

Public Health Council

STATE OF WISCONSIN

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 5, 2012

LOCATION: STATE OFFICE BUILDING, 1 W. WILSON STREET, MADISON, WISCONSIN

Council Members Present: Dr. Gary Gilmore (Chair); Dr. Mary Jo Baisch; Mr. Bevan Baker; Ms. Bridget Clementi; Ms. Faye Dodge; Ms. Susan Garcia Franz; Mr. William Keeton; Ms. Terri Kramolis; Ms. Deborah Miller; Dr. Ayaz Samadani; Ms. Gretchen Sampson; Dr. James Sanders; Mr. Thai Vue and Mr. Michael Wallace.

Council Members Absent: Mr. Mark Villalpando.

Division of Public Health (DPH) Staff: Dr. Henry Anderson; Ms. Patricia Guhleman; Ms. Karen McKeown; Ms. Mary Pesik; Ms. Margaret Schmelzer; and Mr. Kevin Wymore.

Guests: Ms. Kris Freundlich; Mr. Alex Ignatowski; and Mr. Kevin Moore. These external panelists took part: Ms. Molle Polzin; Ms. Kia LaBracke; Ms. Emily Holder; Ms. Camilla Vargas; and Ms. Carrie Sullivan.

Call to Order

The Council meeting was convened, shortly after 10 a.m., by the Chair, Dr. Gary Gilmore.

Welcome of New Members

The Council welcomed the Council's two new members, Mr. Michael Wallace of Fort Atkinson and Mr. William Keeton of Oconomowoc. Mr. Wallace is chief executive officer of Fort HealthCare in Fort Atkinson and Mr. Keeton is Vice President of Government Relations and Communications for the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin. The remainder of the Council members and staff in attendance introduced themselves.

Minutes

The Council reviewed and approved the August 3, 2012 Council minutes as sent to them; Dr. Ayaz Samadani asked that he should be recorded as attending the meeting. Dr. Samadani moved approval, and Ms. Garcia Franz seconded.

Evaluation

The Council heard the meeting evaluation results from the August 3, 2012 meeting. Mr. Kevin Wymore presented the overall average meeting evaluation score of 4.0 on a 4.0 scale, as well as qualitative comments. Feedback from Council members included comments on future presentations, such as one suggestion of the Maternal and Child Health Needs Assessment process. Dr. Baisch had suggested that “future presentation” ideas be channeled to the Executive Committee for further consideration.

Open Forum

Council members exchanged a variety of announcements and news items from members in the Open Forum. For example, a Council member, Mr. Thai Vue, said he would share a report on Asian American demographics in the Midwest. Also, Ms. Bridget Clementi said a publication is forthcoming on the Children’s Health Education Center’s anti-bullying program.

Legislative Update

Mr. Kevin Moore, executive assistant of the Department of Health Services, said this would be his last Council meeting. Mr. Alex Ignatowski, the new legislative advisor, was introduced; he will be delivering future legislative updates. Mr. Moore provided an update on high-profile state Department of Health Services (DHS) program issues, as the Legislature is not in session and legislators are in “campaign mode.” He said DHS program budgets submitted to the state Department of Administration were at “keep the lights on” levels. He did say that the preliminary state budget will include about \$650 million more in state general purpose revenue for the state Medicaid program. Mr. Moore noted that there is no development work at present in Wisconsin on the health insurance exchanges planned as part of the new Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Discussion also ensued about changes in the “317 regulations” having to do with immunization programs. Several Council members and staff said the changes were troubling. Most children served with Section 317-funded vaccines are under-insured or their parents cannot afford the out-of-pocket costs required to fully vaccinate their children. The majority of Section 317 program funds are dedicated to routine childhood programs, with a smaller portion remaining for adolescent and adult immunization programs. Staff will invite DPH staff member Dan Hopfensperger to the next Council meeting to address this matter and provide an immunization update.

Medicaid Initiatives

The Council received a PowerPoint presentation from the Wisconsin Medicaid Director, Mr. Brett Davis, about three main topics: a health care efficiencies update; a federally-approved policy change for non-pregnant, non-disabled adults; and the United Health Care member transition. Mr. Davis said the Medicaid budgetary shortfall has been reduced to about \$35 million from a previous estimate of more than \$370 million. The PowerPoint presentation will be sent to the Council.

