Christy Bell

Christy Bell, now retired, previously held several positions with Horizon Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Jersey (BCBS-NJ), including executive vice president of health care management, president and CEO of Horizon’s HMO and CEO of Horizon Healthcare Innovations. In those roles, Bell oversaw relationships with more than 30,000 physicians and 75 hospitals, in addition to behavioral and pharmacy services, utilization management and quality of care. The Innovations company helped launch Horizon’s focus on patient-centered medical homes and accountable care organizations. It also created the pioneering Population Care Coordinator Program for nurses in collaboration with Duke University School of Nursing. During Bell’s tenure, Horizon grew from 1.5 million to more than 3.7 million covered individuals, and the HMO became one of the largest in the BCBS system.

Bell’s career also included 18 years with the Fallon Community Health Plan in Worcester, Massachusetts, serving 13 years as executive director. Fallon was consistently ranked as one of the top HMOs in the U.S. and is credited with creating the first Medicare risk plan, defying conventional wisdom and demonstrating that seniors would join HMO plans. Today, 18 million seniors now choose such plans.

Over the years, Bell has served Duke University School of Nursing in a number of ways. In 2014, he established a Pro-Am Golf Tournament in Southport, North Carolina. Each year, the tournament has raised $70,000 for student scholarships. Bell has been a member of the School’s board of advisors for six years and served as chair for the past three years. He also established the Bell Family Scholarship Fund in support of nursing scholarships at Duke.

Bell served as a United States Air Force Deputy Missile Combat Crew Commander. He holds a bachelor’s degree in sociology from Hobart College in Geneva, New York.