

# Public Health Council

STATE OF WISCONSIN

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 14, 2013

**LOCATION: DANE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE, 1 FEN OAK COURT, 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:** Division Administrator Karen McKeown; Dr. Henry Anderson; Ms. Patricia Guhleman; Ms. Rebecca Cohen; Ms. Lisa Pentony and Mr. Kevin Wymore.

**Guests:** Mr. Alex Ignatowski, Department Secretary's Office; and Mr. Gary Roth, Bureau of Information Technology Services

### Call to Order

The Council meeting was convened, shortly after 9 a.m., by the Chair, Dr. Gary Gilmore. The in-person meeting originated from the Dane County Extension Office, 1 Fen Oak Court, in Madison.

### Minutes

The Council reviewed and approved the April 12, 2013 Council minutes draft. A minor verbal correction of a sentence structure was requested. Mr. Bill Keeton moved approval and Ms. Bridget Clementi seconded.

### Evaluation

The Council heard the meeting evaluation results from the April 12, 2013 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 was generally positive. Mr. Wymore explained that the April meeting was an important Council

meeting from a technical standpoint, because it was the Council's first using the Adobe Connect electronic meeting tool. Mr. Wymore noted that Council members should feel free to convey comments about the new electronic meeting format as we progress with our use of it.

### **Proposal for Leave of Absence**

Dr. James Sanders provided an overview of his recently awarded Fulbright Scholarship, which will take him out-of-country to Zambia for a year, to help build medical training programs in a developing African nation. Ms. Terry Kramolis moved that the Council support a leave of absence from the Council for Dr. Sanders; Dr. Mary Jo Baisch seconded. The motion was approved. The Council requests that the Department Secretary hold Dr. Sanders' Council seat open until his return; a letter is to be sent making this request.

### **Congratulatory Letters to Wisconsin Health Departments**

The Council reviewed two Council letters congratulating the health departments from Polk County and Wood County for meeting the national Public Health Accreditation Board's standards. It was noted that three of the 14 local health departments awarded national accreditation in the first possible year are from Wisconsin, with West Allis Health Department being among the first. Each accreditation award is for a five-year period.

### **Staff Recognition**

The Council congratulated two Department staff members for their work. Ms. Kristine Freundlich was recognized for her nomination for the Virginia Hart award for public service. Ms. Margaret Schmelzer was recognized for her many contributions to the Council and to the State Health Plan Committee, with best wishes for her July, 2013 retirement. Ms. Schmelzer's career in public health has spanned about 40 years.

### **Open Forum**

Nobody appeared to address the Council during the Open Forum.

### **Legislative Update**

The Council heard Mr. Alex Ignatowski, DHS legislative liaison, provide an update on state Department of Health Services (DHS) legislative issues related to public health. The major legislative issue has been the biennial budget. He anticipated legislators are likely to finish the state biennial budget by the start of the new state fiscal year on July 1. Discussion took place related to proposed state allocations to Sheboygan County proposed in the budget related to multi-drug resistant tuberculosis. Mr. Bevan Baker said funds should be devoted to overall tuberculosis control in Wisconsin, rather than to one county. Mr. Baker said the dimension of the public health problem is larger than one county. Dr. Mary Jo Baisch concurred. Ms. Karen McKeown and Dr. Henry Anderson clarified that current statewide public health support mechanisms for infectious disease control already are in place and that focused efforts for supplemental control measures can be taken as the need arises.

### **Public Health Response to Recent Bayfield/Douglas Wildfires**

Ms. Terri Kramolis delivered a PowerPoint presentation about the public health response to a major wildfire during May in Douglas and Bayfield counties. There were no fatalities or injuries in the major incident, but the state DNR reported 47 structures lost, including 17 homes, 15 garages, nine outbuildings and six unknown. Firefighters saved 77 structures, including 42 houses. Ironically, the fire occurred only a few weeks after major snows in the state's northern tier of counties.

### **Report from April 18 Meeting with Deputy Secretary Moore**

Dr. Gilmore, the chair, briefly reviewed the meeting with Department Deputy Secretary Kevin Moore, at which the Council's 2012 Annual Report was presented. Dr. Gilmore stated that he views Mr. Moore as an informed ally of public health and the work of the Council.

### **State Health Plan Quality Improvement Committee**

The Council heard an overview of public health accreditation from Ms. Gretchen Sampson, one of the first local Health Officers to have achieved accreditation. She described each of the 12 accreditation domains and provided her perspective as a local health officer of a recently accredited health department. Ms. Meg Taylor, a former Division of Public Health manager and a National Public Health Accreditation Site Visitor, discussed the value of local and statewide public health accreditation from the perspective of the accrediting organization.

In another matter, Ms. Kramolis, State Health Plan Quality Improvement Committee Chair, reviewed the updated (May 16, 2013) three-pronged framework for action proposed by the committee. A proposal was put forward that the Council provide oversight for review with potential modifications of Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 to meet the national accreditation standards for a community health assessment and a community health improvement plan. Ms. Terri Kramolis moved that the Council adopt the updated policy framework document. Dr. Mary Jo Baisch seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.

### **Division Administrator Update**

The Council heard Division Administrator Karen McKeown provide a crosswalk of Healthiest Wisconsin with priorities of Governor Walker, the Department, and other public health entities. For example, Ms. McKeown identified various interventions and objectives within HW 2020 that are aligned with the Governor's budgetary and overall priorities, including socio-economic policies to improve education; AODA services for vulnerable persons; mental health; physical activity; and access to health services.

Further discussion took place related to the Sheboygan County tuberculosis outbreak, with questions raised and responded to regarding the strategy for allocation of state general purpose revenues.

**Emergency Preparedness Report**

The Council heard DPH emergency preparedness staff person Lisa Pentony brief the Council on current issues, including information on the local public health preparedness contracts for the state fiscal year beginning July 1.

**SCAODA Summary**

Due to time constraints, a summary of the State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (SCAODA) was deferred to another time.

**Announcements/Completion of Evaluation Forms**

Dr. Gilmore encouraged Council members to complete meeting evaluation forms, and also asked them to indicate if they wish to become members of either of the Council's two standing committees.

**Adjournment**

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