

Public Health Council

STATE OF WISCONSIN

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 3, 2012

ORIGINATING LOCATION: 1 W. WILSON ST., MADISON, WISCONSIN
(Meeting originated from this location via "Live Meeting" technology.)

Council Members in Attendance: Dr. Mary Jo Baisch; Ms. Bridget Clementi; Ms. Faye Dodge; Ms. Susan Garcia-Franz; Ms. Terri Kramolis, Dr. Ayaz Samadani; and Mr. Thai Vue.

Council Members Absent: Mr. Bevan Baker; Ms. Deborah Miller; Dr. A. Charles Post; Dr. James Sanders; Ms. Gretchen Sampson; and Mr. Mark Villalpando. Dr. Gary Gilmore, Chair, had an excused absence.

Division of Public Health (DPH) Staff: Division Administrator Karen McKeown, Ms. Patricia Guhleman; Ms. Margaret Schmelzer; and Mr. Kevin Wymore.

Guests: Ms. Kris Freundlich.

Call to Order

The Council meeting was convened, with Live Meeting technology, shortly after 10 a.m., by the Chair-Elect, Dr. Mary Jo Baisch.

Minutes

The Council approved the Council meeting minutes of the June 1, 2012 meeting, without corrections. Council member Ms. Terri Kramolis moved approval, and Ms. Bridget Clementi seconded.

Evaluation

The Council reviewed the meeting evaluation results from the June 1, 2012 meeting. Mr. Kevin Wymore presented the evaluation results document, including an overall meeting evaluation score of 3.8 on a 4.0 scale, and additional qualitative comments. One Council member commented, for example, that the Maternal and Child Health Needs Assessment process might be presented in the future. Dr. Baisch suggested that "future presentation" ideas be channeled to the Executive Committee for further consideration. One other comment dealt with ensuring that PowerPoint slides were more readable.

Open Forum

The Council heard a variety of announcements and news items from members in the Open Forum, including the mechanics of how external citizens might take part in the Open Forum when the meetings are conducted by Live Meeting. Mr. Thai Vue also announced that he has begun a new job staffing a state coalition. Also, Council members questioned the extent to which the Council members wished to forward Council actions to The Wheeler Report for publication in the online political and policy news clearinghouse. Staff was directed to clarify the Wheeler Report contact person's intent. Also, Susan Garcia Franz asked that the state Medicaid director, Brett Davis, present information on the "Core Plan," and related changes in the Medicaid program.

Division of Public Health Administrator's Update

Division Administrator Karen McKeown offered updates on various items within the Division, including the "Strong Start" grant. The Strong Start initiative supports reducing the risk of significant complications and long-term health problems for both expectant mothers and newborns.

Ms. McKeown also summarized the DPH regional office redesign, a federal EMS evaluation by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and the roughly 200 responses to the Department's online comment process for the Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity State Plan. Ms. McKeown said the strong response has inspired the Department to consider other online comment response processes. She also said the Governor's new Council on Physical Fitness and Health, of which she is a member, will meet soon for the first time. In response to a question from Mr. Thai Vue, she said the Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity State Plan comments will eventually be made public.

Legislative Update

There was no legislative update at the meeting. Following the most recent session adjournment, the Legislature will not convene again this year.

Wisconsin Public Health Improvement Initiative Update

The Council heard Ms. Patricia Guhleman provide an update on the Wisconsin Public Health Improvement Initiative grant, also known as the "infrastructure grant." Much of the grant funding, which will amount to more than \$950,000 per year, will have an emphasis on accreditation and quality improvement. Two specific quality improvement projects will be undertaken. A modest amount of the funding will pay for the Council's travel reimbursement.

State Health Plan Quality Improvement Committee

The Council engaged in discussion about future policy recommendations emanating from the Council's State Health Plan Quality Improvement Committee. Ms. Terri Kramolis, the Committee's co-chair, offered her views on the need for better Council dialog on how to move the Council toward specific policy steps on the focus area. Among the goals for

this meeting were to continue to mold Council recommendations for the Council's focus areas of nutrition, physical activity and obesity (NPAO.) One Council member said the Council should ultimately use the well-received "comment letter" drafted by Ms. Margaret Schmelzer on the Council's behalf to help arrive at policy recommendations.

Second, Ms. Kramolis indicated the Council in October is expected to hear from key partners, who can address certain evidence-based categories of the NPAO State Plan report, such as infrastructure, advocacy and surveillance/evaluation; as well as six "intervention goals" listed in the report. Dr. Baisch suggested that previous State Health Plan Committee reports be consulted for their recommendations. Ms. Pat Guhleman said the Council should know how well we are moving toward our goals from the 2020 State Plan for the nutrition, physical activity, and obesity focus areas. She also noted that the Minority Health Leadership Council wishes that health disparities regarding race and disabilities be taken into account when discussing the focus areas. No partner speakers were chosen to speak at the October meeting, however. The Council is projected to make practical, "do-able" action recommendations, for which it can take responsibility, at its December meeting.

In sum, Ms. Kramolis asked Council members to think about their charge to develop Council policy in the areas of nutrition, physical activity and obesity. For example, she said that if Council members might know of an expert in these "focus area disciplines," they might recommend them to come to the October 5 Council meeting. Overall, she indicated that the Council should take seriously its charge to have a policy recommendation or recommendations approved at the December 7 Council meeting.

Council Support for State Health Plan Letter

The Council approved a final draft "partnership letter" for the current State Health Plan. The Council discussion indicated general support for a Council letter, with revisions, seeking partners to advance the State Health Plan, *Healthiest Wisconsin 2020*. Ms. Schmelzer said that once the Department's approval can be secured, the letters and attachments will go out to prospective partners.

Emergency Preparedness Update

The Council heard Mr. Kevin Wymore, in Mr. Bevan Baker's absence, state that the Public Health Preparedness Advisory Committee's meetings for July and August were not held, and the September meeting is being planned.

WPHA Public Health Council Study Committee

The Council heard no progress report on the Wisconsin Public Health Association (WPHA) Study Committee's attempt to modernize and strengthen the Public Health Council. Ms. Gretchen Sampson, a member of the WPHA Committee, was unable to attend the Council meeting.

Adjournment

The Council adjourned at about 11:40 a.m.