

# Wisconsin Public Health Council

## 2015 Report

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 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 four committees: the Executive Committee, consisting of elected officers and committee chairs; the State Health Plan Committee (formerly State Health Plan Quality Improvement Committee); the Emergency Preparedness and Response Committee; and the Public Health Policy and Public Engagement Committee. In 2015, the Council met six times. An open forum is scheduled at the beginning of each meeting to allow for public input. The Council maintains a Web site, where agendas and minutes are posted. All meeting agendas are required to be posted in accordance with the state Open Meetings Law.

The Council underwent significant changes in 2015, which included: allowing remote participation for all meetings (via Microsoft Lync); making three (3) meetings half-day, remote participation-only meetings; updating the Rules of Order and Procedure; and the addition of three new members.

### **Committees**

All formal committees of the Council are subject to the state public records and Open Meetings laws.

During 2015, the Council committees consisted of the Executive Committee, plus three standing advisory committees: the Emergency Preparedness and Response Committee (formerly called the Emergency Preparedness Committee), the State Health Plan Committee (formerly called the State Health Plan Quality Improvement Committee), and the Public Health Policy and Public Engagement Committee.

The **Executive Committee** is composed of elected officers (Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary) and the previous chair of the Council, who will serve for one year. Its mission is to provide leadership and to establish and monitor direction for the Council's actions; 2) plan agendas that will create efficient and effective Council meetings that are focused

upon the Council's stated purpose, and that include evaluation of meeting effectiveness; and 3) make emergency decisions on behalf of the Council when necessary.

The mission of the ***Emergency Preparedness and Response Committee*** is to review and provide recommendations related to activities in Wisconsin designed to ensure there are coordinated and comprehensive responses to protect the health, safety and welfare of citizens and property in the event of natural or man-made emergencies.

The mission of the ***State Health Plan Committee*** (formerly the State Health Plan Quality Improvement Committee) is to be responsible for monitoring the progress of, and making recommendations for, Wisconsin's State Health Plan.

The mission of the ***Public Health Policy and Public Engagement Committee*** (newly formed in 2015) is to be responsible for developing external communication with public health stakeholders including elected and public officials at the federal, state and local levels of government, the media and the public to ensure public policy supports the broad mission of promoting enlightened public health policy and the goals of the State Health Plan.

## **Council Action**

### *February 2015*

- Council members elected a new slate of officers. The large turnover of Council members in August 2014, and the Chair newly elected in February 2014 (who was not reappointed) necessitated a suspension of the bylaws to elect a Chair to serve a half-term and a full term until the next election cycle after the full term.
- A position as liaison to the Wisconsin Minority Health Leadership Council (WMHLC) was created. This individual would attend the WMHLC quarterly meetings, and have a standing agenda item on Public Health Council. One member and two alternates were named.
- The Council's *Disparities Resolution* that was passed in December 2014 was approved for dissemination among legislators.
- The committee structures and membership were discussed.
- The State Innovations Model (SIM) grant in the DHS Division of Health Care Access and Accountability (DHCAA) was introduced and discussed in-depth.

### *April 24, 2015*

- The Policy Section Chief and State Health Plan Officer gave a detailed overview on the Mid-Course Review of the State Health Plan, and based on her assessment and key informant interviews, what are the top priorities, the metrics to evaluate progress, dissemination plan and indicators. The Council's State Health Plan Committee will meet in June to pick criteria to prioritize the focus areas of the State Health Plan.

### *June 5, 2015*

- Members approved the revised structure of the committees.
- Members learned about public health policy initiatives and priority areas of the Joint Public Affairs Committee of the Wisconsin Public Health Association and the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards.
- Members learned about the Community Commons Data Pilot project, supported by the Wisconsin Public Health Improvement Initiative Grant from the Division of Public Health. The platform used easily pulls together information from the local level into reports and other types of products used to visualize the community's health.
- The Population Health Specialist in the Office of Policy and Practice Alignment updated the Council on the two populations where the SIM Grant is gathering data.
- Susan Uttech, the Accreditation Director for the Division of Public Health, updated Council members on the Division's Accreditation efforts.

### *August 7, 2015*

- Council members discussed Executive Committee recommendations for changes to the Bylaws and Rules of Order.
- Division of Public Health Administrator Karen McKeown led an in-depth discussion of the state health plan and the mid-course review of the plan.
- A discussion of the SIM Grant took place, with more in-depth information on the progress of the grant.

### *October 1, 2015*

- The revised Bylaws and Rules of Order were accepted by the Council Members.
- The State Health Plan Committee gave an updates on the progress they are making that align with the Division's efforts.
- Karen McKeown led an in-depth discussion on the Mid-Course Review that included new terminology, and an overview of the collaborative structure of the process.
- Deputy Administrator Chuck Warzecha gave members the timeframe for the Division's Accreditation application.

### *December 4, 2015*

- Karen McKeown led an in-depth discussion on the WI-HIPP (Wisconsin Health Improvement Planning Process), and spoke about the WI-HIPP Steering Committee. Council Chair Bill Keeton is co-chair of this Steering Committee.
- The SIM Project manager led a discussion about the closing out the grant (in January, 2016) and discussed the process and the progress made.
- Minority Health Officer Evelyn Cruz made a presentation on the Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care (Enhanced National CLAS Standards). Discussion on the CLAS Standards will continue in the new year.

***Briefings and Deliberations:***

Briefings and Council deliberations in 2015 included the following:

- All meetings included updates on the *Healthiest Wisconsin 2020* state health plan.
- All meetings included legislative updates from staff from the Office of the Secretary.
- All meetings included updates on Division of Public Health activities.
- All meetings included updates on the activities of the WI Minority Health Leadership Council.
- The Council received regular updates from DHCAA (Division of Healthcare Access and Accountability) staff about the State Innovations Model (SIM) Grant, and its product, the Wisconsin State Health Innovation Plan.
- Most meetings included updates from one or all of the Committees.

***Meeting Membership of the Public Health Council (during 2015)***

Andy Anderson, MD	Hartland
Terry Brandenburg	West Allis
Bridget Clementi	Waukesha
Mary Dorn, Secretary	DePere
Gary Gilmore, MPH, Ph.D., Immediate Past Chair	LaCrosse
Dale Hippensteel	Sheboygan
Ann Hoffmann, MD	Mauston
William Keeton, Chair	Oconomowoc
Eric Krawczyk	Oneida
Robert Leischow	Marshfield
Sandra Mahkorn, MD	Milwaukee
James Sanders, MD	Milwaukee
Stephanie Schultz	Green Bay
Alan Schwartzstein, MD	Oregon
Jason Shrader	Chili
Joan Theurer	Wausau
Mark Villalpando	Sturtevant
Thai Vue	Onalaska
Michael Wallace	Fort Atkinson
Darlene Weis, Ph.D., Chair-Elect	Pewaukee