

Evaluation Research Unit

Summary of Programs and Activities: February 2010

Mental Health Services Evaluation

1. Evaluation of state-funded children's mental health programs: evaluation of child- and system-level outcomes of 36 programs that use a wraparound, integrated approach to serving children with mental health disorders.
2. State data collection systems: Analyst for improving the design of state mental health data collection systems and analyzing data for prevalence, consumer outcomes, service utilization, and costs.
3. Monitoring and reporting of state mental health indicators for federal reporting: manage and analyze mental health consumer data from multiple state MH data systems to report on the status of the MH system for federal and state reporting purposes. Manage an annual statewide MH consumer satisfaction survey.
4. Funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services through the WI DHS, Bureau of Prevention, Treatment and Recovery. (Connor)

Health Promotion

1. **FIT WIC-FIT Families:** Evaluation of child obesity prevention involving parents, WIC staff, and community partners at Wisconsin WIC Association Projects in six counties. Funded by the Wisconsin Partnership Fund. After one year, children in the intervention group, but not in the comparison group, had increased fruits and vegetables, decreased juice, and decreased screen time. A new grant from the USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (formerly known as Food Stamp Education), will continue Fit Families for another year in four counties, with the potential for future expansion. (FitzGerald)
2. **Wisconsin Partnership for Childhood Fitness:** Consultation and evaluation regarding school-based fitness assessment and programming, in collaboration with Dept. of Pediatrics. Funded by the Wisconsin Partnership Fund. (Paul Moberg, John Bowser)
3. **Youth Risk Behavior Survey:** Brief topical summaries of 2009 YRBS data under development for Department of Public Instruction website. (Moberg, Bowser, Jovaag).

Health Care Systems Evaluation

1. **Wisconsin Collaborative Diabetes Quality Improvement Project:** Evaluation/QI program with Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set (HEDIS) measures for diabetes care, cardiovascular care, cancer screening, and asthma care from Wisconsin HMO Collaborators. Funded by CDC via WI Diabetes Prevention and Control Program. (FitzGerald, Gallagher)
2. Clinical Translational Science Award (CTSA), **UW Institute for Clinical Translational Research (ICTR):** Articulating and implementing the program evaluation plan for the UW's NIH infrastructure grant, overseeing the work of Jan Hogle, Ph.D. who is coordinating this evaluation at ICTR. Paul Moberg is ICTR's Assistant Director for Evaluation.
3. **Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program Integration:** Working with Wisconsin DHS to evaluate federally-sponsored efforts to integrate chronic disease services. Funded by the CDC as part of a multi-site program. (Bergum, Jovaag)

Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment

1. **Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Prevention and Intervention Project:** CDC funded surveillance and brief intervention program ended Sept. 2009. Further analysis and articles under preparation. (Moberg, Bowser)
2. **Continuing Care for High School Students with Drug Abuse:** R21 grant from NIDA has ended; now preparing articles and presentations. NIDA R01 and Dept. of Education IES proposals were submitted in October in collaboration with investigators at Vanderbilt and Univ. of Minnesota for further work in this area. Resubmission of R01 due March 20. (Moberg).

3. **Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral and Treatment (SBIRT)** project, known as the Wisconsin Initiative to Promote Healthy Lifestyles (WIPHL) – continuing six-month follow-up with patients to determine how the program may have changed their lifestyle. Funded by SAMHSA. (Moberg, Piper, Lecoanet, Linnan, Goodrich)
4. **Strategic Prevention Framework-State Incentives Grant (SPF-SIG)**. Working with the state DHS-DMHSAS and 20 local programs on a wide range of epidemiological and evaluation tasks related to community-based substance abuse prevention efforts. Added South Dakota site under direction of Doug Piper, PhD, staff scientist. Funded by SAMHSA. (Moberg, Lecoanet, Jovaag, Niemuth, Linnan, Black, Bowser).

