

# Wisconsin Public Health Council

## 2011 Report to Governor Walker

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 Services (DHS) on the state's health plan, and on the coordination of responses to public health emergencies. The Council strives to serve as a respected, objective, and balanced source of public health information for the Governor, the Legislature, and the DHS.

### Council Organization

Public Health Council membership is through appointment by the Governor. The Council includes three committees: the Executive Committee, consisting of elected officers and committee chairs; the State Health Plan Quality Improvement Committee (formerly State Health Plan Committee); and the Emergency Preparedness Committee. In 2011, the Council met six times. An open forum is scheduled at the beginning of each meeting to allow for public input. Reports from each of the committees as well as formal deliberation on public health issues constitute the majority of the meetings. The Council maintains a Web site, where agendas and minutes are posted; Council meetings are recorded as webcasts, which can be accessed from the Web site at: <http://publichealthcouncil.dhs.wi.gov/webcast/>. All meeting agendas are required to be posted in accordance with the state Open Meetings Law.

### 2011 Council Action

- **The Council convened an Ad Hoc State Health Plan Quality Improvement Workgroup to recommend the processes the Council should use to monitor and report progress on the latest state health plan, *Healthiest Wisconsin 2020*, per the Council's charge.** Council member participants were Ms. Kramolis, Ms. Sampson, and Dr. Post. The workgroup met four times and made the following recommendations:
  - Form a standing State Health Plan Quality Improvement Committee comprised of Council members and staffed by the Wisconsin Division of Public Health.
  - The charge for the Committee will consist of:
    - Fostering meaningful cross-sector and interdisciplinary deliberation on priority topics derived from the *Healthiest Wisconsin 2020* focus areas (overarching, infrastructure, and health) to identify meaningful actions and /or recommendations for Public Health Council leadership.
    - Assuring oversight to the overall tracking and progress of *Healthiest Wisconsin 2020* and make related recommendations for improving the health of the people of Wisconsin and all of its communities.
    - Providing guidance and oversight to the Wisconsin Public Health Improvement Initiative.

At the December 2011 Council meeting, it was decided that the State Health Plan Quality Improvement Committee first focus on a single *Healthiest Wisconsin 2020* focus area, the complex interrelated subjects of (1) "adequate, appropriate and safe food and nutrition" and (2) physical activity. These subjects represent two of the 23 key focus areas of *Healthiest Wisconsin 2020*. These are high-impact issues for Wisconsin in terms of cost and quality of life, but also hold significant preventive potential. Overweight and obesity increase the risk for developing many different diseases, including Type 2 diabetes. There are nearly 480,000 people in Wisconsin with diabetes which costs Wisconsin over \$6 billion annually." (Source: *Healthiest Wisconsin 2020*, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, 2011).

- **After much deliberation and communication with the state's two medical schools, the Council approved a policy statement in October 2011, urging the state's two medical schools to examine the possibility of increasing the percentage of Wisconsin Blue Cross/Blue Shield conversion funds that focus on community-based public health projects.**

During 2011, the Council had two standing policy committees: the Emergency Preparedness Committee and the State Health Plan Committee. The Executive Committee of the Council is composed of elected officers and its Committee chairs to plan and oversee the operations of the Council. Like the Council, all formal committees of the Council are subject to the state public records and Open Meetings laws.

### **State Health Plan Committee**

The Committee's mission is to propose public health policy recommendations and strategies to achieve the Council's responsibility to monitor progress of the legislatively mandated state health plan. The current 10-year state health plan, *Healthiest Wisconsin 2020: Everyone Living Better, Longer*, is mandated in Wisconsin Statutes, Chapter 250.07. The primary stewardship responsibilities of the State Health Plan Committee are: (1) monitor, evaluate and communicate progress toward achieving the state health plan; (2) champion achievement of the state health plan; and (3) promote broad-based ownership for achieving *Healthiest Wisconsin 2020*. During 2011, this body convened as the Ad Hoc State Health Plan Quality Improvement Committee and developed the strategic recommendations noted above.

### **Emergency Preparedness Committee**

The mission of the Committee on Emergency Preparedness is to provide guidance and oversight to the planning and implementation of the public health, hospital and pre-hospital emergency preparedness programs. The Committee promotes coordination and integration around preparedness issues. The Committee decided that, to achieve increased efficiency, they will convene on an intermittent basis, based on the evolution of new and emerging emergency preparedness issues. Mr. Bevan Baker will regularly brief the Executive Committee, based on input from Division of Public Health Preparedness staff and review of reports from the Division's Public Health Preparedness Advisory Committee.

***Briefings and Deliberations:***

Briefings and Council deliberations in 2011 included the following:

- ◆ All meetings included updates on the *Healthiest Wisconsin 2020* state health plan
- ◆ Most meetings included a state budget update and/or legislative update.
- ◆ National Prevention Strategy (August, 2011)
- ◆ Wisconsin Public Health Improvement Initiative (June, 2011)
- ◆ Council Strategic Direction – strategic planning deliberation (June, 2010)
- ◆ Blue Cross/Blue Shield Asset Conversion for Public Health Update (December, October, August, April, February, 2011)
- ◆ Division of Public Health Infrastructure Grant (April, 2011)
- ◆ "Healthy Jobs Bill" Update (April, 2011)
- ◆ 2012 Officer Elections Nominations Report (December, 2011)
- ◆ Strategic Membership Issues (February, October, 2011)

***2011 Meeting Membership of the Public Health Council***

Mary Jo Baisch, Secretary  
Bevan Baker  
John Bartkowski  
Amy Bremel  
Bridget Clementi  
Faye Dodge  
Susan Garcia Franz  
Catherine Frey

Gary Gilmore, Chair  
Terri Kramolis  
Corazon Loteyro  
John Meurer  
Deborah Miller  
Douglas Nelson  
A. Charles Post  
Ayaz Samadani

Gretchen Sampson  
James Sanders  
Lynn Sheets  
Mark Villalpando  
Thai Vue  
Julie Willems Van Dijk

Wisconsin Division of Public Health  
Office of Policy and Practice Alignment  
Prepared by: Kevin Wymore, MPA  
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