

Public Health Council

STATE OF WISCONSIN

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 10, 2007

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES, 1 W. WILSON ST, ROOM 751, MADISON, WI 53701

Council Members Present: Ayaz Samadani (Chair); Gary Gilmore (Vice-Chair); Catherine Frey (Secretary); Bevan Baker; Bridget Clementi; Steve Kirkhorn; Terri Kramolis; Corazon Loteyro, Douglas Nelson; Julie Willems Van Dijk; Thai Vue.

Council Members Absent: Sandy Anderson; John Bartkowski, Christopher Fischer, Loren Leshan, June Munro, JoAnn Weidmann, Jeanan Yasiri

Division of Public Health Staff: Sheri Johnson, Division Administrator; Patricia Guhleman; Jane Conner; Kevin Wymore; Patti Herrick

Guests: Kristine Freundlich, DHFS; Jim Johnston, DOA; Matthew Stanford, Wisconsin Hospital Association

Call to Order

Dr. Ayaz Samadani called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved from June 8 and July 24, with revisions.

Evaluations

Patricia Guhleman provided evaluation results from the previous meeting, which indicated overall satisfaction with measured meeting processes and content.

Open Forum

The Council received no Open Forum issues in the allotted time. The Open Forum is a standing feature of Council meetings.

Medicaid Program Fiscal Changes

The Council heard a summary of issues on the Health Care Quality Fund from James Johnston, executive policy and budget manager, Department of Administration. The issues originated from discussions at the June 8 Council meeting, followed by an overview at the July 24 meeting, at which

Andrew Forsaith, DHFS budget director, delivered an overview of the budget, focusing on the Governor's proposed Medicaid fiscal changes. He summarized the program expansions for BadgerCare Plus and Family Care. DHFS staff presenting on the issue said the total cost to continue the Medicaid program for the coming biennium was \$497 million. He said the purpose of the Health Care Quality Fund was to diversify the Medicaid funding stream. Johnston also explained that some of the components of the fund, such as the hospital assessment, could be thought of broadly, as a source for matching dollars to capture federal funds.

Doug Nelson indicated the need for creativity by the state in order to provide the funds to maintain access to Medicaid in Wisconsin. Julie Willems van Dijk asked where the federal dollars that would result in capturing the \$706 million in state dollars would come from. Johnston said the state is accounting for the federal dollars separately.

Tobacco Control Grant Programs

At the July 24 meeting, DPH Bureau of Community Health Promotion Director Susan Uttech provided detailed information about the state's tobacco control grants. She also cited the need to get to the CDC's recommended minimum of \$30 million in tobacco control spending per year. In the current legislative session, the Senate would spend \$30 million per year for tobacco control programs. The Assembly budget version would spend \$2.5 million per year in the next biennium, less than the \$10 million in general purpose revenue spent per year now. After discussion, the Council decided to reiterate its support for the CDC recommended minimum funding for tobacco control spending.

DPH Administrator Sheri Johnson said that evidence suggests that low-income people would be affected by the increased tobacco tax by encouraging them to quit. Others pointed out the need for ethnic networks to provide outreach to address the problem.

State Health Plan Committee

The Council heard the State Health Plan Committee report from Margaret Schmelzer (Committee Chair Richard Perry has resigned). Schmelzer discussed the upcoming statutorily-required task for the Division to produce a new 10-year State Health Plan

The body also heard an oral presentation on the Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral and Treatment intervention for alcohol and drug screening from the UW program manager, Lilly Irvin-Vitela. The program will spend \$12.6 million over 5 years.

WIC Issue

Council discussion focused on the proposed movement of WIC into a new Department. Concerns about the move identified several issues, including: stated preference from U.S. Department of Agriculture, the federal funding source for WIC, that WIC remain in DHFS; observations that WIC "is not broken" and effectively links clients with programs with a public health focus of health promotion, disease prevention and education.

Karen Timberlake, DHFS deputy secretary, responded to Council questions from prior discussions regarding the potential move of the WIC program. Ms. Timberlake indicated that the purpose of the proposed change is to streamline delivery of services to children

Council Action on Biennial Budget Issues

After deliberation on the budget issues, the Council issued the following resolution (moved by Cathy Frey, seconded by Bevan Baker):

The Public Health Council supports the following three-part resolution to advise the current Conference Committee of the Senate and the Assembly:

1. **Medicaid-related fiscal issues:** The Public Health Council supports Governor's Doyle's provisions related to the Health Care Quality Fund;
2. **Tobacco control program grants:** The Public Health Council reiterates its support for previous Public Health Council resolutions to increase the sales tax on cigarettes by \$1.25 per pack; and to direct revenue generated by such a price increase to support a comprehensive tobacco control effort; and that such a comprehensive tobacco control effort should meet minimum funding standards of \$30 million per year established by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
3. **Program administration reorganization for the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition program:** The Public Health Council supports creation of a new Department of Children and Families, but supports a state administrative structure in which WIC remains in the Department of Health and Family Services.

Emergency Preparedness Committee:

The Council heard an Emergency Preparedness Committee report from DPH Administrator Sheri Johnson, speaking on behalf of Committee Chair Bevan Baker. She noted that the federal CDC budget conditions for preparedness are becoming more challenging.

Public Health Finance Ad Hoc Committee

The Council made no modification to the Public Health Finance Ad Hoc Committee charge after previous discussion.

The Council adjourned at about 2 p.m.

Prepared by Kevin Wymore
Bureau of Health Information and Policy

Catherine Frey, Secretary Date