

Wisconsin Public Health Council

2005 Report to Governor Jim Doyle

December 2005

The Public Health Council was created in mid-2004 by the Legislature to advise the Governor, the Legislature, Wisconsin citizens and the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) on progress in implementing the state health plan, *Healthiest Wisconsin 2010* and on the coordination of responses to public health emergencies. The council strives to serve as a respected, objective, and balanced source of information for the Governor, the Legislature, and the DHFS.

Council Organization

The Public Health Council has elected officers, developed Rules of Order and Procedure; established a committee structure; implemented an open forum at the beginning of each meeting for public input and a standing agenda item for reports on public health research of interest to the council, and established a Web site.

Updates

Year-to-Date Items

The council has been briefed on the following topics:

- Issues of bioterrorism and emergency preparedness, including the development and implementation of emergency preparedness within Wisconsin's hospital system, public health regions, and statewide Homeland Security Council actions;
- Wisconsin's state health plan, *Healthiest Wisconsin 2010*;
- The number and purpose of the advisory committees that exist to support the state public health system and how these committees relate to the Public Health Council, including presentations and proposals provided by the Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC) and the Joint Preparedness Advisory Committee;
- The 2004 – 05 shortage of influenza vaccine and actions under discussion for vaccine redistribution;
- Options under consideration for the formation of a Public Health Institute in Wisconsin;
- Health disparities in Wisconsin;
- Evaluation strategies for the state health plan including the work being done by the UW School of Medicine and Public Health;
- Governor Doyle's proposed 2005-2007 budget;
- WIC funding;
- Proposed legislation related to smoking, including a proposed \$1 tobacco tax increase and the enactment of non-preemptive state laws to encourage clean indoor air;
- Governor Doyle's KidsFirst Agenda;

- Methamphetamine use in Wisconsin; and
- Pandemic influenza planning efforts.

Forthcoming Items

- The Emergency Preparedness Committee is developing recommendations for the council on priorities for council action;
- The State Health Plan Committee will report to the council on the state’s progress in achieving the goals and objectives of the state health plan and on their role in work teams evaluating the overall goals in the state health plan. The committee will make recommendations to the council on additional activities needed to achieve the state’s goals.

Council Action

- Established a governance structure, working vision, mission, and strategies to direct the Council’s operations;
- Council assigned prioritized agenda items to the subcommittees to work on, research and report with their recommendations to the full council;
- Drafted and approved a resolution on tobacco use and legislation that would advance Wisconsin as a smoke-free state (Attachment 1);
- Drafted and approved a resolution to encourage the Governor and the Department to preserve the Department’s ability to deliver comprehensive Family Planning funding to the best qualified providers (Attachment 2);
- Drafted and approved a resolution to encourage the Governor and the Department to preserve the Family Foundations Home Visiting Program (Attachment 3); and
- Drafted a motion to the Board of Regents about the changing the name of the UW Medical School to the School of Medicine and Public Health (Attachment 4).

Council Membership

Sandy Anderson (Vice-Chair)	Terri Kramolis	Kurt Reed
Bevan Baker	Charles LaRoque	Ayaz Samadani (Chair)
John Bartkowski (Vice-Chair)	Loren Leshan	Thai Vue
Jayne Bielecki	Corazon Loteyro	JoAnn Weidmann
Christopher Fischer	June Munro	Julie Willems Van Dijk
Catherine Frey	Douglas Nelson	Jeanan Yasiri
Gary Gilmore (Secretary)	Richard Perry	
Stephen Hargarten	Elizabeth Raduege	

Recorded by Stacia Jankowski
Bureau of Health Information and Policy

Gary D. Gilmore, MPH, Ph.D., Secretary

Date

Public Health Council
Resolution
April 29, 2005

In the interests of meeting the goals of *Healthiest Wisconsin 2010*, the state health plan, for reducing tobacco use and exposure, the Wisconsin Public Health Council submits the following resolution:

Whereas, 7,800 people die of tobacco-related causes annually in Wisconsin; and

Whereas, the citizens of Wisconsin annually incur \$1.86 billion in health care costs related to tobacco-related disease; and

Whereas, 15 percent of Wisconsin women smoke during pregnancy representing a ranking of 34th in the nation; and

Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has outlined the elements of a comprehensive tobacco control plan which includes eliminating exposure to second-hand smoke, prevention of youth initiation of tobacco use, evidence-based methods to reduce tobacco addiction, eliminating tobacco disparities, and supporting a significant price increase for tobacco products; and

Whereas, Wisconsin currently spends \$10 million for tobacco control while the CDC has estimated the optimal annual level of funding for such a comprehensive tobacco control program in Wisconsin should be \$30 million; and

Whereas, 20 local Wisconsin communities have passed ordinances to promote clean indoor air by reducing their citizens' exposure to second-hand smoke in public places;

Now, be it resolved that Wisconsin will become a smoke-free state by the year 2010; and

The Wisconsin Public Health Council further resolves that short-term strategies to accomplish this goal include:

1. Significantly increase the price of tobacco products in order to reduce use, especially among children and youth, as would occur with at least a \$1.00 increase in the tobacco tax;
2. Direct revenue generated by such a price increase to support a comprehensive tobacco control program and to fund the costs of caring for persons with tobacco-related disease, including in the Medicaid program.
3. Accelerate enactment and enforcement of strong local anti-tobacco ordinances.
4. Enact non-preemptive statewide laws to promote Wisconsin as a smoke free state.

