Total Worker Health® 101: Basic Principles

Oregon Total Worker Health Alliance

Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences Oregon Healthy Workforce Center SAIF Corporation Oregon OSHA

Course Introduction, Participant introductions, Alliance Curriculum & Objectives

Course objectives

Define TWH & key concepts

Discuss how organizations can effectively implement TWH

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Identify the five defining elements of TWH

Develop "next steps" applicable to your organization

TWH 101: General TWH Core Principles

- Total Worker Health definition
- Leadership, employee engagement and culture all affect TWH.
- TWH key concepts (hierarchy of controls, worker well-being, work place mental health, meaningful work, healthier supervision, etc.)
- Health, safety and well-being outcomes intertwine and interact. To
 effectively address TWH, organizations must integrate existing
 programs and structures, and perform need assessments.
- Total Worker Health affects organizational value and costs.
- Effective TWH programs require evaluation, sustainability and continuous improvement and confidentiality.

Part 1: Understanding TWH

What is Total Worker Health®?

....policies, programs, and practices that integrate <u>protection from work-related safety & health hazards</u> with <u>promotion of injury and illness prevention efforts</u> to advance worker well-being.



NIOSH Total Worker Health® network





Oregon Total Worker Health® Alliance

Members:

- Oregon OSHA
- Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences
- SAIF

Goals:

- Provide expertise and guidance
- Share practical experience from organizations
- Offer training and education to help protect the occupational health, safety and well-being of workers

Why does work influence our health and well-being?

- Work conditions determine risk for injury, illness and disability
- Work provides access to most health-related benefits
- Important aspects of our work such as wage and location influences our health and the communities in which we live
- Our work influence our commutes which impact our health.
- Work controls many elements of our daily life, particularly the time we have for physical activity, healthy eating, relationships, and rest and sleep.

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What is Total Worker Health?	
HEALTHIER WORKFORCE CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE	
Large group discussion]
Large group discussion	
 Are there specific campaigns or programs happening within your organization that fall within our definition of Total Worker Health? 	
 Do you have environmental and policy practices that create sustained changes? 	
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Part 2: TWH Defining Elements	



NIOSH Fundamentals of TWH

- <u>Element 1</u>: Demonstrate leadership commitment to safety and health at all levels.
- Element 2: Design work to eliminate or reduce safety and health hazards & promote worker well-being.
- Element 3: Promote and support worker engagement through program design & implementation.
- <u>Element 4</u>: Ensure confidentiality and worker privacy.
- <u>Element 5</u>: Integrate relevant systems to advance worker well-being.

Defining Element of TWH1

Demonstrate leadership commitment to safety and health at all levels.

- Encourage top leaders...
- Encourage mid-level management...



Defining Element of TWH2

Design work to eliminate or reduce safety and health hazards & promote worker well-being.



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Elimination Eliminate Substitution Engineering Controls Administrative Controls Traditional Hierarchy of Controls - NIOSH 2015 The Hierarchy of Controls Applied to NIOSH Total Worker Health*

Defining Element of TWH3

Promote and support worker engagement through program design & implementation.



Enhance Employee Engagement

Increase social interactions among staff

- Use cross-training and workgroups to build relationships.
- Cross-generational efforts
- Use work and non-work anchors for connecting individuals



Bike to Work Day

Defining Element of TWH4 Ensure confidentiality and worker privacy. • Protect data sources that require confidentiality • Take precautions to protect privacy. • Know about EAPs	
Integrate relevant systems to advance worker well-being. The part of the part	

Part 3: Defining concepts

Organizational Needs Assessment

- Injury and worker compensation data to target solution
- Medical health insurance
- Employee needs assessment survey working with HR, or external academic or consulting group, to evaluate employee engagement, workplace stress and strain, worklife balance, safety climate, burnout, and self-reports of safety and health.
- Safety and health program checklists

Worker Well-being



Measuring well-being

Worker well-being characterizes quality of life relating to:

- An individual's health and work-related factors
- Our positive perceptions and the presence of constructive conditions at work
- It's what enables us to thrive and achieve our full potential.



