



TBGH e-NEWS

WINTER 2009

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We Invite you to Attend a Great Program Hosted by our DFW Chapter, DFWBGH March 25th Luncheon Program

TO REGISTER TODAY, VISIT www.dfwbgh.org

HEALTH- As seen through a Wide Angle Lens

11:30am-1:30pm

DoubleTree Hotel near the Galleria
(LBJ and Midway Rd.)

Despite a \$2 trillion dollar price tag for health care in the U.S. today, and widespread efforts to make treatments more effective and costs more manageable, Americans don't seem to be getting any healthier. Not surprisingly, health care purchasers, policymakers and taxpayers are questioning whether we as a nation are getting good value for our health care dollars.

In this program our speaker, Gary Earl, Senior Vice President, CIGNA, and Co-Founder of Communities of Health, will explore and test the potential that lies in the broad view, as seen through a wide-angle lens, of the socio-economic and environmental determinants of health, the fundamental factors that impact disease and illness, and the opportunities for collective awareness, collaboration and community-driven action to achieve meaningful, sustainable improvements in the health of a community.

Please join us for an informative and inspiring dialogue about possibilities that exist in our own backyard as we come together in uncommon ways for a common purpose: a community of health.

We are grateful to CIGNA for sponsoring this program.

Visit www.dfwbgh.org to register online now!

NOTE: TBGH Members may attend at the discounted rate!

**RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP FOR
2009 TODAY!**

Don't want to hassle
with the mail? Don't
want to
hassle with the
mail? RENEW
ONLINE!

<http://www.dfwbgh.org>

**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!

Limit one per company per year.

MEMBER NEWS

Jim Parrish has accepted the Assistant City Manager position in McKinney, TX

Congratulations to **Jim Parrish** on his new position. Jim has accepted the Assistant City Manager job in McKinney TX. We wish him well in his new role and thank him for his 13 years of service on the TBGH Board of Directors!

Cindy Reynolds, Benefits Manager of the City of Amarillo will replace Jim on the TBGH Board, representing the City of Amarillo.

Darrell Wells Appointed as New TBGH Secretary-Treasurer

Darrell Wells, City of Odessa, has been appointed to serve as TBGH Secretary and Treasurer, replacing **Jim Parrish**, who had been serving in this office position.

New Web Resources Available

URAC PBM Purchasers Guide

A new **PBM Purchasers Guide**, developed by URAC, a national accreditation organization, provides essential information for employers engaged in evaluating, purchasing, or managing PBM services. By providing a series of questions to ask and important management tips, this guide aims to empower employers with knowledge and information while helping to create an effective, transparent, and balanced relationship with a PBM. To access the PBM Purchasers Guide and Executive Summary log on to our resource center listed below.

NBGH A Purchaser's Guide to Clinical Preventive Services: Moving Science into Coverage

Produced by the National Business Group on Health, this guide is a comprehensive reference for benefits design professionals. It provides guidance for the selection of clinical preventive services, disease prevention, early detection, and the economic benefits of these strategies. TBGH has a supply of CD's with this guide available to members, for free, thanks to Pfizer's generosity. Log on to our resource center (listed below) to order your FREE CD today.

CMS Medicare Caregiver Resources

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) launched the **Ask Medicare** initiative in 2008 with the goal of helping those who care for Medicare beneficiaries. To support this initiative, CMS developed a manager's workbook entitled "When Employees Become Caregivers," to bridge the gap between employers' expectations and caregivers' needs, and provide guidance on eldercare programs in the workplace. "Medicare Basics: A Guide for Caregivers," helps caregivers navigate health issues for Medicare beneficiaries. Another tool, the Discharge Planning Checklist, was developed to help caregivers and beneficiaries understand their needs and assess their ability to meet those needs after their stay in a hospital. To download these resources, log on to our resource center.

