Innovations: Redesigning Wellness

Approximately 150 million Americans receive their insurance through private sector employer-sponsored health plans. Chronic diseases, such as diabetes, obesity, and heart disease, are among the costliest to treat. As the majority of Americans spend most of their time at work, companies are uniquely positioned to build a culture of health.

Employers are at the forefront of innovation, including through workplace wellness programs. These programs take many forms—on-site clinics and fitness centers, chronic disease management, nutrition seminars, and health risk assessments. Workplace wellness programs are not a silver bullet. Rather, they are a tool in the toolbox to address our nation’s rising health care costs.

A systemic approach to wellness requires multiple stakeholders—firms, nonprofits, community leaders, and activists—to roll up their sleeves and work together. An example of such an effort is Healthy Girls Save the World, Inc., which provides transformational experiences and education on proper nutrition, the benefits of physical activity, and healthy lifestyles via summer camps and after-school programs for African-American females.

To highlight the intersection of health and business competitiveness, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce hosts an annual event to emphasize innovations in workplace and community wellness.

On April 29, 2019, at the Innovations: Redesigning Wellness event, speakers discussed leading-edge workplace wellness programs, holistic health, vaccine benefits, and how technology is reshaping the design of benefits.

Please contact Michael Billet at Mbillet@uschamber.com or call 202-463-5537 for more information.
Left to right: Robert Popovian, vice president of U.S. government relations at Pfizer Inc., moderates a panel on adult vaccinations featuring Abby Bownas of the Adult Vaccine Access Coalition; Charley John, director of public policy at Walgreens; and Dr. Katherine Dallow of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts. Panelists strongly urge individuals to receive booster shots.

Left to right: Melissa Bercier, Ph.D., founder and president of Couch Clarity, P.C.; Elisa Shankle, co-founder of HealHaus; and Camille McGirt, co-founder of Healthy Girls Save the World, Inc. discuss their experiences as small business owners with a social impact model.

Todd Slawter, chief growth officer at Peerfit, gives a keynote address on the company’s app, a platform that employers use to provide employees with wide access to a variety of gyms and studios.
Left to right: Jim Traficant, managing director of Accenture; Sean Chai, global head of Johnson & Johnson’s Employee Health Innovation Center of Excellence; and Appolo Tankeh, Ph.D., lead data scientist, Office of GM at IBM, elaborate on how wearables and smart sensors allow individuals to take greater control of their health via diagnosis, treatment, monitoring, and prevention.

Left to right: Katie Mahoney, vice president of health policy at the U.S Chamber of Commerce, moderates a discussion on how local chambers promote the importance of healthy living.

Melanie A. Schmidt, communications executive at Inova; Meg Schneider, senior vice president of business resources and community development at the Greater Des Moines Partnership; and Joe Hurd, president and CEO of the Blair County Chamber of Commerce, participate on the panel.
Left to right: Dr. Donna Milavetz, founder of OnSite Care, Inc.; Susan J. Campbell, Ph.D., wellness strategy leader at American Airlines; and Dr. Joxel Garcia, corporate vice president of health affairs and chief medical officer at American Express, talk about the benefits of on-site clinics, including reduced wait times and access to primary care services.

Ron Goetzel, Ph.D., vice president at IBM Watson Health, stresses the importance of aligning community efforts to achieve higher value in the health care system.

At left: Chatrane Birbal, director of policy engagement at the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), underscores the importance of employers offering financial wellness programs to attract and retain employees.

Katina Sawyer, Ph.D., assistant professor of management at The George Washington University School of Business and co-founder of Workr Beeing, looks on.