

TBGH Newsletter

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4th Annual Value-Based Benefits & Wellness Forum Recap

November 7, 2008

Thank you to all who participated in our 4th Annual Value-Based Benefits & Wellness Forum on November 7. Over 300 benefits professionals and service providers from across the state attended this year's Forum for the opportunity to hear from nationally recognized speakers and benefits executives from several DFWBGH member companies.

27 exhibitors showcased their innovative health and wellness programs and services, adding value to attendees' learning experience.

We want to recognize and thank our Forum sponsors for helping make this year's event a huge success:

Allergan, Inc., TX Dept. of State Health Services, Hewitt associates, Holmes Murphy & Associates, Inc., Lockton Dunning Benefits, Merck & Co., Inc., Nationwide Better Health, Pfizer, Inc., sanofi-aventis U.S., Towers Perrin, Watson Wyatt Worldwide

If you weren't able to attend the Forum, speaker presentations are available [online](#).

We'd love to hear from all who attended. You should have received an email inviting you to complete an Online Feedback Survey. It takes just a minute or two and is vital to our planning for next year's event. If you attended and have not received this invitation, please click [here](#) to give us your feedback.

We are already planning next year's Forum, which will be held in the first week of December 2009.

Upcoming 2009 Programs

Planning for Spring 2009 Workshops is underway. Dates and locations will be determined soon. Last spring, workshops were held in Austin, San Antonio, and Houston. It's likely that these cities will host our 2009 workshops.

Given the challenging economy that is expected to continue in 2009, employer and healthcare service providers will need to stay on top of critical health benefits and wellness issues.

Texas Legislative Update

Texas lawmakers are gearing up for the 81st Legislature, which begins on January 14th. Numerous bills have been pre-filed already, but the big flood will come after the session gets underway. TBGH will be monitoring the health care bills that are likely to impact employee benefits, with the help of the TAB, TAHP and TBGH members.

Senator Jane Nelson, who chairs the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, is one of the most prolific pre-filers. Her bills focus on protecting children, seniors and the disabled, and increasing access to health care, such as creating a health insurance pool to help more than 500,000 uninsured children obtain covered health care services.

TBGH Board member Darrell Wells, City of Odessa, has succinctly summarized what Texas employers might expect from the 81st Legislature, namely, more mandates relating to benefits:

- 1) Eligibility: who employers must cover
- 2) Coverage: what employers must cover
- 3) Providers: what types of service providers employers must pay

TBGH members must be vigilant and ready to testify in front of legislative committees many times during the upcoming 140-day session. Darrell has volunteered to help

TBGH monitor health care legislation, and also testify as needed. With his experience in testifying, he would be a great resource for other TBGH members who are willing to present the employer's perspective to Texas lawmakers.

PPHP Update

What's going on with Partnership for Peak Healthcare Performance in DFW?

On Oct. 21, the Partnership for Peak Healthcare Performance, PPHP held its first anniversary dinner at the Omni Park West Hotel in Irving, TX to celebrate significant milestones achieved in the first year by the multi-stakeholder healthcare improvement collaborative, which the Dallas Fort Worth Business Group on Health (DFWBGH) is rolling out in the DFW metroplex.

One of the major milestones was a Consumer Awareness Survey, supported by sanofi-aventis. The survey was fielded by DFWBGH member companies with 1518 employees from 9 DFW area companies responding. Some of the key findings are listed below. The full report is available on the DFWBGH [website](#).

Consumer Awareness Survey Key Findings:

- Most (94%) respondents are aware of two of the most important risk factors for diabetes--- overweight and family history. However, few (less than 27%) acknowledged awareness of several others, such as pregnancy, smoking, alcohol, and heart condition.
- Two out of five respondents doubted that diabetes can be prevented (39%), and six out of ten doubted that community resources were available for information about diabetes treatment options(58%).
- Only about half (54%) of those who reported chronic conditions said they very actively managed their condition.
- Less than half (47%) of those who reported diabetes said they were very likely to research treatment options for diabetes.
- Almost three of five respondents (58%) said they would likely use the internet to find quality of care information that compares doctors, second only to asking their friends and family members.
- Almost 90% of respondents said they would be interested in receiving reliable quality data on local doctors.

The opportunities identified by the Consumer Awareness Survey form the linchpin of the Partnerships second year work plan to implement worksite programs at 4-6 DFWBGH member companies in the first and second quarters of 2009.

NEW MEMBERS

TBGH NEW MEMBERS

- * City of Austin
- * Austin/Travis County

DFWBGH NEW MEMBERS

- * Fidelity Investments
- * OnSite Health Diagnostics
- * Greyhound, Inc.
- * FedEx Office
- * Pier 1 Imports

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2009 TODAY!

Don't want to hassle with the mail? Renew online now!

[Click Here](#)

25% OFF 2009 DUES

Have a friend who would benefit from TBGH membership?

Our members are our greatest resource and to show our appreciation we're offering a special discount to any member who signs up one or more corporate members to TBGH.

When that referral joins, you will receive 25% off your own 2009 dues!



Texas Business Group on Health
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