

Public Health Council

STATE OF WISCONSIN

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 7, 2012

LOCATION: WISCONSIN MEDICAL SOCIETY, 330 E. LAKESIDE 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; and Mr. Thai Vue.

Council Members Absent: Mr. Mark Villalpando and Mr. Michael Wallace

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

Guests: Mr. Alex Ignatowski; Mr. Dan Hopfensperger; Mr. Ed Rabotski; and Ms. Rebecca Thompson.

Call to Order

The Council meeting was convened, shortly after 9 a.m., by the Chair, Dr. Gary Gilmore.

Minutes

The Council reviewed and approved the October 5, 2012 Council minutes draft. Mr. William Keeton noted that his title had changed since Governor Walker appointed him to the Council. The change was noted; Dr. Ayaz Samadani moved approval of the amended version of the minutes, and Dr. Mary Jo Baisch seconded.

Evaluation

The Council heard the meeting evaluation results from the October 5, 2012 meeting. Mr. Kevin Wymore presented the overall average meeting evaluation score of 3.9 on a 4.0 scale, as well as qualitative comments. Feedback from Council members was generally positive, though some comments stated the afternoon nutrition/obesity presentations went too long, and that PowerPoint handouts would be appreciated in advance of the meetings.

2013 Meeting Calendar Review

The Council approved dates for the 2013 Council and Executive Committee meetings, consistent with traditional Council meeting date practice. Council meetings will take place on the second Friday of even-numbered months, and the Executive Committee will meet on the third Friday of odd-numbered months. Exact meeting times will be included in the calendar document, and re-sent to Council and staff.

Division of Public Health Administrator Update

The Council heard Division Administrator Ms. Karen McKeown provide several updates of note for the Division of Public Health: the National Highway Transportation Safety administration evaluation; a meeting on the environmental impact of “fracking” sand mining in the western part of the state; and deletion of federal money to fund the lead program; and Ms. McKeown’s participation on a Newborn Screening Task Force.

Open Forum

Ms. Rebecca Thompson provided an overview of her Wisconsin Community Health Fund proposal. The fund proposal would promote public health planning and public health funding in Wisconsin communities. Some discussion ensued, but no action was taken.

Legislative Update

Mr. Alex Ignatowski, the new legislative advisor, provided an abbreviated legislative update, since the legislative session following the November elections has not yet convened. He stated that Republicans will be in control of both the Senate and Assembly, and outlined who will be in leadership positions. He also noted that the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will take charge of implementing the planned Wisconsin health exchange. He also said Governor Walker will release his 2013-2015 biennial budget by late January or early February.

Immunization Issues

DPH staff member Dan Hopfensperger presented and discussion ensued about changes in the federal “Public Health Service Act - Section 317” having to do with vaccine funding for local health departments. In the October meeting, several Council members and staff had said federal changes being implemented were troubling. Hopfensperger’s presentation noted that Section 317-funded programs have been critical to the success of the country’s immunization plans. Under the new policy, local health departments can no longer immunize insured children with federally funded vaccines. Many health departments, especially in rural areas, may see a significant number of children that are insured but do not have easy access to a health care provider that offers immunization services. In addition, many children immunized at local health departments may have deductibles or co-pays associated with their insurance coverage.

Under the new policy, children that are enrolled in these types of plans are also ineligible for 317-funded vaccines. However, for most health insurance coverage plans the deductibles and/or co-pays do not apply to preventive services such as immunization. A key to implementing the new 317 Policy is educating parents with these types of plans so they fully understand their health insurance coverage. Another key in implementation is

for the Wisconsin Immunization Program and local health departments to work with the private health care provider community to assure they are aware of the new policy which will result in more of their patients seeking immunization services from the private health care provider.

Hopfensperger also described the current state of the influenza season, including the importance of vaccinating pregnant women.

Emergency Preparedness Update

The Council heard Mr. Bevan Baker discuss the status of the Council's Emergency Preparedness efforts. Both the Council and staff feel comfortable with the status quo on handling emergency preparedness issues on an as-needed basis. Mr. Baker also provided a summary of the Public Health Preparedness Advisory Committee meeting on December 6.

State Health Plan Quality Improvement Committee

The Council heard the continuing policy deliberations in connection with nutrition and obesity prevention recommendations from the Council's State Health Plan Quality Improvement Committee. After discussion, the Council approved sending five letters encompassing Council support for actions on these topics: schools and "farm to school," and "young child/active early." Four Council members agreed to associate their names with the letters, one of which the Council decided should be addressed to Department of Public Instruction Superintendent Tony Evers. Two other topics will be heard at the February 8 Council meeting: program sustainability and adult/community environment.

SHPQI Committee Co-Chair Ms. Terri Kramolis also reviewed and invited discussion on the process by which her Committee approached the nutrition and obesity focus area.

At the October meeting, 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 in October heard presentations from five panelists.

Strategic Council Direction for 2013

The Council moved and approved a motion to convene an ad hoc group to explore strategy for the coming 2013 Council year. The preferred date was discussed; six Council members – all Executive Committee members -- and Pat Guhleman as staff were named to the ad hoc group. The group intends to meet prior to the regular Executive Committee meeting in January.

"Partnership Opportunities"

The Council heard more information about the behavioral screening and intervention (BSI) strategy from Dr. Gilmore. The screening and intervention strategy involves screening for seven behavioral risks and disorders that lead to 40 percent of deaths and most chronic illness: tobacco use; risky drinking; illicit drug use; depression; poor diet; physical inactivity; and overweight and obesity. The initiative is funded by a grant from the UW School of Medicine and Public Health's Wisconsin Partnership Fund for a

Healthy Future. Dr. Gilmore is a paid academic partner in the grant, as is Dr. Richard Brown, a Medical School Professor of Family Medicine. Discussion ensued about the grant initiative, but no Council action was taken.

Adjournment

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