

Public Health Council (PHC) MINUTES

October 29, 2004
1 W. Wilson – Room 751
Madison, Wisconsin
Dr. Ayaz Samadani, Chair

Members Present: Sandy Anderson, José Avila, Bevan Baker, Jayne Bielecki, Catherine Frey, Gary Gilmore, Terri Kramolis, Loren Leshan, Corazon Loteyro, Douglas Nelson, Elizabeth Raduege, Kurt Reed (conference phone), Ayaz Samadani, JoAnn Weidmann, Julie Willems Van Dijk, Jeanan Yasiri

Members Not Present: John Bartkowski, Stephen Hargarten, June Munro, Richard Perry, Thai Vue

Presenting Guests: Herb Bostrom, Steve Marshall, Kenneth Munson, Margaret Schmelzer, Dennis Tomczyk

Others Present: Phil Dougherty, Kristine Freundlich, Patricia Guhleman

PHC Staff: Susan Wood, Jacqueline Moss

1. Dr. Samadani opened the first meeting of the Public Health Council at 10:15 a.m.
2. Welcome and DHFS Role

Kenneth Munson, Deputy Secretary, Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS), addressed the Council on behalf of Secretary Nelson with a formal welcome, thanking Council members for agreeing to serve.

3. Emergency Preparedness

Steve Marshall distributed information on Bioterrorism and Emergency Preparedness; then highlighted the state's plan in developing emergency preparedness in the health care community.

Dennis Tomczyk provided information on the development and implementation of preparedness for Wisconsin's hospital system. He discussed hospital surge capacity and the hospital system's ability to handle large-scale catastrophes.

A question and answer session covered suggestions for training of staff at hospitals, clinics, and emergency response and discussion of the current shortage of flu vaccine.

4. State Health Plan – *Healthiest Wisconsin 2010*

Margaret Schmelzer (DHFS) distributed material and presented an overview of *Healthiest Wisconsin 2010*, the state health plan. She highlighted the five infrastructure priorities and the eleven health priorities and covered the definition of health and public health, commenting on the importance of systems thinking to help Wisconsin transform its public health system for the 21st century.

Susan Wood (DHFS) presented the Department's implementation plans for *Healthiest Wisconsin 2010*, including the evaluation of the goals, development of evidence-based practices, development of a tracking system, an annual status report, and a communications plan.

5. Public Policy Initiatives

Susan Wood provided an overview of the following DHFS efforts:

- Exploration of options for a Public Health Institute and the potential added value to the entire health, environmental, and public health community.
- Planning for a Health Information Symposium hosted with the two medical schools and other key partners.

6. Division of Public Health Advisory Committees

Herb Bostrom, Interim Administrator, Division of Public Health, provided information to the council about the number and purpose of advisory committees that exist to support state public health responsibilities. This was presented in a table showing the 36 advisory boards and committees, with a description of their purpose and governance. Ten are created by state statute. Seventeen are required by the funding agency, usually the federal government.

Council members discussed how these various groups will relate to the Public Health Council and its decisions and stressed the importance of avoiding duplication of time and effort. There was also a general discussion about a possible subcommittee structure as a way to link the work of some of these groups to improve communication and avoid redundancy.

Council members requested that the leadership of the Public Health Advisory Committee and State Health Plan Oversight Workgroup be invited to the December 2004 meeting.

7. Council Organization

Decisions:

Location:

Most meetings will be in Madison so members have access to Department staff.

Internet:

Department staff will provide the means to broadcast the meetings using the Internet so that members will have the option to participate in person by using the Internet.

Schedule:

Meetings will be held every other month on the second Friday of the month.
The next meeting will be December 10, 2004.

2005 schedule:

February 11, 2005	August 12, 2005
April 8, 2005	October 14, 2005
June 10, 2005	December 9, 2005

Minutes:

Department staff will prepare brief minutes to highlight decisions and actions.

Web Site:

Dr. Samadani requested a Web site to give maximum access. Susan Wood will handle this.

Closed session:

Members requested a legal opinion about their ability to go into closed session if necessary to deal with issues of emergency preparedness. Susan Wood will check on this.

8. Other Discussion

Julie Willems Van Dijk noted the concern that members expressed about the current influenza vaccine shortage and asked if the Council can consider making recommendations to avoid this situation in the future. What role might the Council have in advising the Governor or requesting the Governor's assistance in working with the federal government on how we structure policy in this nation to avoid future vaccine shortages? Members agreed to discuss this issue further at the next meeting.

As a result of the discussion throughout the meeting, Chair Dr. Samadani developed a summary of future topics for discussion by the Council:

- Emergency preparedness criteria for community health providers and centers (local physician offices and hospitals)
- Care for people with deafness, disabilities, other special needs, and language barriers
- Training of local community health providers through collaboration with the Red Cross
- Emergency medical services for children, schools, etc. (security and safety at schools)
- Decontamination at workplace, public places and schools
- Proper use and upkeep of emergency equipment (masks, respirators, etc.)
- Preparation at grassroots level, family instructions and plans for emergencies
- Weather preparedness (tornado preparedness plan at public gatherings and schools)
- Increase health literacy
- Improve safe environments for health workforce to practice
- Decrease barriers to information
- Prompt media alert information (based on facts and accuracy)
- Develop plans to implement electronic medical record system (private sector)
- Informational and interactive Web site
- Email alert and collaboration with Medical Society email list
- Public health policy for future (shortage of vaccines or essential medications)
- Organize health care information symposium, role of public and private sectors
- Eliminate duplication in subcommittee structure

9. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.