



E-Newsletter – Winter 2008

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2008 Value-Based Benefit Design Workshops **April 1 – San Antonio ■ April 15 – Houston ■ April 25 – Austin**

The Texas Business Group on Health and the Texas Coalition for Worksite Wellness bring you a new series of Value-Based Benefit Design Workshops in key Texas cities. These workshops are a follow-up to and an expansion of last year's Ounce of Prevention Workshops.

Each workshop features a Keynote Session on "The Business Case for Value-Based Benefit Design," two interactive work sessions on "What a Value-Based Benefit Design Should Look Like," including the building blocks, planning, buy-in, putting it to work, and the metrics. Finally, a case study from a local company that has implemented a value-based benefit design strategy will be presented.

Dedicated time for networking, as well as question and answer sessions, will be included. Both a continental breakfast and a boxed lunch will be served.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn how to develop an effective value-based benefit design package for your company and network with your peers from other companies in your area.

Register Now: <http://www.tbgh.org/calendar.htm>

You're Invited
DFWBGH April 9 General Membership Luncheon
Designing Benefits for the 21st Century—A Blueprint for Value

Wednesday, April 9, 2008
11:30 am – 1:30 pm
DoubleTree Hotel Near the Galleria (I-635 & Midway Road), Dallas, TX

Sponsored by sanofi-aventis

Register now: https://ssl.vds2000.com/ssl.dfwbgh.org/SharedSSL/events08/register_general_apr9.htm

Speakers:

Lisa Wargofchik, Benefits Director, JC Penney Company
Perry Cannon, Health & Welfare Unit Leader, Towers Perrin

A new benefits strategy, called **Value-Based Benefits Design**, is taking Corporate America by storm. The idea is to generate the most value for the dollars invested, which means integrating a wide variety of strategies geared toward keeping healthy employees healthy, helping those at risk reduce that risk, and helping those with chronic conditions optimize their health and functionality.

In our April 9th program, you will learn how progressive employers like **JC Penney Company** are transforming their whole approach to health benefits and focusing on value rather than on shifting costs, limiting services and bargaining for discounts.

The program includes a close look at JC Penney Company's innovative value-based benefits design, which incorporates prevention, risk reduction, disease management, removal of barriers to clinically valuable services, improved access to high performance providers, aligned incentives, enhanced employee communications, and effective vendor management.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn how corporate innovators are designing benefits that generate value and meet the needs of a 21st Century workforce.

Register now: https://ssl.vds2000.com/ssl.dfwbgh.org/SharedSSL/events08/register_general_apr9.htm

Third Annual Worksite Wellness Forum Recap

Thank you to all who attended the Third Annual Worksite Wellness & Health Management Forum on November 28. Your participation made it the most highly attended Wellness Forum ever with 410 registrants. This exceeds last year's attendance (265) by 55%. Nearly eighty employers, mainly local, but some from as far away as Lubbock and Odessa, sent one or more executives to the Forum. We also had 40 exhibitors this year, 14 more exhibitors than last year.

Don't worry if you couldn't make it to the Forum; speaker presentations are available online at: http://www.dfwbgh.org/events_upcoming.htm#wellness07. We hope to see you at next year's Forum!

DFWBGH 2008 Kick-Off Luncheon Program Recap

The DFWBGH Kick-Off Luncheon Program, featuring Jim Klein, President of the American Benefits Council and sponsored by Humana, was a huge success with over 300 registrants! Thank you to all who attended. The Dallas Morning News featured an article about the Luncheon. Click here to view it: <http://www.dfwbgh.org/events08/1-29-08-Article.pdf>. Attendees learned how various health care reform ideas proposed by presidential candidates will impact employers. "The good news," said Mr. Klein, "is the employer-sponsored health care system will be part of the solution, regardless of who gets elected in November."

If you were unable to attend, you can find the speaker's presentation online here:
<http://www.dfwbgh.org/events08/1-29-2008.pdf>.

TBGH Board Update

At the TBGH Board meeting on November 28, 2007, new officers were selected. They include:

- Chairman: Kathy Durbin, H-E-B
- Secretary: Jim Parrish, City of Amarillo
- Treasurer: Brent Wolfe, Southwest Airlines
- President/CEO: Marianne Fazen, TBGH

DFWBGH Community-Wide Diabetes Initiative Update

The DFWBGH community-wide health care improvement collaborative has a new name; the **Partnership for Peak Healthcare Performance**, which more accurately reflects the nature of this important project. The Communications Committee is also working on a new logo.

Visit the Partnership homepage at http://www.dfwbgh.org/vdhc_collab.htm. Here you will find everything you need to know about the project, including the mission and vision, project scope, committee information (including committee members and meeting minutes), supporting organizations, and press releases.

Progress that has been made so far includes:

- Selected Austin Provider Solutions as the data aggregator
- Surveyed health plans about diabetes management programs
- Completed an Employer Survey about worksite diabetes programs
- Developing Consumer Awareness baseline survey
- Developing physician toolkit for diabetes care optimization
- Forming Physician Advisory Council

To go directly to the Partnership homepage, click here: http://www.dfwbgh.org/vdhc_collab.htm.

Texas Type 2 Diabetes Report for 2007

The Dallas-Fort Worth Business Group on Health (DFWBGH) released a new report on the prevalence, costs and quality of care for Texans with type 2 diabetes. The *Texas Type 2 Diabetes Report 2007* presents an overview of patient demographics, hospital and professional charges, utilization of clinical services and drug therapy for type 2 diabetes patients in key local markets across the state including **Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth/Arlington, Houston and San Antonio**. The *Texas Type 2 Diabetes Report 2007* is a valuable resource for Texas employers, health plans and providers to promote effective diabetes care management strategies to avoid complications and the onset of other health problems. This report is made possible through the generous support of Sanofi-Aventis.

To review key findings, recommendations and the full report, please visit: <http://www.tbgh.org/pressroom.htm>.

New Survey of Texas Smokers Shows Importance of Access to Treatment Options

In a December news conference at the State Capital TBGH/TCWW President Marianne Fazen, joined by representatives from the Central Region of the American Lung Association and members of the American Heart Association's State Advocacy Committee, released a survey by the TCWW of Texas smokers which showed seven in 10 have tried to beat their addiction and a majority says access to FDA-approved treatments would make them more likely to quit. The survey should help guide more companies to look at cessation program options within their healthcare plans, and ensure the New Year's resolutions made by their employees will be ones they can keep.

To view the Texas Smoker Poll Summary, visit:

http://www.txworksitewellness.org/documents/TX_smoker_survey%20k_findings.doc

2008 Texas Legislature Interim Study Charges Released

Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst and Texas Speaker of the House, Tom Craddick have released their interim study charges, which are areas of interest that standing House and Senate committees will focus on before the next legislative session begins in January 2009. Committee members of both the Senate Health and Human Service Committee and the House Committee on Public Health were directed to study a host of topics including, the charge to monitor and evaluate the full array of wellness initiatives undertaken by the state of Texas, as well as develop strategies for maximizing potential health benefits and optimizing the return on the State of Texas' investments in wellness.

You may monitor these charges by visiting www.capitol.state.tx.us.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Renew now to continue your membership in TBGH until **December 31, 2008**. Renewing now means you can 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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Forward this newsletter to them and have them join the TBGH email list by emailing their contact information to info@tbgh.org.

ADD US TO YOUR ADDRESS BOOK

Make sure you receive the latest TBGH updates by adding 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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