American Indian Partnership Projects

1. **Honoring Our Children (HOC)**: Ongoing evaluation of MCH indicators and program services for a Healthy Start Project that provides outreach, health education, case management and consortia building to reduce infant mortality in 8 tribal communities. Funded by HRSA, DHHS via Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council (GLITC).(FitzGerald)
2. **Honoring Our Families**: Evaluation of a Healthy Marriage Initiative that offers focus groups, case management, curricula, workshops, and mentoring to support healthy family relationships. Funded by the Administration for Native Americans via GLITC. (FitzGerald)
3. **HOC Urban/Rural Outreach Project**: Evaluation of HOC expansion to increase project staff at existing sites and establish a Milwaukee site. Funded by the Wisconsin Partnership Fund. (FitzGerald)
4. **Tribal Academic Partnership**: Evaluation technical assistance for the Great Lakes Native American Research Center for Health, other GLITC programs, and individual tribal health programs. Funded by UWSMPH. (FitzGerald)
5. **Healthy Children Strong Families/Supportive Communities**: Evaluation consultation for a child obesity prevention program in three tribal communities. The process evaluation includes a survey to assess the community based participatory research component. Funded by NHLBI and Wisconsin Partnership Fund via Family Medicine, with Alex Adams, MD, PI. (FitzGerald)

Corrections and Drug Court

1. **Sawyer County OWI Diversion and Monitoring**: Providing technical assistance to the Sawyer County Department of Health and Human Services in the evaluation of a program providing intensive supervision for second and subsequent OWI offenders (Van Stelle)
2. **Evaluation of Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) Programs**: Process and outcome evaluation of the seven-site WI Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) Program funded by Wisconsin Department of Corrections, WI Department of Health Services, and the WI Office of Justice Assistance; includes database development and implementation, collection of electronic outcomes data, and preparation and release of annual report of criminal recidivism outcomes. (Van Stelle, Goodrich)
3. **Study of Probation/Parole Revocation in Wisconsin**: Policy and practice evaluation of probation and parole revocation due to technical violation. Collaboration with the Justice Reinvestment Initiative conducted by the Council of State Governments. Multiple presentations of policy findings and recommendations. (Van Stelle, Goodrich)
4. **Milwaukee Offender Reentry Project**: Process and outcome evaluation of comprehensive prisoner reentry project to link returning inmates to substance abuse and mental health treatment upon release. A three-year project in collaboration with the Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division and funded by the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment. (Van Stelle, Goodrich)

Health Disparities

“**What Works: Reducing Health Disparities in Wisconsin Communities.**” Three-year, collaborative project with DHFS, funded through the Wisconsin Partnership Fund. Our strategies include identifying and disseminating information about evidence-based practices with potential for improving health in these communities and recognizing, developing and supporting promising practices already underway. (Moberg, Eberle, Halverson)

Internal and External Service Work Performed by Evaluation Team

- Board of Governors for the UW-ICTR (ex officio)
- CTSA National Consortium--Evaluation Key Function Committee
- Department of Corrections Earned Release Program Oversight Committee
- Department of Corrections Prisoner Reentry Initiative
- Governor's Policy Steering Committee for WIPHL
- Honoring Our Children Project Advisory Committee
- Native American Health Working Group
- MERC
- MR-IRB
- Operation Fresh Start
- Prairielands Addiction Technology Transfer Center (U of Iowa)
- Prevention Committee of the State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse
- Secure Public Health Electronic Record Environment (SPHERE) Lead Team
- Treatment Alternatives and Diversion Program Advisory Committee
- UW Medical Education and Research Committee
- Wisconsin Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Statewide Task Force
- Wisconsin Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) Steering Committee
- WI Association of Treatment Court Professionals
- WI Medicaid Pay for Performance Tobacco Cessation Advisory Group
- WI Partnership Program Evaluation Implementation Committee

Population Health Assessment Unit

Summary of Programs and Activities: February 2010

Mobilizing Action Toward Community Health (MATCH)

The *County Health Rankings* for all 50 states were successfully released on February 17 at www.countyhealthrankings.org, following extensive community engagement and outreach activities. The web site had over 120,000 unique visitors on the day of release and there was extensive coverage of the *Rankings* in national, state, and local media. Numerous discussions are beginning in response to this “call to action”—our next challenge will be in tracking the activities that follow.

A number of other activities are also underway, investigating partnerships and other organizational arrangements and incentives for population health improvement. In addition, many of the 23 essays commissioned to address on one of three broad population health improvement topics (metrics, partnerships, and incentives) will appear in a series of three issues of *Preventing Chronic Disease*, beginning in July 2010.

