# Working Well in Texas

2024 State Agency Wellness & Benefits Coordinator Conference Wednesday, September 11, 2024 Lesley Jimenez, MA, MPH Statewide Wellness Coordinator Texas Department of State Health Services

# Overview

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# **Worksite Wellness Works**

- The workplace is a key setting for health promotion.
- Benefits on two levels:
  - For individuals: Improve health behaviors, reduce health risks, and enhance overall health.
  - For organizations: Lower health care costs, reduce absenteeism, boost productivity, aid in recruitment and retention, and improve workplace culture and employee morale.

# Wellness at Work



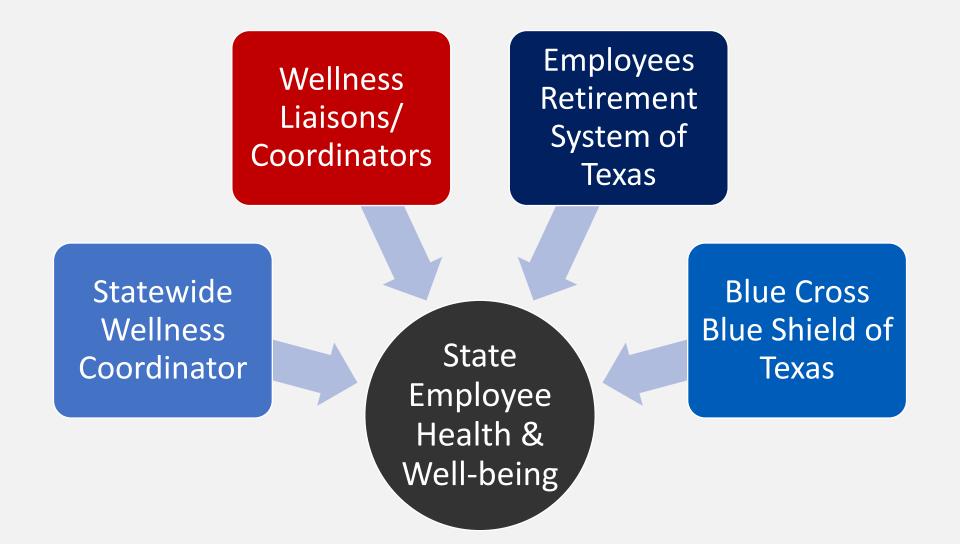
Texas Department of State Health Services

# **Government Code Chapter 664**

- State Employees Health Fitness and Education Act
- State administration is enhanced by programs designed to encourage and create a condition of health



# **Our Roles**



# What We Can Do

State agencies **may**:

- Develop a wellness program, or components of the model wellness program.
- Facilitate the development of a wellness council.
- Allow each employee 30 minutes during normal working hours for exercise three times each week.
- Allow all employees to attend on-site wellness seminars.
- Provide eight hours of leave for completing HRA and preventive visit.



# What We Can Do (continued)

State agencies **may**:

- Offer activities, education, and incentives.
- Use available facilities for health fitness programs.
- Create agreements with other state agencies to support wellness.
- Adopt additional wellness policies, as determined by the agency.
- Offer on-site clinic or pharmacy services.

# Wellness Programs



Texas Department of State Health Services

# **Work Well Texas**

- <u>https://wellness.texas.gov/</u>
- Model worksite wellness program established by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).
- Provides information, opportunities, and resources to support employee health.
- Focuses on key risk factors driving chronic disease.



