
2024 DoD Virtual Benefits & Work-Life Symposium Theme:

Strategic HR: Improving the Capabilities of the HR Workforce

EVENT AGENDA

SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

ALL-DAY

08:00 AM – 4:00 PM: Live Virtual Check-in

DAY 1: SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

MORNING

08:00 - 08:30 AM: Welcome and Opening Remarks by Mr. Daniel J. Hester and Mrs. Taiwana Smith

08:30 – 09:30 AM: Plenary Session: DoD HR Functional Community (HRFC) by Dr. Gina Eckles, DCPAS

09:30 – 09:45 AM: Transitional Break

09:45 - 10:45 AM: Concurrent Sessions:

- IC Session: Counseling Employees
- Nonappropriated Fund (NAF) Personnel System & Portability of Benefits for Moves between Civil Service and NAF Employment Systems
- EBA Session: FEHB Family Member Verification/Validation

10:45 – 11:00 AM: Transitional Break

11:00 – 12:00 PM: Plenary Session: JoAnna Spicer, OPM Retirement Processing

AFTERNOON

12:00 - 01:00 PM: Lunch

01:00 - 02:00 PM: Concurrent Sessions:

- UC Session: Unemployment Compensation Basics
- Work-Life Session: Foundations of a Successful Employee Wellness Program
- IC Session: Second Opinion Exams
- EBA Session: FERS Eligibility Workshop (Retirement Determination) – FERS/FERS RAE/FERS FRAE

02:00 – 02:15 PM: Transitional Break

02:15 – 03:15 PM: Plenary Session: Mr. Stewart Kaplan, TSP

03:15 – 03:30 PM: Transitional Break

03:30 - 04:30 PM: Plenary Session: Medicare Presentation by Sylvia Gary, HHS

04:30 PM: Closing Remarks by Mrs. Taiwana Smith

DAY 2: SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

MORNING

08:00 - 08:30 AM: Welcome and Introduction

08:30 - 09:30 AM: Plenary Session: AAFES by Christopher J. Ewers

09:30 – 09:45 AM: Transitional Break

09:45 - 10:45 AM: Concurrent Sessions:

- UC Session: UC Forms & Unemployment Compensation Appeals
- IC Session: HR Issues Impacting FECA
- EBA Session: FEHB Family Member Verification/Validation
- Work-Life Session: EAP

10:45 – 11:00 AM: Transitional Break

11:00 – 12:00 PM: Plenary Session: Social Security Presentation by Tanya Duncan, SSA

AFTERNOON

12:00 - 01:00 PM: Lunch

01:00 - 02:00 PM: Concurrent Sessions:

- IC/UC Session: Loss of Wage-Earning Capacity – LWEC
- EBA Session: FERS Eligibility Workshop (Retirement Determinations) – FERS/FERS-RAE/FERS-FRAE
- Work-Life Session: Developing and Implementing a Successful Domestic Employees Teleworking Overseas (DETO) Program

02:00 – 02:15 PM: Transitional Break

02:15 – 03:15 PM: Plenary Session: *Leadership Development Opportunities* by Jimmie Vaughn, DCPAS

03:15 – 03:30 PM: Transitional Break

03:30 – 04:30 PM: Plenary Session: Workplace Mental Health and Well-Being by *Ms. Jeane Garcia-Davis, MSN/MPH, RN, Office of the U.S. Surgeon General (WL)*

04:30 PM: Closing Remarks by Mrs. Taiwana Smith

DAY 3: SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

MORNING

08:00 - 08:30 AM: Welcome and Introduction

08:30 – 09:30 AM: Plenary Session: Essential Skills for Dialogue and Negotiation by Virginia Hill, Partnership for Public Service

09:30 – 09:45 AM: Transitional Break

09:45 - 10:45 AM: Concurrent Sessions:

- UC Session: Communication in the Workplace
- IC Session: Havana Act (Chris Inserra)
- EBA Session: Approval Process for Special Retirement Position Descriptions (PD)
- Work-Life Session: *DoD Childcare Fee Assistance Program* by Heidi Welch, Associate Director for Child and Youth Program Operations, Office of the Secretary of Defense (Military Community and Family Policy)

10:45 – 11:00 AM: Transitional Break

11:00 AM: Closing Remarks and Special Recognition by Mrs. Taiwana Smith

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM: Plenary Session: Radical Transparency: Gaining Employee Trust through Enhanced Feedback Loops by Cameron Kober and Yenisleidy (Yeni) Mengana, Partnership for Public Service (***Supervisors Only***)