



## E-Newsletter – Fall 2007

### Here is what you will find in this issue:

- Third Annual Worksite Wellness Forum & Vendor Fair – Nov. 28 in Dallas
- Latest Member Information Exchange Survey results
- TBGH Board News
- Federal Legislative Update
- New Resources Available
- Renew your membership in TBGH—*Do it today!*

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### Third Annual Worksite Wellness & Health Management Forum and Vendor Fair

*Co-hosted by the Texas Business Group on Health and  
Dallas-Fort Worth Business Group on Health*

**Wednesday, November 28, 2007**

**7:30 am – 3:30 pm**

Westin Park Central Hotel, Dallas, TX

#### Register online at:

[https://ssl.vds2000.com/ssl.dfwbgh.org/SharedSSL/events07/events\\_wellness\\_nov28.htm](https://ssl.vds2000.com/ssl.dfwbgh.org/SharedSSL/events07/events_wellness_nov28.htm)

**Note: TBGH Corporate Members may attend for free but must pre-register.**

*(Corporate Member registrations are underwritten by Forum Sponsors)*

This year's Forum will feature nationally recognized leaders in the fast growing corporate wellness and health management world, plus innovative case studies of local companies that have implemented effective programs, and something new – a hands-on training workshop on value-based wellness design.

#### **Confirmed speakers include:**

- **Sean Sullivan, JD**, President and CEO, Institute for Health and Productivity, will discuss getting the full benefit and value out of your benefit design.
- **Steve Aldana, PhD**, Director of Health Promotions Programs at Brigham Young University and author of the best seller *The Culprit and The Cure*, which the Harvard School of Public Health says is "better than the best medicines," will speak about designing wellness programs that address the challenges of behavior change.
- **Kenneth Pelletier, PhD, MD**, Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of Arizona School of Medicine and Director of the Corporate Health Improvement Program (CHIP), a collaborative research program between CHIP and 15 of the Fortune 500 corporations, will speak about "integrative medicine" and how it can result in improved clinical and cost (ROI) outcomes for corporate health programs.
- **Peter Wald, MD**, VP, Enterprise Medical Director at USAA, will discuss USAA's award-winning worksite wellness program as a case study.

#### **New this year is the Value-Based Wellness Design Workshop, featuring:**

- ROI Calculator training for worksite smoking cessation and diabetes management programs
- Core Elements of Effective Program Design
- Sabre Holdings test case
- Facilitated discussion

The concurrent **Vendor Fair** will provide ample opportunities for you to visit over 35 exhibits showcasing innovative tools, programs and services to help you design a winning worksite wellness program that delivers the results you want.

**Sponsors:** Aon Corporation, AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, CIGNA Healthcare, GlaxoSmithKline, Magellan Health Services, Humana, Lockton Dunning Benefits, Pfizer, Sanofi Aventis, Watson Wyatt Worldwide

**For more information and to register now, visit:**

[https://ssl.vds2000.com/ssl.dfwbgh.org/SharedSSL/events07/events\\_wellness\\_nov28.htm](https://ssl.vds2000.com/ssl.dfwbgh.org/SharedSSL/events07/events_wellness_nov28.htm)

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### **Member Survey Results on Website**

Results of the **Membership Information Exchange** survey are now available on the TBGH website at [www.tbgh.org](http://www.tbgh.org). See results for all the 2007 surveys at: [http://www.dfwbgh.org/member\\_snapshot.htm](http://www.dfwbgh.org/member_snapshot.htm).

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### **TBGH Board Update**

TBGH Board members bid adieu to Rodney Williamson, who announced his retirement from Odyssey One Source and his resignation from the TBGH Board, both effective May 1, 2007. We are sorry to lose Rodney's expertise in health benefits and leadership as Chairman of the Board for the past five years, but we wish him well as he pursues other interests. Board members will select a new Chairman at the next Board meeting on November 28, 2007.

The TBGH Board held a meeting via teleconference on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Issues discussed included plans for a series of worksite wellness workshops in Spring as a follow-up to the Ounce of Prevention Workshops that were held this past Spring in Austin, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio; election of new officers, which was deferred to the Nov. 28th meeting; minor changes to TBGH bylaws, and development of new TBGH Chapters in large metropolitan areas where there is a sizable employer presence to support a business coalition.

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### **NBCH Federal Legislative Update**

As a member of the National Business Coalition on Health, TBGH receives periodic updates on federal legislative activity from a business perspective, including analyses of the impact of legislation on employer-sponsored health benefits.

