

Public Health Council

STATE OF WISCONSIN

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 29, 2005

Council Members Present by Teleconference: Ayaz Samadani (Chair); John Bartkowski (Vice-Chair); Sandy Anderson (Vice-Chair); Gary Gilmore (Secretary); Jayne Bielecki; Christopher Fischer; Charles LaRoque; Douglas Nelson; Richard Perry; Kurt Reed; Thai Vue; Julie Willems Van Dijk

Council Members Absent: Bevan Baker; José Avila; Catherine Frey; Stephen Hargarten; Terri Kramolis; Loren Leshan; Corazon Loteyro; June Munro; Elizabeth Raduege; JoAnn Weidmann; Jeanan Yasiri

Division of Public Health Staff: Herb Bostrom, Interim Administrator; Stacia Jankowski

Call to Order

At 11:02 a.m., Dr. Ayaz Samadani called the meeting to order.

Discussion of Tobacco Resolution

Thai Vue asked about the history of this resolution. Dr. Samadani explained that this was addressed at the last Council meeting, and was viewed as a current issue due to the tobacco tax legislation being considered. The Council was interested in addressing smoking as an issue for the health of Wisconsin residents.

Mr. Vue said he was concerned about addressing smoking in minority populations. He suggested the resolution include the statement, “to include untoward impacts on underserved populations.”

Herb Bostrom reminded the Council that a number of members had voted by e-mail and we would need to take the amended language back to those members. He suggested two options: 1) Vote separately on the original resolution as written, and then on the amended language, or 2) Vote on the amended language and follow up with members that voted by e-mail. The Council agreed to the first option.

Dr. John Bartkowski asked for an interpretation of item four in the resolution and the impetus for including a reference to “non-preemptive statewide laws.” Dr. Gilmore explained that the intent was to assure that local control of tobacco regulations that might be stronger than a statewide proposal would not be preempted by statewide laws. This language was intended to address that type of legislation in a broad sense.

Doug Nelson asked about item two of the resolution. Mr. Nelson said that he supports the resolution, because it would mean increased funding for Medicaid. He asked if all of the funds were earmarked only for the Medicaid program. Dr. Gilmore explained that the resolution was intended to be non-prescriptive to allow some flexibility for policy-makers in determining how best to use the funds. Julie Willems Van Dijk said that this language resulted in a lot of discussion. Mr. Nelson clarified that based on this discussion his understanding was that the funds would be used for comprehensive tobacco control programs, one of which could be Medicaid.

The vote for the original resolution (Attachment 1) language was affirmative for all members voting, both by teleconference and e-mail, with no abstentions or negative votes. A total of 18 votes were submitted.

Dr. Gilmore moved to adopt the amended language (Attachment 2). Jayne Bielecki seconded. The vote on the amended language was affirmative for all members voting, with no abstentions or negative votes.

A total of 17 votes were submitted.

A number of Council members asked about the process for getting this resolution to the Governor and the Legislature. The amended resolution language will be sent out to all members who were unable to attend by teleconference, with the request that they vote by the end of the day Monday. In the meantime, staff will follow-up on the process, and will try to send this information to the members with the final voting results. Council members were interested in notifying their agencies about the results of the vote on this resolution.

Mr. Vue asked if there was going to be some sort of press release, and Dr. Samandani asked staff to prepare a press release.

Ajourn

Dr. Samadani adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

Public Health Council
Resolution
April 29, 2005

In the interests of meeting the goals of *Healthiest Wisconsin 2010*, the state health plan, for reducing tobacco use and exposure, the Wisconsin Public Health Council submits the following resolution to the Governor of Wisconsin:

Whereas, 7,800 people die of tobacco-related causes annually in Wisconsin; and

Whereas, the citizens of Wisconsin annually incur \$1.86 billion in health care costs related to tobacco-related disease; and

Whereas, 15 percent of Wisconsin women smoke during pregnancy representing a ranking of 34th in the nation; and

Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has outlined the elements of a comprehensive tobacco control plan which includes eliminating exposure to second-hand smoke, prevention of youth initiation of tobacco use, evidence-based methods to reduce tobacco addiction, eliminating tobacco disparities, and supporting a significant price increase for tobacco products; and

Whereas, Wisconsin currently spends \$10 million for tobacco control while the CDC has estimated the optimal annual level of funding for such a comprehensive tobacco control program in Wisconsin should be \$30 million; and

Whereas, 20 local Wisconsin communities have passed ordinances to promote clean indoor air by reducing their citizens' exposure to second-hand smoke in public places;

Now, be it resolved that Wisconsin will become a smoke-free state by the year 2010; and

The Wisconsin Public Health Council further resolves that short-term strategies to accomplish this goal include:

1. Significantly increase the price of tobacco products in order to reduce use, especially among children and youth, as would occur with at least a \$1.00 increase in the tobacco tax;
2. Direct revenue generated by such a price increase to support a comprehensive tobacco control program and to fund the costs of caring for persons with tobacco-related disease, including in the Medicaid program.
3. Accelerate enactment and enforcement of strong local anti-tobacco ordinances.
4. Enact non-preemptive statewide laws to promote Wisconsin as a smoke free state.

Be it further resolved that we are committed to developing long-term strategies to accomplish the goal of a smoke-free Wisconsin by employing evidence-based methods to reduce initiation and continuance of the addictive practice.

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7. Accelerate enactment and enforcement of strong local anti-tobacco ordinances.
8. Enact non-preemptive statewide laws to promote Wisconsin as a smoke free state.

Be it further resolved that we are committed to developing long-term strategies to accomplish the goal of a smoke-free Wisconsin by employing evidence-based methods to reduce initiation and continuance of the addictive practice, and eliminating tobacco disparities, to include untoward impacts on underserved populations.