


COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE : February 20th, 2017

To : Chairman Theodore Lipsomb Sr., County Board of Supervisors

FROM : Claire Miller, Wellness Coordinator – Department of Human Resources 

SUBJECT: **Informational report from the Wellness Coordinator, Department of Human Resources, regarding the progress of Milwaukee County's Wellness Initiatives (no action required).**

Issue/Background

Since the start of the Milwaukee County Employee Wellness program in 2014 there have been many significant achievements. Most prominently was earning a gold designation from the Wellness Council of America (WELCOA) in 2017. This designation is awarded to organizations that have a program following best practices and evidence based results to demonstrate their successes.

Moreover, there has been an increase in participation in the core of the program, which are the annual health assessments. Participation has grown from 60% in the first year to 70% in 2017. There were also over 20 different wellness program opportunities offered in 2017 that covered a variety of health and wellness topics. The wellness program prides itself on offering a diverse assortment of opportunities to meet employees where they are at in regards to their health.

A recent analysis of claims data from United Healthcare shows that we are beginning to see a positive impact of this program on our employees' lives. Those employees who are engaged in the wellness program have lower medical and pharmacy spend and lower utilization of higher cost services. There is also good progress in improving the health status of members with chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease and/or diabetes. Furthermore, employees engaged in the wellness program also have higher rates of preventive screenings than those not engaged.

I have prepared a presentation to update the committee on the progress of the wellness program initiative.