

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute
October 22, 2009
9:30 AM – 12 Noon
Wisconsin Medical Society, Madison, WI

Members Present: Chuck Benedict, Steve Brenton, Cheryl DeMars, Curt Gielow, Sheri Johnson (*by phone*), Jeremy Levin (*for Tim Size*), Helene Nelson, Sandy Pasch, David Riemer, Ayaz Samadani, Arvid Tillmer, Rea Holmes (*for Karen Timberlake*) Susan Turney

Staff Present: Patrick Remington, D. Paul Moberg, Donna Friedsam, Colleen Comeau

Members Absent: Bevan Baker, Kurt Eggebrecht, Gregory Nycz, Christopher Queram, Peggy Rosenzweig, Tim Size, Karen Timberlake

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 AM
Paul Moberg introduced Jeremy Levin and Rea Holmes.

Review of Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved with two minor corrections noted. The minutes will be posted at www.pophealth.wisc.edu/uwphi

Ayaz Samadani commented on the progress and changes in the direction of the Institute and appreciated the details of the last meeting. Paul Moberg noted that the rich discussion from that meeting helped to focus on the BadgerCare Plus experience as the primary topic for this meeting. Pat Remington noted the communication and advice received was very helpful with the work being done with the RWJ Foundation on the County Health Rankings.

Paul Moberg suggested that the Board note the recent *Wisconsin Medical Journal* Special Edition that was provided by Ayaz Samadani. This was developed for the 50th anniversary of the Population Health's sciences work in the SMPH. The article showed an overview of the work in the Institute. Ayaz Samadani commented that the Healthy People 2020 will be very helpful and is a continuation of the policy making.

New Business

Population Health Assessment Unit

Pat Remington described the new positions added to this unit. Julie Willems Van Dijk was the health officer in Marathon County. She has already demonstrated her contribution to our program by linking with the national organizations that represent state and local health departments. Kirsten Siemmering has also joined the program and came from Wisconsin AHEC. Pat Remington described how much attention is being received on the County Health Rankings. The CDC is looking towards funding this project and the Institute has talked with people in all 50 states. A report is planned to be released in February.

Ayaz Samadani discussed MPH students shadowing in the hospital and clinical practices for public health training. Pat Remington talked about a meeting with approximately 25 people from

around the nation whose goal is to integrate medicine with public health. The discussion was not just the Health Rankings but also ideas for the partnership and in which major changes in curriculum are being suggested. Pat Remington will be teaching the first year medical course and noted how much more aware the students are of medicine and health care reform. Pat Remington noted that Rep. Chuck Benedict has an intern in his office who is an MD/MPH student, who typically would have done an elective in a community clinic or underserved community.

Health Policy Unit

Donna Friedsam discussed the range of activities of this unit. The Medicaid/BadgerCare Plus evaluation is continuing as one of the 12 national grantees. Their early findings were highlighted in the last Issue Brief. A poster was presented at the Population Health 50th Anniversary Symposium, a presentation was done at the Academy of Health, an abstract will be presented at the APPAM conference in November and a manuscript is being worked on for the Health Services Research supplement. A proposal was submitted by DHS under the HRSA state health access program and this unit will fund the five-year evaluation component of the Core Plan Coverage. The summary of this plan was outlined in the handouts. A new hire, Kristen Voskuil, will be the analyst for the project.

The Evidence-Based Health Policy was refunded by the Partnership Fund at a 20% reduction as were all of their grantees. Donna Friedsam noted that the October 8th briefing titled *Paying for Effectiveness: What are Wisconsin Purchasers Doing*, attended by Representatives Pasch and Benedict and over 100 others, entailed a great dialogue on the issues. A new program coordinator, Liz Feder, began on September 1st.

Donna Friedsam was asked by Arvid Tillmar for her opinion of the progress being made with the Tribal-Academic Partnership Program. Donna Friedsam said they do a lot of good programming but do have a lot of turnover among the health directors and this is one of the most challenging populations in the State. It was suggested that specific questions regarding Lac de Flambeau and the other tribes can be obtained from their websites, from the GLITCH or Donna Friedsam can connect relevant people to respond to questions.

Evaluation Research Unit

Paul Moberg highlighted the most recent updates. This unit is doing a lot of work for the Department of Health Services, including mental health services evaluation. They are also doing a lot of work in health promotion. The FIT WIC-FIT project, which is working with women, infants and children in nutrition sites around the State and is funded by the Wisconsin Partnership Fund, is coming up with fairly positive results with changing nutrition behaviors among the children that are on the WIC program. Additional funding is coming from the USDA to continue the work in this program

A lot of national attention is being directed to the Recovery Schools project. Two proposals are pending on formulating research outcomes on alternative and charter schools with Vanderbilt University and the University of Minnesota.

