

# Public Health Council

STATE OF WISCONSIN

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 8, 2008

STATE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 751, 1 W. WILSON ST., MADISON, WISCONSIN

**Council Members Present:** Ayaz Samadani (Chair); Gary Gilmore (Vice Chair); Cathy Frey (Secretary); John Bartkowski; Bridget Clementi; Susan Garcia Franz; Steve Kirkhorn; John Meurer; Doug Nelson; Thai Vue; Julie Willems Van Dijk

**Council Members Absent:** Christopher Fischer; Terri Kramolis; Loren Leshan; Corazon Loteyro; June Munro; Jeanan Yasiri

**Division of Public Health Staff:** Sheri Johnson, Division Administrator; Patricia Guhleman; Jane Conner, Kathryn Jones, Evelyn Cruz, Margaret Schmelzer, Traici Brockman, Kevin Wymore

**Guests:** Department Secretary Kevin Hayden, Mary Jo Baisch, Diane Christen, Kris Freundlich, Jan Klawitter, Mary Pesik, Katie Plona, Matthew Stanford

### Call to Order

Council Chair Ayaz Samadani convened the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

### Minutes

The minutes of the Dec.7 meeting were approved with one revision: the motion approving the Finance Committee report is amended to include exploration of a tax on sugar-sweetened beverages as a potential strategy to fund public health improvements called for in the Finance Committee report.

### Public Health Financing Report

Julie Willems Van Dijk, committee chair, presented an overview of the report of the Ad Hoc Finance Committee. She said state general purpose revenue (GPR) lags behind other sources of public health financing; the report, approved at the last Council meeting, recommends adding \$33 million per year in state funds. Doug Nelson said it's key to have that recommendation appear in Gov. Doyle's budget proposal for the next biennium. Nelson recommended to Hayden that the Department support the report's recommendations.

### DHFS Secretary Hayden's Remarks

Department Secretary Kevin Hayden addressed the Council and responded to the report from the Ad Hoc Finance Committee. Secretary Hayden noted that improvements in Medicaid/BadgerCare Plus and in tax policy from the 2007-09 biennial budget act have produced promising results for public health. For example, more people are calling the Tobacco Quit Line

after a \$1/pack increase in the cigarette tax. Also, another 42,000 residents have enrolled in BadgerCare Plus since its inception on Feb. 1. He said it's important that Medicaid be aligned with public health goals.

Hayden noted that, even though Wisconsin ranks 47th among states in public health funding, and Governor Doyle supports the public health agenda, there will be challenges to implementing the report's recommendations.

The Council agreed to modify the report from the Ad Hoc Finance Committee to include an explicit statement that the governor's next budget should include the recommended additional GPR funds for public health.

**Council Administration:** Kevin Wymore reported that the Council's evaluation results for the December meeting were satisfactory and above. A revised meeting evaluation form was introduced and distributed.

Then, Kris Freundlich indicated that she would tally the final responses to a second document, the one-year quality improvement questionnaire, and present the findings at the next executive committee meeting.

**2007 Annual Report:** The Council's 2007 Annual Report will include the report from the Ad Hoc Finance Committee as an attachment. The 2007 Annual Report was approved with editorial modifications, and revisions to the finance report as identified above. Staff was requested to set up an appointment with Governor Doyle in order to present the report.

**Officer Nominations/Election Report:** Thai Vue announced 2008 officer elections. The current officers were re-elected: Dr. Samadani as chair; Dr. Gilmore as vice-chair; and Cathy Frey as secretary.

### **Emergency Preparedness Committee**

Dennis Tomczak, DPH staff, presented a resolution, with four recommendations, on behalf of the committee. The four points of the resolution are:

**Recommendation #1:** The Wisconsin Division of Public Health endorses the Homeland Security Council as the Senior Advisory Committee (SAC), which is required by both the CDC Public Health and ASPR Hospital Preparedness Cooperative Agreements. (ASPR is the acronym for the DHHS Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response – the federal funding source for the Hospital Preparedness Program.) The Homeland Security Council is the body that facilitates the integration of plans and response by all emergency responders in the State of Wisconsin and thus will allow for better integration of the Public Health and Hospital Preparedness Programs with those of other emergency response organizations.

**Recommendation #2:** The Public Health Council Committee on Emergency Preparedness shall continue to serve as:

- the oversight body for the Pandemic Influenza Response Plan of the State of Wisconsin as per the agreement between the Department of Health and Human Services and the Wisconsin Division of Public Health
- the entity that provides policy and strategy recommendations for both the CDC Public Health and ASPR Hospital Preparedness Cooperative Agreements.

**Recommendation #3:** All recommendations from the Public Health Council Committee on Emergency Preparedness shall continue to be brought forth for review to the Public Health Council. However, the Public Health Council Committee on Emergency Preparedness recommends that a procedure and timeline for the Public Health Council to review and act upon the Committee's recommendations be enacted, along with a procedure to follow up on the implementation of any recommendations of the Committee that are approved by the Public Health Council.

**Recommendation #4:** The Public Health Council Committee on Emergency Preparedness, in order to better sequence its meetings with the full Public Health Council, recommends that this Committee meet three times annually on a day to be determined during the week prior to the Public Health Council meeting in February, June and October.

Gary Gilmore suggested that the Committee schedule its meetings to give more lead time in advance of the Council meeting. The Council agreed that, instead of scheduling meetings "during the week prior to the Public Health Council meetings," the committee schedule its meetings at least two weeks in advance of when the Council meets. With that change, the Council approved the resolution.

**Open Forum:** Mary Pesik, of the Division of Public Health's Bureau of Community Health Promotion, said the state's obesity issue is likely to become the subject of a Legislative Council study committee.

Also, Rich Brown, of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, spoke to the Council about the potential for increasing the state's beer tax in order to fund public health initiatives. He said Wisconsin's beer tax is the second lowest in the nation.

### **State Health Plan Committee**

Mary Jo Baisch presented the committee report to the Council. After discussion of the segment of the 2007 Annual Report pertaining to the Committee, the Committee's report was approved. The Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 report, which is the state health plan covering the period from 2010 to 2020, is expected to be published by the end of 2009. Council members urged that local public health departments and others be aware of the potentially short window for local input into this upcoming State Health Plan initiative.

**Announcements**

Eileen McRae of the Division of Health Care Access and Accountability reported on potential changes in the Prenatal Care Coordination program for certain pregnant Medicaid recipients. She said no changes have yet been decided upon and no timeline currently exists.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.