Be it further resolved that we are committed to developing long-term strategies to accomplish the goal of a smoke-free Wisconsin by employing evidence-based methods to reduce initiation and continuance of the addictive practice, and eliminating tobacco disparities, to include untoward impacts on underserved populations.

Public Health Council
Resolution
June 10, 2005

Whereas *Healthiest Wisconsin 2010*, the state health plan, identifies access to primary and preventive health care as one of the eleven health priorities for Wisconsin:

The Public Health Council strongly advises Secretary Nelson and the Governor to take whatever action is necessary to preserve the Department's ability to deliver comprehensive Family Planning funding to the best qualified providers as a means to safeguard the public's health.

Public Health Council
Resolution
June 10, 2005

Whereas *Healthiest Wisconsin 2010*, the state health plan, identified access to primary and preventive health care as one of the eleven health priorities for Wisconsin; and

Whereas the Family Foundations program is designed to address this issue in a comprehensive way by providing services to at-risk families through a home visiting program:

The Public Health Council strongly advises Secretary Nelson and the Governor to take whatever action is necessary to preserve the Family Foundations Home Visiting Program as a means to safeguard the public's health.



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WISCONSIN PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL

Assure safe and healthy people by monitoring progress on the state health plan, Healthiest Wisconsin 2010, and on the readiness for public health emergencies.

February 22, 2006

Board of Regents
c/o Judy Temby
1860 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Dr.
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Board of Regents:

Assuring a sufficient and competent health workforce is one of the priorities identified in Wisconsin’s state health plan – Healthiest Wisconsin 2010. Therefore, the action surrounding the renaming of the UW Medical School is of great concern to the Public Health Council.

Attached please find a motion that was passed by the Public Health Council regarding the changing the name of the UW Medical School to the School of Medicine and Public Health.

Sincerely,

Ayaz Samadani, MD
Chair, Public Health Council

Attachment

1 West Wilson Street, Room 372, Madison, WI 53702
PublicHealthCouncil@dhs.state.wi.us| www. publichealthcouncil.dhfs.wi.gov

**Wisconsin Public Health Council Motion to the Board of Regents
November 8, 2005**

The Wisconsin Public Health Council is appointed by the Governor to advise the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS), the governor, the legislature and the public on progress in implementing the state's ten-year public health plan – Healthiest Wisconsin 2010 - and on progress in the coordination of responses to public health emergencies. State law requires that the Council include representatives of health care consumers, health care providers, health professions educators, local health departments and boards, public safety agencies and the Public Health Advisory Committee established by the Secretary of DHFS.

The Council's mission is to assure safe and healthy people through evidence-based and cost effective practice and policy recommendations. Assuring a sufficient and competent public health workforce is one of the five system priorities in the state health plan. Therefore, the Regents' recent action concerning the renaming of the UW School of Medicine is of great interest to the Council.

The Council supports a coordinated statewide approach to addressing the resources needed to assure a high quality public health workforce in the future. To accomplish this, schools and programs in public health in the state must establish relationships with other health science schools, community organizations, health agencies and groups to promote trans-disciplinary training and research. Public health training programs at UW – Madison and UW – LaCrosse should work collaboratively with programs at the Medical College of Wisconsin and with any new programs developed in Milwaukee and elsewhere so that there is effective coverage and good coordination and collaboration across the various entities involved in educating the public health workforce. This is essential if Wisconsin is to achieve the three overarching goals of the state health plan: To improve health status of all, to eliminate health disparities and to transform the public health system.

Wisconsin's economic prosperity is undermined by the serious health problems in our population. Health disparities exist based on racial and ethnic background and based on geography, age and sex. This statewide problem demands a local, regional, and statewide solution. Improving health status and eliminating health disparities is vital to the economic future of our state. One strategy to address the urgent issue of disparities is to assure a competent public health workforce.

Therefore, the Council urges the Board of Regents to respond to the serious health conditions in our state by:

1. Approving the transformation of the UW Medical School that is well underway and renaming it as the School of Medicine and Public Health;
2. Begin the planning process to create an accredited school of public health that offers MPH, PhD, and DrPH degrees in the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee;
3. Explore all formats for collaboration, linkages, and distance-based options such as meetings among the directors of the MPH programs to explore greater program collaboration and capacity building, as has been called for already; electronic formats via the Internet and other delivery systems for dialogue, planning, and eventual program delivery; and innovative partnership opportunities that will enable Wisconsin to become a hallmark for innovation in workforce development; and
4. Supporting efforts to strengthen and coordinate existing public health education programs within the UW System.