

October 23, 2018

WPHA-WALHDAB Joint Public Affairs Committee Update

Linda Conlon, Co-Chair
Sue Kunferman, Co-Chair

Agenda

- Who is the Joint Public Affairs Committee?
- Legislative priorities
- Forms for members
- Legislative grid



Joint Public Affairs Committee

- WALHDAB - 7 members
- WPHA – 7 members
- Staff
 - Jamie Michael, BadgerBay
 - Hoven Consulting



Joint Public Affairs Committee

- WALHDAB members
 - Co-chair, **Linda Conlon**, Oneida County Health Department
 - Mary Dorn**, Outagamie County Public Health Division
 - Mark Edgar**, Public Health Madison-Dane County
 - Lieske Giese**, Eau Claire City-County Health Department
 - Sally Nusslock**, West Allis Health Department
 - Elizabeth Spencer**, Board of Health (Eau Claire)
 - Jim Stecker**, Board of Health (Calumet)

Joint Public Affairs Committee

- WPHA members
 - Co-chair, **Sue Kunferman**, Wood County Health Department
 - Maureen Busalacchi**, Medical College of Wisconsin
 - Anna Carpenter**, Winnebago County Health Department
 - Amy Williamson**, UW School of Medicine and Public Health
 - Jan Klawitter**, Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene
 - Darren Rausch**, Greenfield Health Department
 - Geof Swain**, UW School of Medicine and Public Health

Legislative Priorities

- Overarching themes:
 - Building and retaining public health infrastructure through public health funding.
 - Infusing health and equity in all policies.
 - Improving public health workforce succession planning to support consistent and efficient delivery of services.



FOCUS: Social Determinants of Health

- Justice Reform
- Early Childhood Education
- Income Stability and Employment
- Housing



Justice Reform

- Increase treatment alternatives and diversion program (TAD) funding for mental health and substance abuse issues.

Justification: There has been bipartisan interest in this issue the past few sessions, particularly with the HOPE (Heroin, Opioid Prevention and Education) Agenda. Last session, there were several bills introduced (and some that became law) which provided funding for mental health and substance abuse. Specifically, [Wisconsin Act 204](#), [Assembly Bill 1055](#), [Assembly Bill 1056](#) address mental health funding and [Wisconsin Act 295](#) and [Assembly Bill 1040](#) address substance abuse funding.

Justice Reform (continued)

- Increase funding allocated to counties for juvenile justice services to fund all costs associated with bringing 17-year-old first time juvenile offenders back to juvenile justice system.

Justification: Juvenile justice reform has been identified as an important issue to several active members of WPHA and WALHDAB. It has also been identified as a priority for the 2019-2020 legislative session by the Wisconsin Counties Association. Corrections, particularly involving juveniles, has been a bipartisan topic of discussion recently in Wisconsin politics.

Early Childhood Education

- Fully fund School Breakfast Program

Justification: Early childhood, education, and nutrition programs go hand in hand to create a healthier child and future healthy adult. The School Nutrition Association of Wisconsin (another client of Hoven Consulting) has chosen this to be their top legislative priority for next session. They have been in contact with the Governor's office, DPI, as well as legislative offices, and will be leading coalition efforts to secure full funding.

Income Stability and Employment

- Supporting and expanding Paid Family Leave

Justification: Previous legislative interest on this issue from Democrats leads us to believe legislation will be introduced again. WPHA and WALHDAB signed on in support to a coalition letter that was spearheaded by the Keep Families First (KFF) Coalition. We expect more groups to become involved and the conversation to expand on this issue during the 2019-2020 legislative session.

Income Stability and Employment (continued)

- Increase Earned Income Tax Credit and move from one-time to monthly payments

Justification: In the last state budget, Governor Walker increased funding for this program from \$30,100,000 in 2017-2018 to \$35,000,000 during the 2018-2019 fiscal year. Tax credits are a popular legislative idea and it is one that we believe will continue to be of bipartisan interest.

Income Stability and Employment (continued)

- Increase workforce training/transitional jobs.

Justification: This issue has drawn bipartisan support, and we believe, will continue to do so into the next session. Wisconsin has low unemployment, however, there is a major labor shortage in some sectors due to a lack of workers with the necessary and required skills to perform certain jobs in an evolving economy. Some bills from last session that garnered bipartisan support include [Wisconsin Act 336](#) and [Senate Bill 125](#). No matter which party is in power next session, it is fair to assume this will be a priority and there will be many other interested groups and stakeholders involved.

Income Stability and Employment (continued)

- Establish tax credit for family caregivers.

Justification: The Wisconsin Counties Association has identified this issue as one they plan to pursue next session. Another tax credit, it can potentially save health care associated costs because it will provide financial assistance to families who care for family members at home.

Housing

- Expand low income housing tax credits for developers and rental assistance vouchers for renters.

Justification: Near the end of last session, [Wisconsin Act 176](#) earned bipartisan support and became law. The bill is just one example of a tax credit that helps encourage the development of low-income housing. WHEDA oversees many types of tax credits that support low-income housing developments, which focus on assisting developers as well as renters. Essentially, the tax credits lower construction and labor costs for developers and monthly rent for renters. With an aging population, low-income senior housing tax credits are becoming more common in municipalities, especially those in Dane County.

Housing (continued)

- Funding for programs to eliminate / abate lead paint, soil and pipes, including but not limited to a statutory provision requiring that lead remediation dollars be used for that dedicated purpose.

Justification: Lead abatement garnered significant bipartisan support last session, including [Wisconsin Act 137](#), which provides financial assistance to replace lead service lines. There is also a dedicated fund in the DHS portion of the state budget meant to address lead poisoning lead exposure service. A few bills introduced by Democrats to address lead abatement issues include [Assembly Bill 726](#), [Assembly Bill 949](#) and [Assembly Bill 950](#).

Member engagement

- Member Input Form WPHA and WALHDAB websites "Advocacy" tab:
http://www.wpha.org/?page=WPHA_take_action
- Legislative grid:
<http://www.wpha.org/page/LegislativeGrid>

Thank you!



Questions?