

Wisconsin Public Health Council

2019 Report

2019 Highlights

The Council released a policy statement in July 2019 entitled "[Wisconsin Public Health Council Statement Regarding Vaccination and Current Measles Outbreak](#)". The statement urged that action be taken to ensure vaccination of eligible people in the state in order to prevent measles-related illness, hospitalization, and death. The statement was distributed to Governor Tony Evers, DHS Secretary-designee Andrea Palm, Speaker of the Wisconsin State Assembly Robin Vos, Senate President Roger Roth, all members of the Assembly Committee on Health, and all members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.

Four new members were appointed to the Council in 2019, providing an increase in membership which was needed in order for the Council to be effective. Expired appointments to the Council were also renewed by the Governor, ensuring all members were serving in active terms.

General Background Information:

The Public Health Council was created in 2003 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, 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 the past-chair; the State Health Plan Committee; the Emergency Preparedness Committee; and the Policy Committee. In 2019, the Council met four times for on-site 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 2019, the Council committees consisted of the Executive Committee, plus three standing advisory committees: the Emergency Preparedness and Response Committee, the State Health Plan Committee, and the Policy Committee. Additionally, the Council's Nominating Committee

was activated once in 2019 for the normal course of the Council's biennial timetable. Members of this Committee are appointed by the Chair. The Chair for 2019 was Ms. Mary Dorn.

The Executive Committee is composed of elected officers (Chair, Chair-Elect, and Secretary) and the previous chair of the Council. Its mission is to: 1) 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. In 2019, the Executive Committee met nine times.

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 serve as a substitute for Committee meetings and allow Council members to meet their statutory obligations.

The mission of the State Health Plan Committee is to be responsible for monitoring the progress of, and making recommendations for, Wisconsin's State Health Plan. In 2019, the State Health Plan Committee met one time. The meeting's main purpose was to reassess the role of the State Health Plan Committee within the Council. A conclusion of the meeting was to move forward in addressing vaping as an issue.

The mission of the Policy 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. In 2019, the Policy Committee met three times. The Policy Committee worked with the Executive Committee to prepare the policy statement regarding vaccination and the measles outbreak.

Council Action

February 1, 2019

- The Council received updates on:
 - the Division of Public Health
 - emergency preparedness
 - [Healthy Wisconsin](#)
- The Council received extended updates on the *Healthy Wisconsin* Opioids priority.
- The Council received updates from and had a discussion with the Wisconsin Public Health Association and Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards Joint Public Affairs Committee representatives.
- A 2019 Council meeting plan was discussed and agreed upon.

May 3, 2019

- The Council received updates on:
 - [Healthy Wisconsin](#)
 - efforts in the Department of Health Services Secretary's Office
 - legislative issues pertaining to public health

- efforts in the Division of Public Health
- emergency preparedness

May 3, 2019 cont.

- The Council received extended updates on the *Healthy Wisconsin* Nutrition and Physical Activity priority area.
- The Council participated in a facilitated Forces of Change conversation to inform the State Health Assessment.
- The Policy Committee and the State Health Plan Committee shared updates.

August 2, 2019

- The Council received updates on:
 - efforts within the Division of Public Health
 - legislative issues pertaining to public health
 - emergency preparedness
 - [Healthy Wisconsin](#)
- The Council had an extended discussion on *Healthy Wisconsin* working scorecards.
- The Council participated in a facilitated “Turn-the Curve” conversation to assess how they could measure their impact as a body.
- Council committees gave updates on their work.

November 1, 2019

- The Council received updates on:
 - efforts within the Department of Health Services
 - efforts within the Division of Public Health
 - legislative issues pertaining to public health
 - emergency preparedness
 - [Healthy Wisconsin](#)
- The Council had a discussion about health equity with the goal of reaching a common understanding about the Division of Public Health’s direction with health equity and how the Council’s work can align.
- Council committees gave updates on their work.
- The Council discussed the 2020 meeting schedule and performance measures to assess Council progress.

Briefings and Deliberations:

Briefings and Council deliberations in 2019 included the following:

- All meetings included updates on [Healthy Wisconsin](#).
- Three out of four meetings included legislative updates from staff from the DHS 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 preparedness. The updates were in-depth presentations as needed.

2019 Meeting Membership of the Public Health Council

Chair: **Mary Dorn**, De Pere, is the Health Officer for the Outagamie County Public Health Division.

Chair-Elect: **Terry Brandenburg**, West Allis, is the Master of Public Health (MPH) Program Director at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Secretary: **Alan Schwartzstein, MD**, Oregon, practices Family Medicine and Urgent Care with Dean Health System.

Immediate Past Chair: **William Keeton**, Oconomowoc, is the Vice President and Chief Advocacy Officer for Vivent Health.

Gary Gilmore, PhD, La Crosse, is a Professor of Community Health and the Director of Graduate Community Health Programs at UW-La Crosse.

Dale Hippensteel, Sheboygan, is retired.

Ann Hoffmann, MD, Mauston, practices Family Medicine with the Mile Bluff Medical Clinic.

Eric Krawczyk, Oneida, is the Public Health Officer for the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin.

Robert Leischow, West Allis, is the Health Commissioner/City Sealer for the City of West Allis Health Department.

Tatiana Maida,* West Allis, is the Healthy Choices Department Manager at Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers.

Paula Morgen,* Appleton, is the Director of Community Health for ThedaCare.

Catoya Roberts,* Shorewood, is the National Network Coordinator at Advancement Project.

Laura D. Rose,* Madison, is the Vice President for Policy Development at the Wisconsin Hospital Association.

Joan Theurer, Wausau, is the Health Officer at the Marathon County Health Department.

Darlene Weis, PhD, Pewaukee, is retired.

*Denotes newly appointed member