# **Building a Wellness Program**

## Step 1: Find a champion.

## Step 2: Establish a wellness council.

### **Step 3**: Conduct a workplace assessment.

# Building a Wellness Program (cont'd.)

### Step 4: Develop a plan.

## **Step 5**: Create or improve policies.

## Step 6: Measure success.

# Wellness Program Components

#### Education/Tools

- Health risk assessment
- Webinars
- Monthly toolkits

Health Promotion Strategies

- Health screening events
- Vaccination clinics
- Wellness campaigns

#### Environmental Change Strategies

- Healthy food choices
- Tobacco-free worksites
- Improve policies/facilities

#### **Demonstration Projects**

- Challenges
- Cooking demos
- Stress management activities

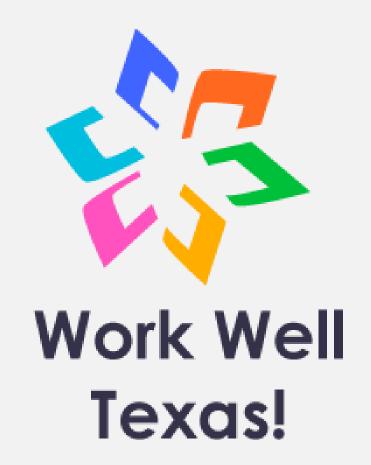
#### **Optional Incentives**

- Flexible scheduling
- Leave award
- Discounts with gyms & fitness centers

# **Wellness Topics**

# Work Well Texas! and key health behaviors:

- Physical Activity
- Healthy Eating
- Stress Management
- Preventive Screenings
- Lactation Support
- Tobacco Cessation



# **Addressing Wellness Topics**

### **Example: Physical Activity**

#### Activities



- Walking groups
- Get Fit Texas! Challenge
- Exercise classes

#### **Environments**



- Walking trails/maps
- Fitness room
- Flex or other time

#### Resources



#### The calendar displays health and wellness events throughout the year. Click on an e

Jse the subscribe feature to get weekly updates on new events.

#### ▲ AUGUST 2024



- Virtual wellness calendar
- Online trackers and coaching
- Wellness intranet site

# **Get Fit Texas! Challenge**

- <u>http://getfittexas.org</u>
- Annual 10-week competition
- January 20 March 30, 2025
- Encourages physical activity as a regular habit
- Occurs on two levels:
  - Individually: Participants earn 6 stars
  - Between organizations: Grouped based on size
- Concludes with award ceremony



# **Virtual Wellness Calendar**

- <u>http://www.wellness.texas.gov/Challenge.htm</u>
- Live, virtual events hosted year round during the work week



#### Virtual Wellness Calendar

The calendar displays health and wellness events throughout the year. Click on an event in the calendar for details and information.

Use the subscribe feature to get weekly updates on new events.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	2	3 12p 30-Minute Core, Flex, & Stretch with Jewell Smith	4 9a 30-Minute Workplace Yoga with Chris Young 12p 45-minute Total Body Strength & Recovery with Mackenzie McIntyre	5 9a Chair Fitness 12p Zumba Loco with Laci Edwards	6 12p Intermediate Yoga with Lacy Wolff	7
l	9 9a 15-Minute Motivation Monday with Jewell & Lacy 12p 30-Minute Zumba	<b>10</b> <b>12p</b> 30-Minute Core, Flex, & Stretch with Jewell Smith	11 9a 30-Minute Workplace Yoga with Chris Young	12 9a Chair Fitness 12p Zumba Loco with Laci Edwards	13 12p Intermediate Yoga with Lacy Wolff	14

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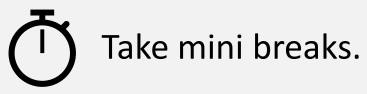
## Addressing Wellness Topics (cont'd.)

	Activities, Programs, Events, etc.	Changes to Policies, Practices, or Facilities	Resources
Healthy Eating	Weight management programs, water challenge, meatless Mondays, Farm to Work	Informal policy to serve healthy foods or water at meetings, birthday parties, etc.	Online classes, trackers, health coaches, <u>Real Appeal</u> , <u>Wondr</u> <u>Health™</u>
Tobacco Cessation	Onsite tobacco cessation classes	Smoke-free or tobacco-free campus policy	Online classes, cessation medications
Screenings & Assessments	Annual routine check-up	Leadership awards time off for completing HRA & annual physical	Online HRA, health plan
Stress Management	Lunch & learns, classes, meditation	Leadership approves flexible scheduling, working remotely, permanent use of certain spaces for relaxation/meditation	Classes, trackers, Health Coaches, EAP
Lactation Support	Educate employees about best practices for worksites	Implement policies setting aside time and facilities for nursing mothers	<u>Texas Mother Friendly Worksite</u> <u>Program website</u>

# **Worksite Wellness Tips**



## Walk and talk.



Sneak in steps.



# Stay cool & hydrated.

Release some tension.



Snack smart.

# Thank you!

### Working Well in Texas

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