

Public Health Council

STATE OF WISCONSIN

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 7, 2006

MARSHFIELD CLINIC, 1000 N. OAK AVE, MARSHFIELD, WI

Council Members Present: Ayaz Samadani (Chair); Gary Gilmore (Vice Chair); Bevan Baker; John Barkowski (by teleconference); Jayne Bielecki (by teleconference); Catherine Frey (by teleconference); Terri Kramolis; Charles LaRoque; Corazon Loteyro; Richard Perry; Thai Vue; JoAnn Weidmann

Council Members Absent: Rafael Acevedo; Sandy Anderson; Christopher Fischer; Stephen Hargarten; Loren LeShan; June Munro; Elizabeth Raduege; Julie Willems Van Dijk; Jeanan Yasiri

Division of Public Health Staff: Sheri Johnson, Administrator; Patricia Guhleman; Jacqueline Moss; Margaret Schmelzer

Guests: Gerald Gabor presenting for Dan Hopfensperger of the Department of Health and Family Services, Bureau of Communicable Diseases and Preparedness.

Call to Order

Dr. Ayaz Samadani called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m., and introduced Council members present by teleconference. He welcomed Steven Kirkhorn as a new member of the Council.

Administration

Review of minutes from the February 10, 2006, meeting

The February 10 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as written, with JoAnn Weidmann's motion to approve and Dr. Gary Gilmore's second.

Evaluation report

The Council discussed categories for which scores fall below a '3' on the meeting evaluation report. Dr. Samadani also asked for suggestions and appropriate changes. Evaluation reports were not prepared at the time of this meeting and will be sent to Council members by e-mail.

In the future, evaluations will be sent to members by e-mail and tallied by staff.

Open Forum

There were no comments in the Open Forum portion of this meeting.

Executive Committee Report

Both Committee Chairs (State Health Plan; Emergency Preparedness) should be present at Executive Committee meetings. Dr. Samadani reported that Mr. Perry provided a report outlining future direction and prioritization of goals and objectives for the State Health Plan Committee. The Committee will track bills/legislation coming in the future affecting public health and send copies to Council members.

Dr. Samadani reported that the Executive Committee had discussed nutrition programs. He suggested that the Council consider taking a stand on issues related to nutrition, such as the poor health of students across the nation calling for education, exercise, and nutrition. He reported that the Council will seek help from

other boards and councils on these issues to develop a joint communiqué. Dr. Samadani suggested that there be an incentive provided to join an exercise and nutrition program.

Dr. Samadani also recommended that the Council explore options for drawing attention (such as through the media) to encourage exercise in the workplace. He recommended that the Council advocate for corporations to provide exercise facilities in the workplace. He reported that Dr. Gilmore had suggested that the Wisconsin Walks Program could be used as a prototype.

Dr. Gilmore noted that Dr. Samadani had suggested a title of “Children at Their Best” for a program to address nutrition, exercise, and reading. Dr. Samadani said he envisions this as an all-encompassing program that would address education through proper exercise and nutrition for school-age children. Ms. Weidmann stated that these items are being addressed by the State Health Plan Committee, and this issue could be raised with this committee. Dr. Sheri Johnson reported that the Physical Activity State Health Plan had just been released and should be taken into consideration as the Council is considering recommendations.

Emergency Preparedness Committee Report

Bevan Baker distributed a policy statement for the Council’s consideration. There was discussion of recommending specific direction on vaccine distribution, including taking a firm stand on the policy and framework (voluntary distribution, etc.) in the event of a pandemic. Mr. Baker noted that if the recommendation is not followed as stated there are statutes that address the redistribution of vaccine as needed. The Council discussed distribution and other strategies to reach populations most in need of vaccine at any given time. The Council discussed the use of the terms “special,” “high-risk,” and “target” populations. Mr. Baker said that the Committee did not define what these populations were, but agreed to use the term “target” because it seemed to be most encompassing and this decision will likely be made at the moment of the event based on the needs at the time.

Gerald Gabor reported on local and state collection of data identifying populations that need health care and vaccines the most. He said that tools need to be provided at the local level so they can identify the target populations that need to be addressed in their areas. The Council discussed the fluidity of target populations, language barriers and financial need, rural areas, tribes sharing vaccines, and providing tools at the local level to identify special populations. Mandates will supersede any framework in a pandemic situation.

A suggestion was made to address ‘for profit’ vaccine distributors at the next meeting to talk about regulations to prosecute gouging.

Ms. Weidmann made a motion to accept the policy recommendation from the Emergency Preparedness Committee; the motion was seconded by Terri Kramolis. The Council discussed how to disseminate the recommendations, including posting to the Web site, and acting more proactively to involve the Governor and Secretary Nelson in developing a distribution method to legislators and the media. Dr. Johnson will follow up on moving policy along. A memorandum of understanding between the State and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services should be put in place to help this process.

State Health Plan Committee Report

Richard Perry provided a report on the efforts of the State Health Plan Committee. He provided an overview of the Committee’s charter and asked that the Council review and discuss the charter with the goal of finalizing the document. Mr. Perry made a motion to accept the SHPC Charter, which was seconded by Ms. Weidman. The motion carried unopposed.