#### **NBCH Legislative News Report, October 12, 2007**

#### **Bush Veto of SCHIP Leads to Congressional Showdown**

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, President Bush vetoed legislation to expand the state children's health insurance program (SCHIP), drawing immediate fire from Democrats and setting up an override showdown with Republicans. The vetoed bill (HR 976) would expand SCHIP by \$35 billion over the next five years, to \$60 billion annually. Democrats contend that would be enough to provide health coverage to 10 million children whose families are low-income but not poor enough to qualify for Medicaid, which would be 4 million more than the program now covers. The Democrat "party line" for expanding the program has been that it is one of many other legislative measures needed to offset and assist middle-class families stressed by stagnant wages, a deteriorating housing market and rapidly growing health care costs.

The President contends that this version of the bill would shift SCHIP away from its original purpose and turn it into a program that would cover children from some families of four earning almost \$83,000 a year. In addition, there is concern that government coverage would displace private health insurance for many children. About 2 million people who have health insurance or could obtain it would instead join SCHIP, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

The fight over SCHIP next returns to the House, where Democrats are working to round up enough votes to override Bush's veto. The Senate cleared the bill last week on a 67-29 vote, with 2 Democrats absent, which is a margin sufficient to override the veto. But the House vote last week was 265-159 with one "present" vote, 19 votes shy of the two-thirds majority needed to override. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, (D-CA) has indicated that the House will try to override Bush's veto on October 18, using the time before the vote to lobby Republicans to reverse course.

"Medical home" and Medicare demonstration project language that was in the House version of SCHIP was taken out during recent negotiations with the Senate. The House agreed to take up the Senate version of the SCHIP bill, which curtailed spending expansion to \$35 billion dollars. Supposedly, the next step is to work on "stand alone" medical home language to perhaps include in the developing Senate Finance Medicare bill. (Source: *Congressional Quarterly*, October 8, 2007)

#### **Current Medical Home-Related Legislative Activity- NBCH Continues to Monitor**

##### **Medical Home Grant Language in SCHIP Bill**

Should the House fail to override the President's veto of the SCHIP bill and negotiations ensue between Congress and the White House over a revised bill, a window of opportunity could be opened in which medical home advocates could have medical home grant language included in a revised bill. We await the House's override vote, which has been scheduled for October 18.

### Medicare Medical Home Demo in Senate Medicare Legislation

In a meeting last week with primary care physician groups and majority and minority staff of the Senate Finance Committee, there was strong interest to include a provision in Senate Medicare legislation now being drafted. Such provision would be similar to the improved and expanded Medicare medical home demo passed by the House in Sec. 306 of the CHAMP bill. The Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative (PCPCC) currently is exploring the possibility of a technical amendment to streamline the process for states to get waivers to extend the benefits of the medical home to Medicare patients along the lines of what North Carolina has done.

### Senators Durbin and Burr - Medical Homes Act of 2007

The Senators' staff continues to finalize the language of this bill that would establish a demo of the medical home in the Medicaid and SCHIP programs. Introduction will take place soon, but with the Senate in recess next week, probably not before the week of October 15.

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## Useful Resources

### NCQA Annual State of Health Care Quality Report

NCQA recently released the 11<sup>th</sup> annual State of Health Care Quality report. According to NCQA, 767 health plans reported HEDIS this year, accounting for 84 million Americans. The State of Health Care Quality 2007 is **available at no cost** from NCQA's website at: <http://web.ncqa.org/tabid/566/Default.aspx>.

### New AHRQ Guide Helps Consumers & Employers Understand Health Insurance

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) released Questions & Answers about Health Insurance, a new guide designed to help consumers make important health insurance decisions. The guide explains how different types of health insurance work, including network-based plans, non-network based coverage, and consumer-directed health plans.

To learn more about how "Questions and Answers about Health Insurance" can help consumers and employers understand more about health insurance, please call Joyce Middleton at 301-427-1862. To see or **order a free copy** of the brochure, visit <http://www.ahrq.gov/consumer/insuranceqa/>.

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## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

**Renew now** to continue your membership in TBGH until **December 31, 2008**. That means you'll have **over a year** to take advantage of member-only discounts, access to valuable information, tools and resources, exceptional networking opportunities, and an active voice in health care issues that impact Texas businesses.

### Membership in the Texas Business Group on Health Provides:

- Access to cutting-edge health benefit information
- Educational roundtables and seminars
- Connections with other benefits professionals
- Updates on state legislation that affects your business
- Group prescription drug purchasing program

 **Renew Online Now:** <https://ssl.vds2000.com/ssl.tbgh.org/join.htm>

 **Renew By Phone Now:** 214-382-3037

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## ADD US TO YOUR ADDRESS BOOK

Make sure you receive the latest TBGH updates by adding [info@tbgh.org](mailto:info@tbgh.org) to your address book.

*Don't let your spam filter keep you from getting the all that TBGH has to offer!*

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