

Wisconsin Public Health Council

2012 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, the DHS, and the citizenry of Wisconsin.

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 2012, 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.

2012 Council Action

- **The Council formed the State Health Plan Quality Improvement Committee 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. Terri Kramolis, Ms. Gretchen Sampson, and Dr. Charles Post. The workgroup met nine times and made recommendations based on Council-approved focus areas for the year: nutrition and prevention of obesity, and physical activity. **(Note: The proposal planning and initial implementation for the Committee took place in 2011; the completed vote took place at the 2012 meeting.)**
 - The charge for the Committee consisted 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.

- **The Council developed and submitted a letter of support** to Department Secretary Dennis Smith for the Department’s online Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity state plan. (Attachment A)
- **The State Health Plan Quality Improvement Committee recommended, with Council concurrence, to send policy letters to five key public health partners:** the Department of Public Instruction for its School Health Awards program, (Attachment B); the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, and the Wisconsin Early Childhood Advisory Council, in support of “early care” standards, (Attachment C); the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, in support of its farm-to-school food marketing efforts, (Attachment D); the Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness and Health, (Attachment E); and to the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards of Health, in support of reviewing school wellness policies. Various Council members will serve as issue liaisons with those organizations.
- **The Council welcomed two new members in 2012:** Mr. William Keeton, Vice President for Government Relations and Communications for the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin; and Mr. Michael Wallace, the CEO of Fort Healthcare of Fort Atkinson.
- **The Council received several policy and program updates from Division of Public Health Administrator Karen McKeown,** appointed in 2012.
- **The Council heard updates on public-health related legislative activity** from representatives for Department of Health Services Secretary Dennis Smith.
- **At the February Annual Meeting, Dr. Gary Gilmore began his term as the Council Chair; Dr. Mary Jo Baisch was elected to the position of Chair-Elect; and Ms. Faye Dodge was chosen as Secretary.** The three officers will each serve two-year terms, and Dr. Baisch will become chair following the 2014 Annual Meeting.

During 2012, the Council had two standing advisory committees: the Emergency Preparedness Committee and the State Health Plan Quality Improvement Committee, plus the Executive 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. All formal committees of the Council are subject to the state public records and Open Meetings laws.

State Health Plan Quality Improvement 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. In 2012, quality improvement initiatives were added to the Committee’s portfolio. The current 10-year state health plan, *Healthiest Wisconsin 2020: Everyone Living Better, Longer*, is mandated in Wisconsin Statutes, Chapter 250.07. The primary responsibilities of the State Health Plan Committee are to: (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*.

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. The Council reiterated that approach late in 2012. Mr. Bevan Baker regularly briefed 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.

Much of that advisory committee's work in 2012 revolved around the new federal funding agreement, which exceeds \$11 million in fiscal year 2012-13. Division of Public Health staff indicated that the first year of the five-year agreement between CDC and DHS is a "strategy year" that calls for development of health care coalitions. The new agreement asks the public health and hospital communities to work together directly on preparedness issues.

Briefings and Deliberations:

Briefings and Council deliberations in 2012 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.
- ◆ Nominations Committee report and Election of Officers (February, 2012)
- ◆ Council Strategic Direction – strategic planning (December, 2012)
- ◆ Letter of support for the Department's online Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity state plan (June, 2012)
- ◆ Wisconsin Public Health Association update (June, 2012)
- ◆ Wisconsin Public Health Improvement Initiative update (August, 2012)
- ◆ Medicaid Initiatives (October, 2012)
- ◆ Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity policy deliberations (October, 2012)
- ◆ Wisconsin Community Health Fund proposal (December, 2012)
- ◆ Immunization Issue Update (December, 2012)

2012 Meeting Membership of the Public Health Council

Mary Jo Baisch, Chair-Elect
Milwaukee

Bevan Baker
Milwaukee

Bridget Clementi
Waukesha

Faye Dodge, Secretary
Keshena

Susan Garcia Franz
Neenah

Gary Gilmore, Chair
La Crosse

William Keeton
Oconomowoc

Terri Kramolis
Ashland

Deborah Miller
Dorchester

Douglas Nelson
Milwaukee

Charles Post
Milwaukee

Ayaz Samadani
Beaver Dam

Gretchen Sampson
Balsam Lake

James Sanders
Milwaukee

Mark Villalpando
Sturtevant

Thai Vue
Onalaska

Michael Wallace
Fort Atkinson

Faye Dodge, Secretary

Date