

Public Health Council

STATE OF WISCONSIN

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 13, 2009

WISCONSIN MEDICAL SOCIETY, 330 E. LAKESIDE ST., MADISON, WI

Council Members Present: Dr. Ayaz Samadani, (Chair); Dr. Gary Gilmore (Vice-Chair); Mary Jo Baisch; Bevan Baker; John Bartkowski; Bridget Clementi; Catherine Frey; Susan Garcia Franz; Terri Kramolis; Deborah Miller; Douglas Nelson; Dr. A. Charles Post; Thai Vue; Mark Villalpando and Dr. Julie Willems Van Dijk.

Council Members Absent: Dr. Corazon Loteyro; Dr. John Meurer; Dr. James Sanders; and Dr. Lynn Sheets.

Division of Public Health (DPH) Staff: DPH Administrator Dr. Seth Foldy; Jane Conner; Patricia Guhleman; Margaret Schmelzer; and Kevin Wymore.

Guests: Kristine Freundlich, DHS; Diane Christen; Matthew Stanford; Ed Rabotski; Lisa Maroney; Charalee Boonto

Call to Order

Council Chair Dr. Ayaz Samadani convened the meeting at about 10:05 a.m. The February Council meeting each year is designated as the annual meeting.

New Member Introduction

The chair introduced two new members: Dr. A. Charles Post, a pediatric dentist (provider member) at Children's Hospital Children's Dental Health in Wauwatosa, and Mark Villalpando, who will represent the public safety agency membership. The two newest members bring the Council's membership to 19.

Minutes

The Council reviewed the draft minutes of the December 2008 meeting. The Council moved to approve the minutes with the following correction: Julie Willems Van Dijk asked that this statement be incorporated into the segment on public health financing: "...in light of the report's findings, we request that current public health funding be preserved, and that the report be 'kept on the shelf' to be implemented when economic conditions improve."

Introduction of New DPH Administrator

Dr. Seth Foldy, the new Division Administrator, was introduced to the Council. Dr. Foldy is the former City of Milwaukee Health Commissioner. Dr. Foldy thanked the Council and staff, and said Tom Sieger has agreed to stay on as deputy administrator.

Dr. Foldy detailed his background before coming to the Division. He moved to Milwaukee, where he began his governmental public health career, and where he was health officer from 1998 to 2004. He said his interests include informatics. He also said Department Secretary Karen Timberlake is interested in the Council's activities; he said her "marching orders" were for him to find more public health funding from related programs in DHS. He also touched on reorganization issues that will affect the DPH and the Bureau of Local Health Support and Emergency Services in particular. Its Bureau Director, Larry Gilbertson, is leaving state employment. Foldy also entertained various questions from the Council.

Emergency Preparedness Committee

Bevan Baker gave a short report on the Committee, which is being re-structured. Baker has talked of "membership fatigue" for the Committee, since a high-point after the September 11 terrorist attacks. After discussion, the Council approved a motion to restructure the Committee, to include largely DPH staff, and some external members. Bevan Baker moved to enact the motion, and Dr. Gary Gilmore seconded, to create a re-structured Committee that would: promote coordination and integration around preparedness issues; as well as communicate effectively around these issues. The new body will serve the Council as a preparedness resource, and develop recommendations. The Committee will meet at least quarterly.

In other matters, Baker shared two Department documents with the Council, detailing the strong scores that the state's preparedness officials received in a report by the non-profit group Trust for America. Wisconsin ranked among the top states in the nation across 28 categories of pandemic planning. In the second document, Secretary Karen Timberlake highlights the importance of these kinds of public health planning efforts. Baker said the original Committee's membership should receive a thank you letter from the Council.

Open Forum

Cathy Frey distributed two reports on the Wisconsin Partnership Program for a Healthy Future. One described the new five-year plan recently approved. The second dealt with an evaluation of the program's first five years. Asked about the stock market's decline on the underlying endowment, Frey said it's dropped significantly, by about 23 percent. Much of that change has occurred in the last six months. The fund is below the original endowment value of roughly \$300 million.

Frey said the drop may delay some of the initiatives, such as addressing healthy birth outcomes. The Partnership Fund has generally committed \$10 million over 5 years to addressing healthy birth outcomes, but that expenditure will be delayed because of the drop. Doug Nelson suggested a June presentation to the Council for the two schools' joint experience regarding the initiative.

Executive Committee Report

Dr. Samadani provided a short overview of the last Executive Committee meeting, held on January 16. Among the issues discussed were: the election of officers; scheduling the April meeting; the AWARE coalition, the next State Health Plan, and several others.

Administration

Kevin Wymore provided an overview of the December 2008 meeting results. Overall, respondents gave the meeting a 3.75 effectiveness rating on a scale of 4.0. Additional comments from respondents indicated difficulties finding the location and the meeting room at the Epic Systems headquarters in Verona.

