

**Advisory Board Meeting
University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute**

Wisconsin Medical Society
330 E. Lakeside Street
Madison, WI 53715

Thursday, March 9, 2006
11:00 -2:00 PM

Members present

Steve Brenton
David Riemer
Susan Turney
MaryAnn Lippert
Greg Nycz
Tim Size
Ayaz Samadani
Sue Gaard –Representing Al Jacobs

Members Absent

Bevan Baker
Stephen Braunginn
Tim Cullen
Rep. Curt Gielow
Nancy Kaufman
Helene Nelson
Christopher Queram
Senator Jody Robson
Eric Stanchfield
Al Jacobs

Guests:

Gordon Ridley (Chair, UW-PHI Executive Committee)
George Quinn (WI Hosp Assoc.)

Staff Present

Patrick Remington
D. Paul Moberg
Donna Friedsam
Marion Ceraso
Judy Knutson

The meeting was called to order at 11:30.

All Board members, staff and guests introduced themselves. Minutes from the previous meeting were distributed (corrected copy has been posted on Institute's website: www.pophealth.wisc.edu/uwphi)

Patrick Remington handed out and discussed the Director's Report. He stated that the County Health Rankings for 2005 were released in November, and copies were distributed. The Healthiest Wisconsin Leadership Institute and the Population Health Fellowship Program were described by Marion Ceraso and Patrick Remington. Discussion from the board followed, with Steve Brenton asking where the fellows are placed (response: Milwaukee and La Crosse Health Departments, ACS, DPH); Tim Size suggested that the assignments are too traditional and that models such as paired urban/rural placements should be considered.

Presentation of the Director's report continued with Dr. Remington summarizing the status of Issue Briefs and reports, and further efforts at development of funding for continuation of some form of Legislative Forums. Paul Moberg highlighted new funding recently obtained.

The next agenda item was an overview of the Institute's mission and vision. Pat Remington reviewed the Institute's brochure and annual report in this regard and in the context of the Medical School name change (to School of Medicine and Public Health) and the new dean – Robert Golden. Gordon Ridley commented that with a new dean we are truly at crossroads. Discussion of the terms "public health" and "population health" ensued, with the observation that the terms seem to be used interchangeably in the brochure and mission statement. Tim Size observed that the core of the mission statement is to "translate population health research into policy and practice." David Riemer asked what is the most effective means of translation, and whether some activities are more likely to effect policy and practice than others. A discussion followed regarding knowledge transfer techniques and evidence based policy. Of note, Sue Gaard observed that the brochure emphasized what we do, not why we do it. Tim Size asked how we evaluate the outcomes of the Institute's activity. Dr. Samadani commented that the Institute website has great information.

Donna Friedsam highlighted the Health Policy Program of the Institute and commented on coming events, a Native American Students Symposium to be held in March, the Institute's participation in the National Health Care Dialogue which will take place on March 22, and the state-sponsored Information Linkage conference scheduled for May 5. The insitute's work in E-Health under the new "Info Links" project was mentioned.

Steve Brenton emphasized the importance of understanding the baseline state of e-health in Wisconsin and that hospitals have made a major commitment to electronic data improvement. Donna Friedsam mentioned that Meta-Star conducted an environmental scan last year, and that she has many reports in hand. Tim Size asked whether it makes sense to develop e-health systems on a state level when the context is a national one.

Susan Turney asked what audience was desired for the "town hall" meeting on March 22. Donna indicated it was "everyone, citizens to health professionals." Discussion between Tim

Size, Donna Friedsam, Patrick Remington, Greg Nycz, Steve Brenton and David Riemer followed regarding whether participation in the National Health Care Dialogue really was appropriate to the mission of the Institute, whether it would move the nation towards solutions or just raise the same old issues, and whether it was a research or an advocacy process. The economic summit that Katherine Lyle had sponsored was referenced as a useful but neglected product of an earlier process. It was mentioned that this event was intended to give voice to the public. Donna offered that the national Dialogue thus did fit into our mission, and that it was necessary to facilitate the event for the University.

Marion Ceraso next provided a more detailed description of the Healthiest Wisconsin Leadership Institute. Five community-based teams have been accepted from 26 applicant groups for population health skills building. Greg Nycz asked how the program could be extended given the large number of interested applicant groups, suggesting inclusion of distance education components and making at least parts of the curriculum available on line. Mary Ann Lippert, Greg and Marion discussed options and trade-offs between providing a rich program with personal contact with experts and protected time away from office versus reaching many people in a less intensive manner.

Marion also described the fellowship program and what has been learned during the pilot year. Recruiting will be done earlier and matches will be made up based on mutual interests. The question of whether this would address Wisconsin public health workforce priorities was raised, and Marion responded that likely future workforce participation in Wisconsin, along with diversity and interest in rural health, were selection criteria.

As a member update, David Riemer presented a summary of his work on the Wisconsin Health Project. George Quinn, from WHA, provided some varying estimates on the cost of the uninsured based on different assumptions and data sets regarding private health care spending in the state. There was agreement that the bottom line cost estimate to cover the uninsured is not settled. Riemer concluded that, regardless of the absolute numbers, there is a need to design a robust policy solution.

Finally, a discussion of the brief report on measurement of health related quality of life was discussed. Discussion of the utility of data on population rates of disability versus absolute numbers in subgroups ensued. The amenability to change of determinants (e.g., SES) of disability and excess deaths was also discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.