TBGH ONLINE RESOURCE CENTER

<http://www.dfwbgh.org/resourcectr.htm>

DFWBGH Diabetes Collaborative Update

DFWBGH's multi-stakeholder diabetes care improvement initiative, called the **Partnership for Peak Healthcare Performance (PPHP)**, completed a very successful first year focused on infrastructure building. Market research of participating stakeholders revealed gaps in the way healthcare

is accessed and delivered in DFW. Opportunities for improvement were identified in consumer engagement, corporate benefits design, physician care management processes, patient compliance, and stakeholder communications, all of which may be interfering with or preventing optimal diabetes care management.

PPHP activities in 2009 will focus on two key areas: consumer engagement and physician care management processes.

A Worksite Intervention Program (WIP) will be launched by DFWBGH in March to increase consumer awareness of diabetes risks, appropriate treatment and differences in quality of care. The project is funded by **Aetna Foundation** and is a key component of the PPHP. Five DFWBGH companies will be recruited to participate in this pilot program. Once tested at the pilot sites, this PPHP employee engagement program, including resource materials, will be available to TBGH members later in 2009.

Physician Diabetes Care Reports: Preparations are being made by DFWBGH to distribute multi-plan Diabetes Care Reports to nearly 1,300 DFW area physicians who treated 20 or more patients with diabetes in 2007. The reports feature performance ratings on evidence-based diabetes care measures. The ratings are based on claims data aggregated across the five participating health plans: **Aetna, BCBS-TX, CIGNA, Humana, and United Healthcare**. This is the first such reporting at the individual physician level in the southwest.

Members of a Physician Advisory Council are providing valuable feedback on the physician reports, as well as insights on how to communicate effectively with physicians.

PPHP Website:

DFWBGH is developing a website for the PPHP. The website includes sections on the project planning, physician reports, and tool boxes with helpful resources and information for various stakeholders, including physicians, consumers and employers. The website will have its own "look," with an appealing and easy to navigate format. For more information on the PPHP go to our website.

<http://www.dfwbgh.org/pphp.htm>

NBCH Update on Healthcare Reform

Washington is becoming a beehive of activity around health care reform, with proposals emerging from various think tanks, trade associations, Congress, reform coalitions, and the President himself. The National Business Coalition on Health has developed a helpful chart reflecting basic information about most of the major reform proposals being circulated. To access this information, please go to:

http://www.nbch.org/government/Health_Care_Reform_Coalitions.pdf

New Legislation

The Healthy Workforce Act

State Senators Harkin (Iowa) and Smith (Oregon) introduced the Healthy Workforce Act (S. 1753) to assist businesses in their health promotion efforts while providing incentives to offer onsite health promotion programs. The legislation is targeted primarily at smaller and mid-sized companies, who would otherwise have difficulty making the initial investment needed to support such programs. The Healthy Workforce Act provides a tax credit for 50% of the cost of a qualified employer health promotion program, up to \$200/employee for the first 200 employees and \$100/employee for remaining employees. The credit is conveyed through

income tax credit with for profit employers and through payroll tax with tax exempt employers. If this bill passes, the health promotion industry in Texas will grow and strengthen significantly.

New State Legislation

The Texas 81st Legislature has been in session for almost 2 months, and still has another 2 months to go, so TBGH members must be very vigilant and make sure their voices are heard in the discussions of bills that will impact employee benefits plans and add to employers' health care financial burden.

Several bills that mandate coverage for various tests and procedures bear watching:

- Up to \$200 coverage for certain tests (CT and ultrasonography) for early detection of cardiovascular disease (HB 1290)
- Coverage for certain devices that facilitate insulin therapy and enhance glucose control for treatment of diabetes (SB 64)
- Coverage for reconstructive surgery following mastectomy (HB 678)
- Coverage for a spectrum of autism-related disorders (HB 451)
- Coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of eating disorders (HB 1418)

To learn more about these new mandates, visit <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/>.

We're grateful to TBGH Director, **Darrell Wells**, City of Odessa, for monitoring these and other bills, and keeping TBGH informed about them.

For more information, please visit our website
www.tbgh.org.

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