Scheduling Issue for April Meeting

Dr. Samadani noted that the next scheduled Council meeting falls on April 10, Good Friday. While not a state holiday, Good Friday presents scheduling difficulties for some. Gilmore said the Council should meet in April, because of its workload. After discussion, the Council decided to poll the members by e-mail about their preferences on when or if to schedule an April meeting. The next meeting following April is on June 12.

Elections

According to the Rules of Order, election of officers occurs at the annual meeting. This elections cycle, a Nominating Committee was named, consisting of Thai Vue, Corazon Loteyro, and Mary Jo Baisch. The slate of nominees for the 2009 officer positions is -- **Chair**: Dr. Ayaz Samadani and Dr. Julie Willems Van Dijk; **Vice-Chair** -- John Bartkowski and Gary Gilmore; and **Secretary** -- Mary Jo Baisch and Susan Garcia Franz.

The Council voted by paper ballot. Staff collected and tabulated the ballots, and results of the election were announced later in the meeting.

Mental Health/Mental Disorders Priorities Report

Mary Jo Baisch, co-chair of the State Health Plan Committee, presented the Committee's health priority report on mental health and mental disorders. Overall findings indicated no measurable change in key mental health indicators, such as the four 2010 objectives from the State Health Plan: stigma reduction; discrimination/anti-stigma; cultural competence; and access to care.

The report listed five areas of recommendation:

1. Create a uniform system of tracking mental health data;
2. Collect data and select indicators that address access and mental health access data;
3. Enact insurance parity for all;
4. Develop partnerships for creating a “combat mental health stigma” campaign;
5. Create a task force between DPH and the Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

Council discussion followed the report, including concerns expressed about the mental health system in Milwaukee, as well as Medicaid eligibility issues.

Following a motion by Doug Nelson and a second from Gary Gilmore, the Council accepted the Committee report, but decided to delay endorsement of the recommendations.

All-Wisconsin Alcohol Risk Education (AWARE) Coalition

Lisa Maroney, state legislative director for UW Health, updated the Council on the coalition's activities. The coalition, which the Council voted to join in December, focuses on legislative policy regarding alcohol abuse, including drunken driving. Maroney detailed the coalition's work, including its first meeting on January 23. There are now 37 members in the effort, including the Wisconsin Public Health Association.

Maroney indicated that this is the first time such a broad coalition has been attempted to counterbalance the political effectiveness of the Tavern League. The coalition will be directed by majority vote. The group's website will attempt to educate and undertake grassroots political efforts. The top two legislative priorities are sobriety checkpoints, and greater use of ignition interlock devices, which immobilize the vehicle if an operator's breath contains more than minimal amounts of alcohol.

Treatment has been discussed, but revenue to fund treatment is a problem, Maroney said. (Council members had reiterated that they would like to see a broader approach than merely a punitive one.) Maroney said UW Health supports an increase in the beer tax for certain purposes. The state has the third lowest beer tax in the nation. Our current tax on a six pack is about a half-penny per bottle of beer. The Council indicated that its recent public health finance report should be sent to Maroney.

High-Risk Sexual Behavior Financing Report

Julie Willems Van Dijk, chair of the Ad Hoc Finance Sub-Committee, updated the group on the Committee's high-risk sexual behavior work group. That group has focused on financing possibilities for public health interventions using current dollars or current funding mechanisms in the system. The ideas have been compiled into a table that compares recommendations from the original State Health Plan Committee's report, recommendations developed by DPH staff, and those from the subcommittee.

The subcommittee met just prior to this Council meeting, Willems Van Dijk said two major themes from the subcommittee were: to maximize Medicaid funding; and to be very focused on evidence based programs. Willems Van Dijk made a motion to prepare a letter for Dr. Foldy to present to Secretary Timberlake summarizing the conclusions from the sub-committee. Terri Kramolis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

State Health Plan Committee

Mary Jo Baisch provided an update from the State Health Plan Committee report. The next substantive report from the committee is likely to focus on access to primary and preventive health services. By July, the committee will have reviewed all 16 health and infrastructure priorities.

Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 Update

Margaret Schmelzer detailed the decision to compile the 19 “focus areas,” plus two overarching focus areas, that were recommended to the Secretary for the next State Health Plan. That plan will cover the period from 2010 to 2020. She also highlighted the graphic model used with the State Health Plan.

Annual Report

The Council reviewed and approved the 2008 Annual Report draft, subject to a change in the public health financing segment, and any further editing, to be forwarded via e-mail.

Election Results

Thai Vue announced the results of the officer election. Elected as officers were: Dr. Willems Van Dijk, Chair; Dr. Gilmore, Vice-Chair; and Mary Jo Baisch, Secretary. The Council expressed its appreciation for the work of the two outgoing officers -- Dr. Ayaz Samadani, Chair, and Cathy Frey, Secretary.

Complete Evaluations

The Council membership completed evaluation forms for today's meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at about 2:00 p.m.

Mary Jo Baisch, Secretary**Date**