

Public Health Council

STATE OF WISCONSIN

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 11, 2011

WISCONSIN MEDICAL SOCIETY, 330 E. LAKESIDE STREET, MADISON

Council Members Present: Dr. Julie Willems Van Dijk (Chair); Dr. Gary Gilmore (Chair-Elect); Dr. Mary Jo Baisch; Mr. Bevan Baker; Ms. Bridget Clementi; Ms. Faye Dodge; Ms. Susan Garcia Franz; Ms. Catherine Frey; Ms. Terri Kramolis; Dr. Corazon Loteyro; Dr. John Meurer; Ms. Deborah Miller; Mr. Douglas Nelson; Dr. A. Charles Post; Dr. Ayaz Samadani; Ms. Gretchen Sampson; Dr. James Sanders; Mr. Mark Villalpando

Council Members Absent: Mr. John Bartkowski; Ms. Amy Bremel; Dr. Lynn Sheets and Mr. Thai Vue

Division of Public Health (DPH) Staff: State Health Officer Dr. Henry Anderson; Ms. Sandra Breitborde; Ms. Patricia Guhleman; Ms. Margaret Schmelzer; Ms. Susan Uttech and Mr. Kevin Wymore

Guests: Ms. Margie Coons; Mr. Steven Elliott; Ms. Kris Freundlich; Mr. Eric Ostermann, Mr. Michael Welsh; Mr. Kelly Scott; Ms. Reghan Walsh; and Ms. Kari Villalpando

Call to Order

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

Welcome of New Members

The Council welcomed two new members, Ms. Faye Dodge, community health nursing director from the Menominee Indian Tribe (tribal representative); and Gretchen Sampson, the Polk County Health Department's Health Officer (local health department representative.) Both new members offered short introductions of themselves.

Minutes

The Council reviewed and approved the December meeting minutes, without correction.

Evaluation

The Council reviewed the meeting evaluation results from the December meeting. The overall evaluation score averaged 4.0 on a 4.0 scale. Qualitative comments underscored the members' overall satisfaction with the prior meeting. Mr. Kevin Wymore also advised the new members they may wish to use the open-ended comments section of the evaluation form as well.

Membership Issues

The Council heard an update about Council membership issues. Currently, 22 of the 23 Council positions are filled, including the membership category for a tribal member. Even with the change in state administrations, the Council remains a statutorily-enabled body, whose members' terms are prescribed by law.

Open Forum

No citizen addressed the Council in the Open Forum.

Wisconsin Public Health Association "Healthy Jobs Bill" and Discussion

The Council heard a presentation from Wisconsin Public Health Association Executive Director Eric Ostermann about a "Healthy Jobs" legislative proposal. Though the idea remains in the bill drafting process, the proposal calls for a workplace wellness tax credit, paid for by a \$5 million per year chronic disease prevention fund. The credit would encourage companies to create workplace wellness programs. Ostermann said the tax credit would be specific in what health and fitness methods and assessments can be used, such as for smoking cessation, and fitness incentives.

The Council then discussed the bill's implications for public health. While some members praised the idea as appealing to the prevailing pro-business political mood in the Legislature, another member asked what the innovation aspect of the bill would be. Others noted that it would appeal only to for-profit companies. There was no formal action, in part because there was no formal proposal in bill form.

Communication to New Administration on Public Health Priorities

The Council discussed the draft 2010 annual report from the Council to Governor Scott Walker, and an affiliated "key messages" document for a potential meeting with either Governor Walker or Secretary Dennis Smith. No action was taken on either document, as the Chair said more work needed to be done to support the key messages with supporting citations from the public health literature. Council members were urged to send supporting citations to Ms. Guhleman.

Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 Implementation Update/County Health Rankings

The Council heard Ms. Patricia Guhleman and Ms. Margaret Schmelzer provide an update of the Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 process and proposed implementation steps for the plan. The implementation plan, which only covers the period through 2013, is to be web-published by year's end. Dr. Willems Van Dijk shared a PowerPoint describing the MATCH project and the county health rankings. The release of the rankings will allow

Council members to approach the media about the upcoming county health rankings for their county. Dr. Willems Van Dijk said local media have shown interest

Lead Poisoning Prevention Report to Legislature

The Council heard a short summary report from DPH lead poisoning prevention staff about a lead poisoning prevention summary and report in response to the Legislature. The lead program was responding to a joint request by the Legislature to develop recommendations for reducing lead poisoning in the state.

Executive Committee Report on Response to the Legislative Audit Bureau Report

Chair-elect Dr. Gary Gilmore reported about follow-up communications with the two medical schools' response to the Legislative Audit Bureau's report on the Medical Education and Public Health Grants. Both medical schools' representatives spoke to a January Executive Committee meeting about the Council's policy action in December. Some Council members said they should move forward with the Council's pro-public health recommendations, including more local public health project funding, and its no-partner-required policy. For example, one member proposed trying to get Public Health Council representation on the foundation that oversees the schools' major endowments, or getting the medical schools to carry out a study of public health financing. Council members also commented about the medical schools' remarks that the segment devoted to medical education and research also may advance population health.

Adjournment

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

Mary Jo Baisch, Secretary

Date