The expansion of SBIRT was discussed and how the funding affects the capabilities of the programs for substance abuse and others. There are 20 communities that are initiating substance abuse prevention and they are overlapping with some of the communities participating with Healthy Wisconsin Leadership Institute. A senior scientist, Doug Piper, has been added to the SPF-SIG program. He formerly worked for Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation and will be working with the South Dakota site.

A number of programs with the corrections and drug courts, primarily focusing on behavioral health issues in the correctional system, will be funded. A new project, the Milwaukee Offender Reentry Project, deals with behavioral issue in the transition back to the community. Ayaz Samadani commented on the substance abuse from a clinical point of view and asked if a program has looked at parameters at pain clinics and the habit-forming drugs used. Paul Moberg reported there is a pain research group headed by Dr. David Jorgensen from the SMPH who is looking nationally on this issue of appropriate pain relief.

The group discussed initiatives in the legislature on alcohol and drug addiction and on corrections.

Education and Training Unit

Paul Moberg reported the status on behalf of Marion Ceraso, who is in Spain for a year. The Healthy Wisconsin Leadership Institute works with community groups to develop leadership skills to work on local health issues and they graduated seven teams this past September and another nine teams have been picked up this Fall. The other program is the Population Health Fellowship Program which brings in MPH graduates and places them in community settings with preceptors and a link to the academic world. Their activities are outlined in the handouts which also show placements of former fellows.

Pat Remington added that the Fellowship Program is a very active, well-supported and low cost program done in partnership with the Medical College of Wisconsin. He did note that the current class is reduced because of the endowment loss and he did not think it will increase back to five for at least another year. We are currently recruiting for three fellows. The two organizations who currently lead this effort are the Milwaukee County Health Department and the State Health Department. He hopes this will be promoted once the Partnership is more able to fund. The program has been successful in having people work in local and state health departments. Paul Moberg added that approximately 40% stay in Wisconsin. Pat Remington described a change in the recruitment in that they are asking the question “Why do you want to come to Wisconsin?” The funders requested this information to as a way to further develop the Wisconsin workforce.

Institute Director

The process for filling the position of Director is currently looking at funding commitments within the SMPH to search for a mid-career person that has an appropriate mix of academic credentials to serve as tenured faculty member and knows how to work in the real world and can

bridge those two worlds and has a commitment to the work in the Institute and its goals. A position description is being worked on and hopefully by next Fall this position will be filled by a person who has an appropriate mix of academic and applied population health interest. Pat Remington discussed the endowment fund, which is the conversion fund of Blue Cross/Blue Shield, which previously funded \$20 million a year to Population Health. They are not currently willing to fund any new initiatives until cash reserves are built up.

Ayaz Samadani asked if a program of Friends of the Institute could be initiated. The Institute has not done this in the past but this could be a future agenda item. Paul Moberg said it would be nice to have funding stream which is not product specific which would increase flexibility.

Advisory Board for Public Health

Pat Remington said he is currently teaching six credits this Fall so some of the Acting Dean duties have not been a focus. He has not had a discussion with the Dean about receiving advice on the transformation from the broad community. A discussion was held on how the School gets advice. The question is if the School is proposing activities and initiatives in transforming its education, research and service mission, how does it get feedback? Right now it uses national advisory committees which were instrumental in the development of the transformation plan and in recruitment. The question is, during implementation, do we go back to them or seek another type of group for specific activities. It goes beyond the role of the Institute to the education mission and research mission. For the next meeting, the transition to the SMPH could be brought to the agenda.

Funding and Staffing

Paul Moberg noted that the updates in staff have been discussed in the individual program reporting. The funding has changed from last year to this year due to the large infusion from RWJ.

BadgerCare Plus Program

Donna Friedsam introduced Tom DeLeire, an economist, who has an appointment in the Population Health Sciences and LaFollette School of Public Affairs. He has worked in a Congressional Budget of Office and in the Council of Economic Advisors in the Whitehouse under President Bush. He is working as a Principal Investigator for BadgerCare Plus analyses. Tom DeLeire presented and discussed the slides for the Wisconsin's BadgerCare Plus Coverage Expansion: Early Evaluation Results. The data in the slides presented information through May of 2009. This project is collaboration between the Institute and the Department of Health Services.

Details and updated products from the BadgerCare Plus evaluation are posted at the following page:
<http://uwphi.pophealth.wisc.edu/healthPolicy/badgerCarePlus.htm>