

Public Health Council

STATE OF WISCONSIN

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 12, 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; JoAnn Weidmann

Council Members Absent: Sandy Anderson; John Bartkowski; Christopher Fischer; Loren Leshan; June Munro; Thai Vue; Jeanan Yasiri.

Division of Public Health Staff: Sheri Johnson, Division Administrator; Patricia Guhleman; Kevin Wymore; Steve Antholt; Larry Gilbertson; Traici Brockman

Guests: Kristine Freundlich, DHFS; Matthew Stanford, Wisconsin Hospital Association, Jan Klawitter, WPHA; Fuechou Thao; Pa Vang; Andrew Forsaith; Mary Jo Baisch

Call to Order

Dr. Ayaz Samadani called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

The August 10, 2007 minutes were approved.

Evaluations

Patricia Guhleman provided evaluation results from the previous meeting, which continue to be strong. Because evaluations have been showing little variation, modifications to the evaluation instrument will be explored.

Open Forum

The Council received no Open Forum issues in the allotted time. However, Jan Klawitter of the Wisconsin Public Health Association (WPHA) introduced herself at the opening of the meeting. She indicated that WPHA plans to attend future Council meetings.

The Open Forum is a standing feature of Council meetings.

State Health Plan Committee

Committee member Pa Vang presented the report on Alcohol and Other Substance Abuse and Addiction health priority.

The Council took action on the first five recommendations from the Committee of the Alcohol, Substance Abuse and Addiction priorities. With a motion by Cathy Frey and a second by JoAnn Weidmann, the Council asked the Division of Public Health to act upon the following five policy recommendations:

- Promote measures for law enforcement to increase restrictions on the distribution and sale of alcohol and substance use.
- Partner with the Governor's state council on alcohol and other drug abuse systems to incorporate public health, mental health, and maternal child health in a coordinated action plan.
- Endorse and support the increase of taxes/surcharges on alcoholic beverages as a means of funding a comprehensive prevention and control program; and alcohol and substance abuse treatment.
- Recruit and retain behavioral health workers trained in alcohol and other drug abuse treatment and prevention programs.
- Endorse measures that will improve data collection on the efficacy of substance abuse programs.

Prenatal Care Coordination in Medicaid

Council member, Julie Willems Van Dijk, presented an overview of a letter to DHFS Secretary Hayden from the Western Region of the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards. The group is concerned that Prenatal Care Coordination (PNCC) may be transitioned from a service provided by local health departments to one that will become part of managed care contracts. Prenatal care coordination is a Medicaid benefit provided to high-risk women.

Public Health Modernization Act Update

Larry Gilbertson addressed updates to the Public Health Modernization Act. The "trailer bill" is an attempt to clarify and expand statutes regarding abatement of human health hazard abatement. No additional financing is attached to the bill. The Council took no action on the matter.

Minority Health Leadership Council

Fuechou Thao provided an overview about the Minority Health Leadership Council. That Council provides leadership in bringing resources and awareness to issues having to do with minority health in Wisconsin.

Health Disparities Issues

Division Administrator Sheri Johnson briefly addressed how the Council might make a meaningful impact on the state's numerous documented disparities in health outcomes. The Committee will invite Dr. David Kindig to address the issue at the December 7 meeting.

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention

Steve Antholt of the Division of Public Health provided an overview of the statewide risk for childhood lead poisoning. He said that, contrary to recent media reports, most of the risk comes from lead-based paint in pre-1950s housing in Wisconsin, not from lead-based paint in toys.

After discussion, the Council endorsed the following five-part resolution:

The Public Health Council recommends that the Governor:

1. Propose legislation allocating funds to help property owners control lead paint hazards. We support the creation of a window replacement loan fund or a housing trust fund with a dedicated proportion of funds for lead hazard control.
2. Propose legislation to allow local governments to establish fees/taxes specifically for the establishment of housing trust funds at the local level. These new fees/taxes must be exempt from any levy caps imposed by the state.
3. Encourage WHEDA, Dept. of Commerce, Dept. of Administration, Dept of Health and Family Services and other partners to develop and coordinate housing action plans that make lead hazard control a priority. Encourage WHEDA and other lenders to make loans more attractive to property owners to correct lead paint hazards. For maximum effectiveness at protecting children, targeted loan programs should focus on housing built before 1950.
4. Lower the public health investigation and intervention level from 20 mcg/dL to 10 mcg/dL, and fund the additional public health work load by budgeting \$2 million for the program.
5. Propose legislation that would require that paint on property built before 1978 be in intact condition before property is rented or sold.

Legislative Update: Biennial Budget Deliberations

DHFS budget director Andrew Forsaith briefed the Council on the Legislature's unfinished budget discussions. Gov. Doyle will call the Legislature into special session the next Monday, aiming to craft a compromise budget bill. The Council reviewed an October 9 news release on the Governor's compromise proposal.

Forsaith said that the Governor's compromise version of the budget includes the following key items of interest to the Council:

- A cigarette tax increase at \$1.25 per package.
- A "BadgerCare Plus" expansion that will ensure health care access to 98 percent of Wisconsin citizens.
- Expansion of tobacco control grant programs beyond the \$10 million per year in general purpose revenue spent now.
- A new Department of Children and Families that will involve the transfer of state administration of the Women, Infants and Children nutrition program.

Public Health Finance Ad Hoc Committee

Committee chair, Julie Willems Van Dijk, presented a progress report on the Committee's activities. She said the draft proposal from the Public Health Finance Ad Hoc Committee will be presented to the Council December 7. The Committee plans to present the final report to Secretary Hayden in February 2008.

The Committee's work stems from the fact that Wisconsin's governmental public health funding ranks 47th in the nation. Ms. Willems Van Dijk discussed possible funding splits between the local and state health departments. Discussion from the Committee has included the need to request funding be used to purchase "outcomes" and not merely infrastructure.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at about 2 p.m.

Prepared by Kevin Wymore
Bureau of Health Information and Policy

| Catherine Frey, Secretary

Date