

Public Health Council

STATE OF WISCONSIN

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 13, 2013

LOCATION: ROOM 751, STATE OFFICE BUILDING, 1 WEST WILSON STREET, MADISON, WISCONSIN

Council Members Present: Dr. Gary Gilmore (Chair); Dr. Mary Jo Baisch (Vice-Chair); Mr. Bevan Baker; Susan Garcia Franz; Mr. William Keeton; Ms. Terri Kramolis; Ms. Deborah Miller; Dr. Ayaz Samadani; Mr. Mark Villalpando; Mr. Thai Vue and Mr. Michael Wallace.

Council Members Absent: Ms. Bridget Clementi; Ms. Faye Dodge (Secretary); Ms. Gretchen Sampson and Dr. James Sanders.

Division of Public Health (DPH) Staff: Division Administrator Karen McKeown; Ms. Ruth DeWeese; Ms. Evelyn Cruz; Ms. Carly Hood; Mr. David Pluymers; Ms. Mari Gasiorowicz, and Mr. Kevin Wymore.

Guests: Ms. Kristine Freundlich, DHS Facilitator; Mr. Ed Rabotski, Bureau of Information Technology Services; Barbara Nehls-Lowe; and Megan Adenbrook

Call to Order

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

Brief Update

Dr. Gilmore read a short message from Ms. Patricia Guhleman, the DPH Director of the Office of Policy and Practice Alignment. She retired in late November.

Minutes

The Council approved the October 13, 2013 Council minutes draft, without correction. Mr. Bill Keeton moved approval of the document, and Ms. Terri Kramolis seconded.

State Health Plan Health Improvement Committee

As a part of the State Health Plan Quality Improvement Committee's latest efforts, Ms. Kramolis introduced to the Council three presenters: from the UW Population Health Institute; the UW Madison, and the Department of Public Instruction.

In general, the focus dealt with the state's overall health, but also with health and educational disparities between blacks and whites. Ms. Karen Timberlake, from the UW Population Health Institute, and the former DHS Secretary, reported on "opportunities to make Wisconsin the healthiest state." Ms. Jackie DeWalt, UW Madison, spoke on efforts to help more African Americans succeed in educational settings, including higher education. Mr. Jared Knowles, an analyst from the state Department of Public Instruction, presented his analysis that included risk factors for low-income persons not achieving high educational outcomes, including participation in the free- and reduced-price lunch program.

Ms. Kris Freundlich engaged the Council in dialogue about the direction of the state with regard to the day's focus issues. No action was taken.

Evaluation

The Council heard an evaluation summary from Mr. Kevin Wymore from the responses to the October post-meeting evaluations. He reported an overall effectiveness score of 4.0, based on eight responses. Much of the evaluation discussion centered on the experience and logistics of the meeting site at the Risser Justice Center, located two blocks from DHS headquarters. Mr. Wymore noted that deviation from the 4.0 standard has continued to occur regarding the issue of getting materials to the Council in enough time in advance.

Executive Committee Report

The Council members heard an Executive Committee report from Dr. Gilmore. Among the key items discussed and/or approved were: a) a summation of the Nominations Committee's process in preparation for the officer elections at the February Annual Meeting; and various other items discussed at the November Executive Committee meeting. The official call for officer nominations will go out December 16, the Council members were told.

Legislative Update/Public Health Update

In place of DHS legislative adviser Alex Ignatowski, Division Administrator Karen McKeown provided information on child death review legislation, as well as hearing comments about the continuing efforts for Affordable Care Act enrollment in Wisconsin. The Council asked for more information on the child death review legislation. She also provided her public health update. She described the most recent compilation of data for "America's health rankings," produced by the United Health Foundation. Wisconsin's overall rank sank from 13th to 20th. Among the news in the rankings, the state increased in obesity prevalence; immunization increased; and the percentage of those lacking health insurance rose from 8.5 percent to 10 percent of the population.

Ms. McKeown then addressed the Council membership problem regarding expired Council membership terms. Of the 15 current Council members, all except Mr. Michael Wallace are serving beyond the “fixed by law” expiration date of their appointments by the Governor’s office. It was noted that the Governor’s office has begun to address the issue; members interested in re-applying should do so via Gov. Walker’s official website, as before.

Wisconsin Accreditation Update

Mr. David Pluymers, DPH Southern Regional Office Director, completed a short briefing about public health accreditation efforts in the state.

Emergency Preparedness Report

The Council heard Mr. Bevan Baker and Mr. Kevin Wymore brief the Council on the extent to which there are current emergency-related issues. Both alluded to the most recent November meeting of the DPH Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee, which described the most recent changes to the PCA communications portal for preparedness issues.

Adjournment

The Council adjourned at about 1:40, before which Dr. Gilmore thanked the group for their support of his Chairmanship. He indicated that Chair-Elect Baisch would assume the chair’s position and convene the February meeting.