Regarding the Medicaid transition in southeastern Wisconsin, United Health Care (UHC)

has notified the state that the HMO will no longer serve BadgerCare Plus Standard and Benchmark Plan members in the Southeast Region (Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee, Racine, Kenosha, and Washington Counties), effective November 1. The affected BadgerCare Plus recipients will still retain eligibility, but the state will pay hospitals, doctors and other providers directly for their care.

Regarding the demonstration project for non-pregnant, non-disabled adults, Mr. Davis said the Council could help spread the word about the program when they do future regional presentations.

Mr. Davis said the Medicaid program would also discuss LogistiCare, the non-emergency medical transportation program, in a public hearing on October 18.

Emergency Preparedness Update

The Council heard Mr. Bevan Baker discuss the possibility of reworking and revitalizing the Council's emergency preparedness charge. He said a "big disaster wasn't the only thing to think about" and cited the state's pertussis outbreak. It was suggested that the Executive Committee take up the issue. Later in the meeting, Dr. Gilmore said the idea would be reviewed at a later date.

State Health Plan Quality Improvement Committee

The Council heard expert policy presentations in connection with nutrition and obesity prevention recommendations from the Council's State Health Plan Quality Improvement Committee. The Council heard presentations from five panelists:

- Ms. Kia LaBracke, state chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council;
- Ms. Molle Polzin, state Department of Public Instruction, from an "active early" group known as the Wisconsin Early Childhood Obesity Prevention Initiative;
- Ms. Emily Holder, from the state Department of Public Instruction, School Wellness and Health Awards;
- Ms. Camilla Vargas, Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, farm to school programs; and
- Ms. Carrie Sullivan, with the federal "Transform Wisconsin" grant.

The Council noted that they would like to see further informational exchange between Ms. LaBracke's Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council and the Public Health Council in the future.

After receiving extensive background on the topics, led by Ms. Terri Kramolis, and after robust discussion, the Council unanimously approved a policy motion encompassing Council support for actions on the topics: schools and "farm to school," and "young child/active early." Council members praised the background work that the Committee, co-chaired by Ms. Kramolis and Ms. Gretchen Sampson, and its staff performed on the focus areas.

The motion, moved by Ms. Terri Kramolis and seconded by Dr. Baisch, read:

“To advance effective policies and systems aligned for better health, the Wisconsin Public Health Council hereby adopts the Policy Action Framework for Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Chronic Disease Prevention. Through this action, the Wisconsin Public Health Council advances action on the focus area objectives set forth in Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 for settings that include schools and early care.

Through this action the Wisconsin Public Health Council is fulfilling its statutory responsibilities as set forth in Wisconsin Statute Section 15.197 (13) to monitor progress on the state health plan designed to improve health across the life span, eliminate health disparities, and achieve health equity.”

Mr. Bevan Baker amended the motion to ask that staff define the term “early care” in the second sentence of the motion. Mr. Thai Vue, also a Council member, said he would like to see the supporting detail – for example, some of the material on page 4 of the background document – included in the Council action. However, other Council members clarified that the Council’s motion was to approve the one-page Policy Action Framework document; the subsequent letters from the Council on the topics will include the supporting detail as appropriate.

Dr. Gilmore said the State Health Plan Quality Improvement Committee would consider details of distributing the approved motion to stakeholders. Council members said the decisions about whom to send the motion and accompanying documents to would be key.

Division Administrator’s Report

Ms. Karen McKeown, DPH Administrator, delivered her update. She said it was the DHS legal counsel’s opinion that those Council members whose membership terms are expired -- the majority of Council members -- could continue serving without further action on their part. She also said the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has done an assessment of the state’s emergency medical services (EMS) system. Recommendations after the assessment have been made; public health partners will have a chance to comment when the content is placed on the Division of Public Health website. She also said DPH is involved in the state’s “Race to the Top” federal education initiative grant application

Adjournment

The Council adjourned at about 2:15 p.m.