

Public Health Council

STATE OF WISCONSIN

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 17, 2009

STATE OFFICE BUILDING, 1 WILSON STREET, MADISON, WI

Council Members Present: Dr. Julie Willems Van Dijk, (Chair); Dr. Gary Gilmore (Vice-Chair); Bevan Baker; Bridget Clementi; Susan Garcia Franz; Terri Kramolis; Deborah Miller; Dr. Lynn Sheets; Mark Villalpando and Dr. Ayaz Samadani.

Council Members Absent: Dr. Corazon Loteyro; Dr. John Meurer; Dr. James Sanders; Mary Jo Baisch; John Bartkowski; Catherine Frey; Douglas Nelson; Dr. A. Charles Post; Thai Vue.

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

Guests: Kristine Freundlich, DHS; Rachel Currans-Sheehan; Kathy Jones; Judith Nugent; Ed Rabotski; Marshall Reeves; John Easterday.

Call to Order

Council Chair Dr. Julie Willems Van Dijk convened the meeting at about 10:20 a.m. There were not sufficient members present for a quorum.

Minutes

The Council reviewed and tentatively approved the draft minutes of the February 2009 meeting.

Legislative Update

The Council heard a legislative update from Rachel Currans-Sheehan, Department of Health Services (DHS) legislative liaison. She summarized the public health-related reductions to Governor Doyle's budget, and mentioned progress on budget priorities, such as the statewide workplace smoking ban, which includes taverns. Currans-Sheehan said the BadgerCare Plus health insurance program for childless adults will begin June 1. Bevan Baker asked about the enrollment limits for the program, which is not an entitlement.

Public Health Implications of Federal Stimulus Law

Dr. Seth Foldy, DPH Administrator, furnished extensive information on the potential implications to public health from the federal economic stimulus law. Dr. Foldy said the Governor has been a strong proponent of the "counter-cyclical spending" philosophy behind the stimulus law. He said health information technology and access to health care are among the priorities of the Obama administration. Foldy mentioned about a dozen potential public health uses for the stimulus funds, but also cautioned that the situation was changing "day to day." The website for the stimulus funds in the state is: www.recovery.wi.gov.

Canadian Public Health Study Tour

As a part of the Open forum, the Council heard a PowerPoint presentation on their recent Canadian Study Tour from Dr. Gary Gilmore and Dr. Ayaz Samadani. Their coast-to-coast travels provided them an overview of the Canadian public health system.

Emergency Preparedness Committee

The Council tentatively approved a motion to re-structure the Emergency Preparedness Committee, after discussion of a modified structure for the new Committee. The revised structure of the Committee clarifies the Committee membership. The Committee will meet at least two times annually, not to exceed quarterly. The mission of the Committee is to provide guidance and oversight to the planning and implementation of public health preparedness programs.

Mental Health Recommendation Follow-Up

The Council heard John Easterday describe the role of the Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, and a potential cooperative role on public health priorities. He reviewed the mental health report recommendations from the February meeting. He said some recommendations -- such as a proposed task force staffed by the public health and mental health divisions -- may not be necessary, because of current cooperative efforts. For example, he said that he and Dr. Foldy already meet to work on common goals.

Access to Primary and Preventive Health Services Priority Report

The Council heard and tentatively accepted a report from Susan Garcia Franz on the access to primary and preventive services priority from the 2010 State Health Plan. No formal action was taken on the report's slate of recommendations. The State Health Plan Committee's report substantially dealt with these objectives identified in the 2010 State Health Plan:

- Increasing the percentage of the population with health insurance
- Increasing the public health infrastructure capacity for prevention
- Reducing barriers to access
- Increasing access to oral health.

Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 State Health Plan

The Council heard reports from Margaret Schmelzer on the Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 State Health Plan process, and on the State Health Plan Committee.

Adjournment

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