



To: Advisory Board

Date: March 9, 2006

From: Patrick Remington, Director and Paul Moberg, Deputy Director

Subject: Director's Report (November 2005-March 2006)

This report summarizes the activities during the past 4 months, in population health research, program evaluation, and health care policy. Using the core resources from the UW School of Medicine and Public Health, we:

- Launched the "Healthiest Wisconsin Leadership Institute," in collaboration with the Medical College of Wisconsin, by establishing 5 community teams from around the state (annual combined budget of approximately \$450,000).
- Increased the "Population Health Fellowship Program" from 5 to 9 fellows, to be placed in Milwaukee (3), Madison, LaCrosse, and elsewhere (annual budget of approx. \$550,000, from the WI Partnership Fund).
- Governor's E-Health Board on Quality and Patient Safety/InfoLinks: Designed and fielded survey of key informants and began planning kick-off summit, to be held May 5, 2006 for producing the eHealth Action Plan for the State of Wisconsin.
- Continued to pursue funding to support partnership with the La Follette School of Public Affairs and the Wisconsin Legislative Council, for operating an "Evidence-Based Health Policy" program.
- Published 2 Issue Briefs, addressing drug sentencing policies and diabetes education effectiveness.
- Obtained funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Health & Society Scholars Program to develop a Population Health web site for policymakers and students.
- Continued ongoing population health research including a review of methods and procedures for compiling the County Rankings, working with counties to understand and use the Rankings, and compiling a user survey to assist us with improving the utility of the Rankings.
- Planned forums/symposia on "What Is Your Health Worth? A National Conversation on Health Care" (March 22) and American Indian Health and Science Symposium (March 31).
- Prepared a report and publication on the quality of diabetes care in Wisconsin's HMOs.
- Met with UW System President Kevin Reilly to discuss strategies for the UW to support health and health care initiatives in Wisconsin in general, and specifically, with the Wisconsin Legislature.
- Collaborated with the Division of Public Health in development of a website on evidence-based practices in support of the State Health Plan, and conducted a midcourse survey related to the transformation goals of the plan.
- Received funding for the following new projects:
 - "Safe and Drug free Schools and Communities Data Project," funded by the US Department of Education through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction to improve data systems and their use in the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities program.
 - "Accelerating Change and Transforming Organizations and Networks (ACTION)" contract by the Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research (AHRQ) to Aurora Health Care to participate in health services research task orders oriented to turning research into practice.
 - SAMHSA State Epidemiology Outcomes Workgroup funded through DHFS Bureau of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.
 - "Earned Release Substance Abuse Treatment Program Evaluation" funded by the Department of Corrections.