

Public Health Council

STATE OF WISCONSIN

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 9, 2009

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

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. Catherine Frey; Ms. Susan Garcia Franz; Ms. Terri Kramolis; Ms. Deborah Miller; Dr. John Meurer; Dr. A. Charles Post; Dr. Ayaz Samadani; and Mr. Mark Villalpando.

Council Members Absent: Mr. John Bartkowski; Ms. Bridget Clementi; Dr. Corazon Loteyro; Mr. Douglas Nelson; Dr. James Sanders; Dr. Lynn Sheets; and Mr. Thai Vue.

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

Guests: Ms. Rachel Currans-Sheehan; Ms. Erin Frederick; Ms. Peggy Hintzman; Dr. Cheryl Maurana; Mr. Ed Rabotski, DHS; Dr. Patrick Remington; Mr. Gary Roth, DHS; and Ms. Eileen Smith.

Call to Order

The meeting was convened shortly after 10 a.m. by the Chair, Dr. Julie Willems Van Dijk.

Minutes

The Council approved the August 14 Council meeting minutes, without correction. Dr. Gary Gilmore moved approval, and Mr. Mark Villalpando seconded.

Evaluation

The Council heard the meeting evaluation results from the August Council meeting, with a summary from staff. The overall evaluation score of the meeting was 3.91 on a 4.0 scale. All individual meeting topic scores were 3.7 or higher.

Nominating Committee

Dr. Willems Van Dijk discussed appointments to the three-person Nominating Committee as a part of the 2010 Annual Meeting officer elections process. The Council's

Rules of Order require that the committee form no later than November 1. The Chair has appointed Mr. Doug Nelson as committee chair, and Dr. John Meurer and Ms. Terri Kramolis as committee members. Dr. Willems Van Dijk issued a general appeal for Council members to consider officer positions in 2010.

Open Forum

No topics were introduced in the open forum section of the meeting.

H1N1 Influenza Update

Mr. Rick Heffernan, of the DPH staff, offered three handouts to update the Council on the current state of the influenza pandemic. Nationwide, Mr. Heffernan said the southeastern states were first to be hard-hit in the "autumn period." The schools in that part of the country opened in August, but the outbreak has peaked there by now. In Wisconsin, we have not seen the intensity of the H1N1 incidence seen in May and June. The fall epidemic in Wisconsin has seen greater incidence in western Wisconsin and in the Fox River Valley. The University of Wisconsin-Madison students were also hard-hit, he said. Overall, the influenza incidence has been elevated, but has not been as intense as last spring. Asked about the supply of H1N1 vaccine in the state, State Health Officer Dr. Seth Foldy said the vaccines had arrived in the state about a week ago. Only about 50,000 doses had arrived.

State Health Plan Committee

State Health Plan Committee Co-Chair Dr. Mary Jo Baisch said the Committee will finish its 2010 State Health Plan priority reports. She said the group hopes to have the remaining priority reports finished by December.

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 period. Focus area meetings of experts have been scheduled to decide on a limited number of implementation objectives for the public health agenda for the coming decade. Those meetings will be in early November, when each focus group is expected to fashion two measurable objectives. A brief report including these objectives is scheduled for completion by the end of this calendar year. Planning for implementation of the new plan is scheduled for next year. Ms. Schmelzer asked that each person take the time to complete the survey Council members will be receiving.

Wisconsin "Partnership Program" Update

The Council heard two presentations from the two medical schools updating the Council on the \$600 million Blue Cross/Blue Shield asset conversion programs for public health, also known as the "Partnership Programs." The two programs' officials discussed the progress thus far in advancing public health. Both programs divided into two segments, focused on public health, and on medical education/research. In a brief question/answer period, DPH staff asked when the initiative might fund a certain project, but no clear indication was given when public health funding would re-start in earnest. The University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health Oversight and Advisory

Committee is engaged in extensive strategic planning, in part to address those questions, Program Director Eileen Smith said.

State Legislative Update

The Council heard a legislative update from Ms. Rachel Currans-Sheehan, DHS legislative liaison. She summarized the current status of public health-related items in the Legislature's fall session. Among the bills and issues discussed were: the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan for childless adults, which is now closed to new enrollment and subject to a waiting list; a "health information exchange" for federal stimulus dollars; bringing state statutes in line with Centers for Disease Control recommendations regarding HIV testing consent; and expedited sexually transmitted disease partner therapy. She noted legislative action on drunken driving legislation and other bills. Dr. Gilmore asked that the legislative update be extended from 15 minutes to 20 or 30 minutes at each Council meeting.

Changes to Officer Elections Procedures

After extensive review, the Council approved the Rules of Order revision as drafted. In addition to those changes proposed in writing at the previous Council meeting, there will be an additional amendment regarding nominations from the floor. Final action came in time for the 2010 Annual Meeting elections process.

State Beer Tax Resolution

The Council discussed and approved the Council's resolution to raise the state beer tax as proposed in Assembly Bill 287. Council Vice Chair Gary Gilmore indicated plans to attend the bill's public hearing October 13 in Madison to convey the Council's resolution. Dr. Gilmore took vacation time to testify at the hearing, which is to be the first such legislative hearing on raising the beer tax in decades. Currently, the state tax per 12-ounce bottle of beer is less than a penny, but the Council's resolution advocates raising the beer tax to help ameliorate the alcohol-related crashes, injuries and deaths caused by excessive drinking. Several Council members said it's an issue on which the Council should take a stand.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at about 2 p.m.

Mary Jo Baisch, Secretary

Date