

Public Health Council

STATE OF WISCONSIN

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 10, 2008

STATE OFFICE BUILDING, 1 W. WILSON STREET, MADISON, WI

Council Members Present: Ayaz Samadani, (Chair); Dr. Gary Gilmore (Vice-Chair); Bevan Baker; John Bartkowski; Bridget Clementi; Susan Garcia Franz; Corazon Loteyro; Douglas Nelson; Lynn Sheets; and Julie Willems Van Dijk.

Council Members Absent: Cathy Frey, Terri Kramolis, John Meurer, Thai Vue (Excused)

Division of Public Health (DPH) Staff: Deputy DPH Administrator Tom Sieger; Jane Conner; Patricia Guhleman; Judith Nugent; Margaret Schmelzer and Kevin Wymore

Guests: Kristine Freundlich, DHS; Ed Rabotski, DHS; Matthew Stanford; Helene Nelson; David Kindig; Claire Smith, DHS; Jan Klawitter

Call to Order

Council Chair Dr. Ayaz Samadani convened the meeting shortly after 10 a.m.

Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes of the August meeting. The Council moved to approve the document, with a motion by Dr. Gilmore and a second by Dr. Loteyro. The motion passed.

The "Healthiest State" Project

Helene Nelson, former department secretary for the Department of Health and Family Services, and Dr. David Kindig, professor emeritus, from the UW Population Health Institute, briefed the Council on the "Making Wisconsin the Healthiest State" project. This UW School of Medicine and Public Health initiative was funded through the Wisconsin Partnership Program (Blue Cross/Blue Shield public health endowment.) The Council discussed both the overall "grades" for the state's population health, as well as the state's racial/ethnic health disparities. Results of the "report card" were that the state received a "B-" for overall health, and a "D" in racial and ethnic health disparities. The poor outcome in the latter measure resulted largely from high African American infant mortality rates in southeastern Wisconsin. The UW School of Medicine and Public

Health will host a conference in January on how to operationalize its strategy for "making Wisconsin the healthiest state."

Executive Committee Report

The group heard Dr. Samadani deliver the Council's Executive Committee report. He briefed the group on the Executive Committee's charge statement, which the Council approved. In other administrative actions, the August evaluation results (3.8 on a scale of 4.0) were reviewed. The status of new members was also presented. Lisa Bell of the DHS oral health program briefed the Council on oral health issues and the program's statewide mini-grants in particular.

Finance Ad Hoc Committee Update

Julie Willems Van Dijk, chair of the Committee, presented an update on the status of the group's public health financing report and its recommendations for more state tax dollars for public health. She reported on the Ad Hoc Finance Committee's activities at the Wisconsin Public Health Association annual meeting, where the report's future uses were discussed. While Willems Van Dijk said the report has been well-received in the public health community, she noted that the Department did not propose to fund the report's financing recommendations. Several Council members expressed disappointment that the recommendations were not included in the Department's proposed budget for the next biennium. However, Deputy DPH Administrator, Tom Sieger, said the state's bleak economic outlook has forced a "cost to continue" approach for funding existing programs. New funding will be difficult for the Legislature to enact. The Committee's next meeting will involve its new assignment regarding high-risk sexual behavior.

State Health Plan Committee/Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 State Health Plan Update

The Council received a short update from Margaret Schmelzer on the ongoing Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 (HW 2020) planning efforts. Schmelzer detailed the "community engagement forums" held to get feedback on the next State Health Plan's priorities. A joint meeting between the Council, the Minority Health Leadership Council and the Strategic Leadership Team will be held in December.

Drunk Driving Information Session

Kevin Wymore offered an overview on the gathering momentum to address the problem of repeat drunk driving offenses in Wisconsin. The Council reviewed several documents on the issue, including a Legislative Reference Bureau brief on increased drunk driving penalties; alcohol and alcohol taxes; and a Bureau of Health Information and Policy profile on statewide alcohol and other drug use. Overall, Wisconsin leads the nation, or is close to leading the nation, in such categories as binge drinking and alcohol consumption. More than 300 deaths per year result from drunk driving in the state.

Wymore noted that Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk had recently given a newspaper interview about her experience growing up as the daughter of an alcoholic. Falk has announced she will lead an initiative to address alcohol use and drunken driving in the county.

Emergency Preparedness Committee

Committee Chair Bevan Baker provided the Committee's report. The planned committee meeting in October just before the Council meeting was not held due to low attendance, a lingering issue with the group.

BadgerCare Plus for Childless Adults

The Council members reviewed a PowerPoint presentation by Claire Smith on plans for "childless adult's coverage" through the BadgerCare Plus program. Childless adults under certain income levels will qualify for the program if the federal government approves. Coverage would start January 1 if the necessary approvals take place.

Announcements

Information on a study tour of the Canadian public health system in March, 2009, was distributed to the Council. Dr. Gary Gilmore, who will lead the tour, issued an "early invitation" to Council members to attend.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned shortly after 2 p.m.

Catherine Frey, Secretary

DATE