Mr. Perry reported that the Committee plans to meet one week prior to the full Council meeting, and has expanded its membership to be more diverse. The Council was pleased with the increased diversity of this Committee.

Medical Liability Update

Dr. Loteyro reported that this Wisconsin bill has been signed into law and caps medical liability at \$750,000.

Dr. Samadani reported that there is a national “I’m Sorry” bill where ‘Accept your mistake’ laws and contingency fees are in development.

Pandemic/Avian Flu Overview

Dr. Johnson presented information on an interagency avian flu coordination team that began meeting in November of 2005. This team consists of the Department of Commerce; the Department of Public Instruction; DHFS, the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCAP); the Department of Natural Resources (DNR); Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM); and the State Lab of Hygiene, with Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce expressing interest in assisting. This initiative will be federally funded with Herb Bostrom leading the group. Dr. Johnson described the funding that was available to the state for pandemic flu planning and said there has been a lot of discussion on how these funds will be distributed to the locals and what these funds can be used for. The goals are to develop consistent messages among the agencies and to ensure DHFS provides the information to all the other agencies involved. There is an effort to develop a Web site to be hosted by the Department of Administration, so all this information can be found in one place.

Dr. Johnson reported that the 211 system is being expanded to assist in communication in the event of a pandemic. There were discussions on communication and encouraging partnerships with local health departments as conduits for communication in communities. Dr. Johnson also described the funding distribution plan for this effort. Dr. Johnson will check for resources to support meta-analysis for reporting on the progress of all of these efforts. Signature pad devices will be used to aid in processing mass pandemic and eliminate paper.

Healthy Birth Outcomes Initiative

Dr. Johnson presented the framework for action to eliminate birth outcome disparities in different communities, and extended an invitation to share expertise on birth disparity issues and to develop a framework to abolish disparities over the next five years. She reported on Wisconsin’s worsening national ranking on racial and ethnic birth disparities and gave insight as to some of the risk factors that contribute to these findings. The Web address for information on healthy births is <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/healthybirths/>.

DPH Priority Actions

Dr. Johnson outlined the priority actions of the Division, which will culminate in recommendations to the Secretary, who will champion these issues over the next year. One priority is the development of a Minority Health Advisory Board being discussed by a Leadership Planning Committee. It has been proposed that a Minority Health Advisory Board would address and track diversity and health disparities. Dr. Johnson will be making a proposal for expanding the infrastructure of the Minority Health Program.

Dr. Johnson provided an overview of the following items that are on the Division’s priority list for 2006 and explained how they fit into statewide and national efforts:

- Improve division morale
- Partner relationships
- Sell the return on investment case
- Eliminate racial/ethnic disparities in birth outcomes
- Increase oral health access
- Improve pandemic influenza preparedness in the context of all hazards preparedness
- Expand minority health program
- Improve health information systems
- Tobacco control
- Lead elimination
- Increase prevention strategies in mental health/AODA
- Implement and improve nutrition and physical activity plan

During the discussion phase, Dr. Gilmore asked about the ongoing evaluation procedures that are used. Dr. Johnson indicated that each endeavor has an evaluation component, and meta analysis (overview summary) could be provided and shared with the Council.

BadgerCare Plus

Dr. Samadani explained that the number of uninsured children is rising in Wisconsin at an alarming rate. With BadgerCare Plus, all children would have access to insurance regardless of family income. The way the Governor proposed this new system is to streamline current programs to expand coverage to all children and pregnant women up to 300% of the federal poverty level. Dr. Johnson offered to make a PowerPoint presentation available on this proposed program. Dr. Johnson also suggested that the Council consider having Jason Helgerson come to the next meeting to talk about BadgerCare Plus.

Dr. Samadani asked the State Health Plan Committee to research solutions to funding health care through partnerships. He asked that they consider guests to invite to discuss this with the Council with the goal of having a resolution for consideration within three months.

Next Meeting

Suggestions for the next agenda included:

- A report on progress bi-monthly on the action steps discussed. Dr. Johnson stated she would be happy to address the PHC when she prepares her quarterly reports for the Secretary.
- Dr. Samadani suggested holding one or more open public forums in locations where the problems are. He recommended that one be a four-hour fact-finding mission with question-and-answer sessions with all Council members present. He envisioned this as an opportunity for information gathering and getting a feel for what the communities want and need in relation to health care. One recommendation was to visit Milwaukee. The feedback garnered from forums would model policies and suggestions to the Governor. Dr. Gilmore said that he thought the Council could use the community forum model and it would allow the community to have input into the actions of the Council. Mr. Vue, while noting that the community forum approach could be of value in assessing certain needs, also expressed concern that these forums would not be helpful to the Council in meeting its specific charge and educating the public and our partners about the items that fall within the Council's charge. Other actions will be needed to fulfill that purpose.
- Mr. Perry asked that the agenda at the next meeting include information about the effectiveness of the process. For example, the tobacco resolution had been released, but he was concerned that a feedback loop had not been built in and therefore its effectiveness could not be assessed.
- The Council's connection to other organizations, such as the Wisconsin Medical Association. The Council might be seen as a precursor to a Board of Health.

Adjournment

Dr. Samadani adjourned the meeting at 3:16 p.m.

Recorded by Jacqueline Moss
Bureau of Health Information and Policy

JoAnn Weidmann, Secretary

Date