert Harrelson  
Darrin Hawkins  
Shelley Kontra  
Hayden Lassiter  
Ann Katherine Ledyard  
David Lemon  
Jonathan Lewis

Brian Luekenga  
Scott McDaniel  
Nicole Miller  
Janelle Morck  
Challis Muniz  
Christopher O'Dwyer  
Paul Pietro  
Caroline Quinn  
Jacob Raine  
Anne Robles  
Megan Schmidt  
Ashley Wells  
Melissa Young  
Michael Young

The **Certified Self-Funding Specialist® (CSFS®)** designation is built for advanced professionals who are ready to deepen their expertise and stand out as trusted, strategic leaders in the field. With a newly updated curriculum and a **modern, online learning platform**, the CSFS program equips you with the knowledge and credibility to operate at the **highest levels of the industry**.

**Enroll Today!**



# HCAA's B2B Marketplace

A unique interactive experience connecting buyers and sellers from across the self-funding sector



## Become a part of the HCAA B2B Marketplace today!

Join **HCAA's B2B Marketplace**, an interactive platform connecting buyers and sellers across the self-funding sector. Established in 2021, this free online listing allows HCAA member companies to promote their products and services through branded storefronts — both to the HCAA community and the general public browsing the HCAA website. Our growing roster includes TPAs and related vendors.

For more information or to begin settling up your HCAA B2B marketplace profile, Contact Jordan Lacer at [Jlacer@hcaa.org](mailto:Jlacer@hcaa.org).

[Visit the HCAA B2B Marketplace](#)



## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

### Legislative/Regulatory Update



SIIA.ORG

SIIA and its payer-Coalition partners continue to engage directly with Congress and Administration officials to address growing concerns with the Federal IDR process. With providers winning 70-80% of disputes and final determinations often far exceeding the QPA, SIIA is pushing back.

The Coalition recently met with CMS to highlight abuse of the Federal Portal by a small number of providers and raised concerns over the qualifications and performance of Federal IDR entities. Additionally, we're actively opposing new legislation that would penalize payers for delayed payments following final determinations.

[Learn More](#)

# Catch Up with HCAA on Social Media!

Here's a brief highlight of our posts from this past month! Don't miss out on the insights we share across X (Twitter) and LinkedIn by following our accounts!



Health Care Administrators Association® (HCAA)

6,306 followers

1w ·

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On behalf of HCAA, thank you to our attendees, speakers, and especially our sponsors and partners for making this year's **#HCAATPASummit** a success. We hope you left with valuable connections, practical insights, and new ideas to take back to your teams.

While this year's Summit has just come to a close, we're already planning for what's next. Join us in February for Executive Forum 2026 in San Antonio. We look forward to seeing you there.



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Former NFL wide receiver and **U.S. Olympian Johnny Quinn** energized the **#HCAATPASummit** audience with a high-impact session on mindset. He broke down how resilience and grit aren't just nice-to-haves — they're essential to lead, adapt, and thrive in today's **#healthcare** scene.



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From AI to automation, this panel moves beyond theory and into results. **Arun Santhebennur** (**Voicegain**), and **Hermine T.** (**ClarityCare AI**), moderated by **Aniket Mutatkar** (**UnitedAg**) explores the tools transforming healthcare — from AI agents that streamline prior auths to secure, HIPAA-compliant voice platforms. Tons of real-world use cases and a clear path forward. **#HCAATPASummit**



## Get Social with HCAA!

