

Public Health Council

STATE OF WISCONSIN

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 14, 2009

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

Council Members Present: Dr. Julie Willems Van Dijk (Chair); Dr. Gary Gilmore (Vice-Chair); Dr. Mary Jo Baisch; Mr. Bevan Baker; Ms. Amy Bremel; Ms. Bridget Clementi; Ms. Catherine Frey; Ms. Susan Garcia Franz; Ms. Terri Kramolis; Dr. Corazon Loteyro; Ms. Deborah Miller; Dr. John Meurer; Mr. Douglas Nelson; Dr. Ayaz Samadani; Dr. Lynn Sheets; and Mr. Mark Villalpando.

Council Members Absent: Mr. John Bartkowski; Dr. A. Charles Post; Dr. James Sanders; and Mr. Thai Vue.

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

Guests: Mr. Ed Rabotski; DHS; Mr. Matthew Stanford; Mr. Michael Pyritz; and Ms. Bree Mitchell

Call to Order

The meeting convened shortly after 10 a.m. Dr. Julie Willems Van Dijk, Council Chair, and Dr. Gary Gilmore, Council Vice-Chair, co-chaired the meeting. Dr. Gilmore opened the meeting; Dr. Van Dijk led the meeting following the Open Forum.

Minutes

The Council approved the June 12 meeting minutes, with minor changes. Dr. Ayaz Samadani moved approval, and Terri Kramolis seconded.

Evaluation

The Council heard the meeting evaluation results from the June Council meeting, with a summary from Dr. Gilmore. He stated the overall evaluation score of 4.0 on a 4.0 scale was "right on the mark."

Open Forum

During the Open Forum, the Council heard Mr. Matthew Stanford, a Wisconsin Hospital Association representative, suggest a need for clear identification of the community spokesperson on H1N1 flu issues in the news media. H1N1 flu is commonly referred to as "swine flu."

Announcement

The Council heard Dr. Gilmore share the announcement that Dr. Van Dijk has resigned from her Marathon County health office position. He highlighted some of her key accomplishments during her tenure. Dr. Van Dijk indicated that she has accepted a new position with the University of Wisconsin where she will be the Outreach Coordinator for the project *Mobilizing Action Toward Community Health*. She will continue to participate as Chair of the Public Health Council.

Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 Update

The Council heard Margaret Schmelzer brief the group on Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 planning efforts. Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 is the upcoming version of the State Health Plan for the 2010-2020 time period. Focus area meetings of experts are scheduled for mid-September to decide on a limited number of implementation objectives for the public health agenda for the coming decade. A brief report including these objectives is scheduled for completion by the end of this calendar year.

State Health Plan Committee

The Council also heard a "lessons learned" briefing from Dr. Mary Jo Baisch on behalf of the State Health Plan Committee. She said that the Committee has reviewed most of the objectives and priorities for the 2010 State Health Plan, but the environmental/occupational health priority and the communicable disease priority reports remain to be reviewed and approved.

The Committee's findings include:

- The state has made limited progress on its public health objectives overall. Dr. Baisch also noted that financial limitations on public health financing have detrimentally affected Wisconsin's health safety net.
- Data collection needs improvement. In particular, the report emphasized the need for data for sources external to DPH. She said marginalized communities need to be involved in the data. Council member Dr. John Meurer also said the Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 "focus area teams" need to pay close attention to local and private sources of data, especially for data involving marginalized communities.

Dr. Baisch indicated the need for discussion regarding how the Committee can best report back to the Council.

Public Health Financing Resolution

Continuing discussion from the June meeting, the Council considered potential financing implications arising from the statewide costs of H1N1. As a part of this wide-ranging

discussion: 1) DPH staff reviewed Division of Public Health plans for the fall response to H1N1 flu in Wisconsin 2) the Council heard a report from the newly reorganized Emergency Preparedness Committee, from Mr. Bevan Baker; and 3) the Council discussed a potential financing resolution. Dr. Van Dijk said the resolution study would merge into the Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 “Equitable, adequate, and stable public health funding” focus team efforts.

1) H1N1 Influenza Update

Division staff provided an update to the Council about the Division's planning for an expected upsurge in the number of H1N1 cases as schools reconvene in the autumn. Plans include administration and tracking of vaccinations for the flu. There will be about 1,300 vaccination sites, and large populations are expected to be vaccinated. In other information, the Council learned that Wisconsin has recorded seven deaths in connection with H1N1. There have been 6,380 confirmed or probable cases in Wisconsin, as of Aug. 14. All but one of the patients who died had another underlying illness. The median age of the patients with reported cases was 13 years of age. Despite the deaths, this particular strain of flu is not markedly more severe than other types of flu, DPH staff said. In summary, however, the DPH staff said they didn't really know how bad the impact of the flu will be in the coming months.

2) Emergency Preparedness Committee

The Council heard Mr. Bevan Baker deliver a report from the newly reorganized Emergency Preparedness Committee. He said the Committee had met recently for the first time since reorganizing. He said the Committee received a hospital preparedness funding update.

3) Potential Financing Resolution

The Council discussed a potential financing resolution. Dr. Van Dijk indicated that all Public Health Council members who had participated in the Council's Ad Hoc Finance Committee would be invited to participate in the Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 focus area team on "equitable, adequate and stable public health funding." This focus area team will provide the context for determining the Council's next steps on the issue.

Changes to Officer Elections Procedures

Dr. Gilmore and Dr. Mary Jo Baisch provided background information for a Council review of potential changes to the Rules of Order that were distributed to Council members prior to the meeting. Proposed substantive changes focused on Council elections procedures. Following discussion about the option for nominations-from-the-floor at the time of an election, interest was expressed in some additional modification to the Rules of Order beyond those that were under current review. Dr. Gilmore agreed to develop a draft revision to supplement or replace selected parts of the current revision proposal; these will be reviewed at the September 25, 2009 Executive Committee and mailed to Council members prior to the October 9, 2009 Council meeting. A Council vote on the Rules of Order is expected at the October meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at about 2 p.m.

Mary Jo Baisch, Secretary

Date