

Wisconsin Public Health Council

2017 Report

General Background Information:

The Public Health Council was created in mid-2004 by the Legislature to advise the Governor, the Legislature, Wisconsin citizens and the Department of Health Services (DHS) on the state health plan, and on the coordination of responses to public health emergencies. The Council strives to serve as a respected, objective, and balanced source of public health information for the Governor, the Legislature, the DHS, and the citizenry of Wisconsin.

Council Organization

Public Health Council membership is through appointment by the Governor. The Council includes four committees: the Executive Committee, consisting of elected officers and committee chairs; the State Health Plan Committee (formerly State Health Plan Quality Improvement Committee); the Emergency Preparedness and Response Committee; and the Public Health Policy and Public Engagement Committee. In 2017, the Council met six times. Three of the meetings were half-day, remote participation-only meetings. Additionally, all meetings allow for remote participation. An open forum is scheduled at the beginning of each meeting to allow for public input. The Council maintains a [website](#), which holds the Council's history and selected resources. All meeting agendas are required to be posted in accordance with the state Open Meetings Law.

The [State Open Meetings website](#) also contains Council agendas and minutes dating from October 2017.

Committees

All formal committees of the Council are subject to the state public records and Open Meetings laws.

During 2017, the Council committees consisted of the Executive Committee, plus three standing advisory committees: the Emergency Preparedness and Response Committee (formerly called the Emergency Preparedness Committee), the State Health Plan Committee (formerly called the State Health Plan Quality Improvement Committee), and the Public Health Policy and Public Engagement Committee. Additionally, the Council's **Nominating Committee** was activated twice in 2017 for the purposes of filling an unexpected vacancy, and in the normal course of the Council's biennial timetable. Members of this Committee are appointed by the Chair.

The **Executive Committee** is composed of elected officers (Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary) and the previous chair of the Council, who will serve for one year. Its mission is to provide leadership and to establish and monitor direction for the Council's actions; 2) plan agendas that will create efficient and effective Council meetings that are focused upon the Council's stated purpose, and that include evaluation of meeting effectiveness; and 3) make emergency decisions on behalf of the Council when necessary.

The mission of the **Emergency Preparedness and Response Committee** is to review and provide recommendations related to activities in Wisconsin designed to ensure there are coordinated and comprehensive responses to protect the health, safety and welfare of citizens and property in the event of natural or man-made emergencies. At the February 5, 2016 meeting, it was decided that members of this Committee would attend the Division's Public Health Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee and report back to the Public Health Council. These meetings would be a substitute for Committee meetings. This would allow Council members to meet their statutory obligations.

The mission of the **State Health Plan Committee** (formerly the State Health Plan Quality Improvement Committee) is to be responsible for monitoring the progress of, and making recommendations for, Wisconsin's State Health Plan.

The mission of the **Public Health Policy and Public Engagement Committee** is to be responsible for developing external communication with public health stakeholders including elected and public officials at the federal, state and local levels of government, the media and the public to ensure public policy supports the broad mission of promoting enlightened public health policy and the goals of the State Health Plan.

Council Action

February 3, 2017

- The Council received updates on:
 - efforts within the Division of Public Health;
 - legislative issues pertaining to public health;
 - the Minority Health Advisory Group; and
 - emergency preparedness and emergency health care.
- Members received an overview of the [Wisconsin Immunization Registry](#).
- Discussion was held regarding a communicable disease infrastructure funding request.
- Members received an in-depth overview of the state health plan.

April 7, 2017

- The Council received updates on:
 - efforts within the Division of Public Health;
 - legislative issues pertaining to public health;
 - the Minority Health Advisory Group; and
 - emergency preparedness and emergency health care.
- [Healthy Wisconsin](#) progress was discussed.

June 2, 2017

- The Council received updates on:
 - efforts within the Division of Public Health;
 - legislative issues pertaining to public health;

- the Minority Health Advisory Group.
- The Council received extended updates on emergency preparedness and emergency health care, including discussion on the tour of the State Emergency Operations Center taken by some Council members.
- The launch of [Healthy Wisconsin](#) was discussed, and a presentation was given to members. [Healthy Wisconsin](#) will be a standing agenda item.
- An update was given on the opioid work being done by the Division of Public Health.
- A presentation of the [Workplace Wellness grant](#) history and process was given

August 4, 2017

- The Council received updates on:
 - efforts within the Division of Public Health;
 - legislative issues pertaining to public health;
 - the Minority Health Advisory Group;
 - emergency preparedness and emergency health care; and
 - [Healthy Wisconsin](#).
- Information was shared about the [Medical College of Wisconsin Consortium on Public and Community Health](#).
- A Special Election was held for Chair-Elect.

October 6, 2017

- The Council received extended updates on:
 - efforts within the Division of Public Health;
 - legislative issues pertaining to public health;
 - the Minority Health Advisory Group;
 - emergency preparedness and emergency health care; and
 - [Healthy Wisconsin](#).
- Council committees gave updates on their work.

December 1, 2017

- The Council received updates on:
 - efforts within the Division of Public Health;
 - legislative issues pertaining to public health;
 - the Minority Health Advisory Group; and
 - emergency preparedness and emergency health care; and
 - [Healthy Wisconsin](#).
- Master of Public Health students from UW-Madison gave presentation on their research for [Healthy Wisconsin](#) priority areas of: alcohol, opioids and suicide.
- Preliminary research presentation by an MPH student from [UW-La Crosse](#) regarding alcohol use and health related outcomes among Hmong populations in Wisconsin was provided.

Briefings and Deliberations:

Briefings and Council deliberations in 2017 included the following:

- All meetings included updates on the [Healthiest Wisconsin 2020](#) state health plan, and its accompanying product, the [Wisconsin Health Improvement Planning Process](#), and health improvement plan, [Healthy Wisconsin](#).
- All meetings included legislative updates from staff from the Office of the Secretary.
- All meetings included updates on Division of Public Health activities. Additionally, Division staff presented on issues of concern to the Council.
- All meetings included updates on the activities of the Wisconsin Minority Health Advisory Group.
- All meetings included updates on [emergency health preparedness](#). The updates were in-depth presentations as needed.

Meeting Membership of the Public Health Council (during 2017)

Andy Anderson, MD	Hartland
Terry Brandenburg	West Allis
Mary Dorn, Secretary, Chair-Elect (August 2017)	DePere
Gary Gilmore, MPH, Ph.D., Immediate Past Chair	LaCrosse
Dale Hippensteel	Sheboygan
Ann Hoffmann, MD	Mauston
William Keeton, Chair	Oconomowoc
Eric Krawczyk	Oneida
Robert Leischow	Marshfield
Sandra Mahkorn, MD	Milwaukee
James Sanders, MD	Milwaukee
Alan Schwartzstein, MD (Secretary, September 2017)	Oregon
Joan Theurer	Wausau
Mark Villalpando	Sturtevant
Thai Vue	Onalaska
Michael Wallace	Fort Atkinson
Darlene Weis, Ph.D., Chair-Elect (up to August, 2017)	Pewaukee