

Wisconsin Public Health Council

2016 Report

The Public Health Council was created by 2003 Wisconsin Act 186 (Wis. Stat. §15.197(13)). By statute, the Council's purpose is to advise the Department of Health Services, the Governor, the Legislature and the public on progress in implementing the state's 10-year public health plan and coordination of responses to public health emergencies. The Council strives to serve as a respected, objective, and balanced source of public health information.

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. The Council met six (6) times in 2016. 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.

Committees

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

During 2016, 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. At

the February 5, 2016 meeting, it was decided that members of this Committee would attend the Division's Public Health Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee and report back to the Public Health Council. These meetings would be a substitute for Committee meetings. This would allow Council members to meet their statutory obligations.

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** 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 5, 2016

- The Council received updates on:
 - efforts within the Division of Public Health;
 - legislative issues pertaining to public health;
 - the Minority Health Advisory Group; and
 - emergency preparedness and emergency health care.
- The Council discussed and adopted a Resolution on vaccinations.
- The National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care (CLAS Standards) were discussed; and the Council endorsed the spirit of the CLAS Standards.
- The need for the Preparedness and Emergency Response Committee was discussed.
- The Primary Care Program Coordinator from the Division of Public Health gave an overview of the program, its services, and Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA).
- The Council received an update on the Wisconsin Health Improvement Planning Process.

April 1, 2016

- The Council received updates on:
 - efforts within the Division of Public Health;
 - legislative issues pertaining to public health; and
 - the Minority Health Advisory Group.
- The Council received an in-depth overview of emergency preparedness efforts, including the full-scale anthrax threat exercise occurring June 13-14, 2016 in Southeast Wisconsin.

- Council members discussed meeting deliberations, agenda formatting and start times.
- The Council received an update on the State Health Plan and the Wisconsin Health Improvement Planning Process efforts.
- The Council's State Health Plan Committee and the Public Health Policy and Public Engagement Committees gave updates to Council members on their activities.
- The Council approved a Resolution in support of the spirit of the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care (CLAS Standards).

June 3, 2016

- The Council received updates on:
 - efforts within the Division of Public Health;
 - legislative issues pertaining to public health; and
 - the Minority Health Advisory Group.
- The Council received a briefing of emergency preparedness efforts, including last-minute updates on the [full-scale anthrax threat exercise](#) occurring June 13-14, 2016 in Southeast Wisconsin.
- The Council discussed the chosen priority areas for the Wisconsin Health Improvement Planning Process: alcohol, opioids, suicide, tobacco, and nutrition/physical activity with Adverse Childhood Events (ACEs) woven throughout the plan.
- Council members received current information and a background regarding Zika and *Elizabethkingia anophelis*.
- A presentation was given on the work of the Joint Public Affairs Committee of the Wisconsin Public Health Association and the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards. The Council discussed supporting the Joint Public Affairs Committee's communicable disease infrastructure funding request to the Legislature.

August 5, 2016

- The Council received updates on:
 - efforts within the Division of Public Health;
 - legislative issues pertaining to public health; and
 - the Minority Health Advisory Group.
- The Council received an in-depth overview of emergency preparedness efforts, including the strengths, successes, areas for improvement and evaluation of the full-scale anthrax threat exercise that occurred June 13-14, 2016 in Southeast Wisconsin. Council members who participated also gave their impressions.
- The Council's Public Health Policy and Public Engagement Committee gave updates and discussed a resolution on the Joint Public Affairs Committee's communicable disease infrastructure funding request to the Legislature.

- The Council received an overview of the Division of Public Health's Accreditation efforts.

October 7, 2016

- The Council received updates on:
 - efforts within the Division of Public Health; and
 - the Minority Health Advisory Group.
- The Council discussed a resolution on the Joint Public Affairs Committee's communicable disease infrastructure funding request to the Legislature.
- The Council received an overview of the Division of Public Health's Biennial budget.
- The Council received updates on the Wisconsin Health Improvement Planning Process (WI-HIPP) and the Council's role. The Council also heard about the Partnership with UW-Madison MPH students and their work on gathering evidence-based research to direct the WI-HIPP action teams.

December 2, 2016

- The Council received updates on:
 - efforts within the Division of Public Health;
 - legislative issues pertaining to public health;
 - the Minority Health Advisory Group; and
 - emergency preparedness and emergency health care.
- The UW-Madison MPH students attended to make presentations to the Council on the five WI-HIPP priorities: alcohol, opioids, suicide, tobacco, and nutrition/physical activity.
- Council members received a presentation on the opioid issue.
- A statement regarding the Council's position on the communicable disease infrastructure funding request to the Legislature was approved to be sent.

Briefings and Deliberations:

Briefings and Council deliberations in 2016 included the following:

- All meetings included updates on the [Healthiest Wisconsin 2020](#) state health plan, and its accompanying product, the [Wisconsin Health Improvement Planning Process](#).
- All meetings included legislative updates from staff from the Office of the Secretary.
- All meetings included updates on Division of Public Health activities. Additionally, Division staff presented on issues of concern to the Council.
- All meetings included updates on the activities of the Wisconsin Minority Health Advisory Group. The Division's work on the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care ([CLAS Standards](#)) were also discussed.
- All meetings included updates on [emergency health preparedness](#). The updates became in-depth presentations when needed.
- Most meetings included updates from one or all of the Committees.
- Council members received preliminary information regarding opioid abuse. Conversations will continue in 2017.

Meeting Membership of the Public Health Council (during 2016)

Andy Anderson, MD	Hartland
Terry Brandenburg	West Allis
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
Alan Schwartzstein, MD	Oregon
Joan Theurer	Wausau
Mark Villalpando	Sturtevant
Thai Vue	Onalaska
Michael Wallace	Fort Atkinson
Darlene Weis, Ph.D., Chair-Elect	Pewaukee