Workplace mental wellness



Meaningful work

- \bullet Degree to which we find our work to have significance and purpose.
- Contribution work makes to finding broader meaning in life.
- Desire and means for one's work to make a positive contribution to the greater good.

GOT PURPOSE?

John Howard on Stress



Psychosocial Stress

- Experience coming from any type of interaction with people.
- You may feel high blood pressure, sweating, rapid heart beat, dizziness and feelings of irritability or sadness.
- What might be different stressors or causes of psychosocial stress?





Stress and Health

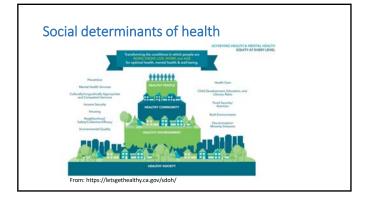
- The more control we have over our life or schedule gives us higher well being and may buffer other negative stressors.
- The higher our skill level, occupational grade, and job complexity the higher our general physical and mental well being
- Social support and social integration are associated with better health and longevity.

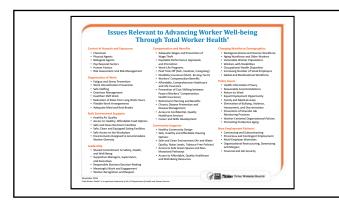
Healthier and supportive supervision

Supervisors can be supportive by:

- Recognizing pressures and demands of personal/family responsibilities
- Communicating genuine concern and understanding
- Being knowledgeable about work-life programs, resources and policies
- Sharing how they manage their <u>own</u> work-life responsibilities
- Being clear about expectations and how the job should be done; Providing guidance on how to best communicate in a team







TWH Policies, Programs and Practices

- Worker-centered operations
- Worker participation in workplace problem solving
 Paid family & sick leave, paid medical
- benefits
 Equitable wages, safe staffing levels,
- Equitable wages, safe staffing levels, voluntary overtime
- Discrimination, harassment, and violence prevention
- Health-enhancing work organization and healthier supervision
- Respect, fair performance appraisals
- & advancement opportunities
- Attention to work-life Integration
 Recognition of work factors as
- potential causes of chronic conditions

 Confidential occupational health and
- Confidential occupational health and prevention services
- Programs to help workers manage
 their health shallenges.
- their health challenges
- Support for productive aging across the working life span

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Interactive activity	
Part 4. Business and value propositions 10 minutes	
Promising practices from NIOSH	
Promising practices from NIOSH Offer paid sick leave Provide training for supervisors Support standing and walking work stations and active meetings Provide ergonomically friendly work environments Give workers more flexibility and control over their schedules	
More info at: https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/twh/business.html	

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Part 5. Program evaluation, sustainability and continuous improvement	
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Part 6: Putting it all together	
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 * Worker-centered operations * Worker participation in workplace problem solving * Paid family & sick leave, paid medical benefits * Equitable wages, safe staffing levels, voluntary overtime * Discrimination, harassment, and violence prevention * Health-enhancing work organization and healthier supervision * Respect, fair performance appraisals & advancement opportunities * Attention to work-life Integration * Recognition of work factors as potential causes of chronic conditions * Confidential occupational health and prevention services * Programs to help workers manage their health challenges * Support for productive aging across the working life span 	

Ideas You Can Implement Right Now...

- Dedicate a portion of time at meetings for updates...
- 2. Hold joint meetings...
- 3. Discuss plans for the future...
- 4. Ask employees what factors are getting in the way...
- 5. Sponsor brief lunch-and-learns
- 6. Invite staff to share experience to address shared goals...
- 7. Incorporate new info into trainings...
- Consider sharing physical resources and spaces...
- 9. Give workers more flexibility and control...
- 10. Ensure built environment, polices and work schedules enhance safety and well-being

https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/twh/pdfs/ideas-you-can-implement-right-now.pdf



NIOSH Fundamentals of TWH

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Put it all together activity

Create the beginning of your plan

- 1. Who is your team? (see page 4)
- How much do you know about your organizational hazards, needs and priorities?
- List any programs that currently exist that support Total Worker Health.
- See Worksheet 2: Action Plan (p. 19), and select the element that you think is of the highest priority to your organization. Begin to complete the form.



Final thoughts: summary and Q&A