Making Wisconsin the Healthiest State

Current activities include

- Preparing an updated version of the Health of Wisconsin Report Card,
- Enhancing the online What Works for Health database (www.whatworksforhealth.wisc.edu), adding new programs as they are identified as well as updating evidence of their effectiveness; where available, adding evidence of the relative cost effectiveness of those programs and policies, and
- Developing community engagement activities, including collaboration with the development of the *2020 Wisconsin State Health Plan*, integration with other UW Population Health Institute activities, and development of a more comprehensive statewide communications strategy.

Network for Health Equity in Wisconsin (NHEW)

We are assisting in a new project in conjunction with other faculty and researchers in the Department of Population Health Sciences related to the *Survey of the Health of Wisconsin*, a population-based sample of Wisconsin residents providing data on a broad range of sociodemographic, environmental, behavioral, psychosocial and biological factors, and community characteristics. Specifically, we will be sharing data from our County Health Rankings to provide a linked, multilayered data system on population health determinants and outcomes with data from SHOW and the Wisconsin Collaborative for Health Care Quality. We will also be making use of the *What Works for Health* database to assist with building an inventory of state and community-level programs and policies to assess “natural experiments” and identify those that can effectively influence cardiovascular and respiratory health disparities.

National Opinion Survey on Health and Health

This study was designed to increase understanding of general knowledge and attitudes about health and health disparities, and to determine which socioeconomic policy areas are viewed as important for improving health and reducing health disparities. Two papers have been submitted for publication and other publications are in development.

Catalysts for Action Toward Community Health (CATCH)

This Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) funded project is coming to a close. Data analysis and report preparation are underway to determine whether the project has had any impact on building awareness of the multiple determinants of health and catalyzing action toward community health improvement.

Health Policy Unit

D. Friedsam, Director

Summary of Programs and Activities: February 2010

Medicaid/BadgerCare Plus

- Completed work on the RWJF state health reform evaluation (SHARE) program, supporting evaluation of BC+ program in partnership with DHS.
 - Continue DHS contract to study affordability and crowd-out on BC+.
 - Presented paper at APPAM November conference.
 - Submitted manuscript for HSR special supplement.
 - Preparing manuscript for Health Affairs focusing on auto-enrollment.
 - Conducting analysis of on-line applicants and impact on take-up.
- Launched new contract work to evaluate Core Plan for Adults without Dependent Children. Project funded for a five years.
- Kristen Voskuil began as new researcher/data manager.
- RWJF SHARE issue brief published in October.
- Daphne Kuo began as part-time Assistant Scientist.

Evidence-Based Health Policy

- Programs conducted:
 - October 8: Paying for Effectiveness: What are Wisconsin Purchasers Doing?
 - January 6: Michele Issel – Methods Exchange on Infant Mortality Reduction
 - February 25: Elliott Fisher – Accountable Care Organizations
 - March 3: Scope of Practice – How Should States Decide
 - April 12: Federal Health Reform Legislation: What Do Wisconsin Legislators Do Now?
- Collaborated with Dr. Jonathan Patz to submit a proposal to RWJF/PEW for the Health Impact Assessment initiative, focusing on the Great Lakes regional transit plan.

WI Collaborative for Healthcare Quality

- Launched collaboration to analyze variation in diabetes care and racial variation in amputation rates in Wisconsin.
- Submitted proposal to RWJF for the Finding Answers to racial disparities initiative, in collaboration with Access Community Health Centers.
- Submitted Baldwin Endowment Letter of Intent to engage quality improvement component.

Institute Issue Brief Series Overall content review and editing.

- Published Tiffany Diage. *Menu Calorie Postings in Restaurants, Policy Intervention to Treat and Prevent Obesity*

ICTR-CAP

- Designated as major partner, with lead responsibility for the health policy component.
- Presented to the External Advisory Board of Northwestern University's CTSA Community-Engaged Research Center (CERC).

Monthly E-News: Graduate student drafting; staff final edits and publication

External Affairs Represent the Institute with appointments on several government and industry committees including Wisconsin BadgerCare Plus Advisory Committee, WCHQ Aligning Forces for Quality initiative, and the WI Hospital Association Quality Steering Committee.

Tribal-Academic Partnership Program

- Represent the UW SMPH in partnership with the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council and Wisconsin Tribal Health Directors Association.
- Entered into contractual partnership with UW's new Collaborative Center on Health Equity (CCHE).

Education and Training Unit

Summary of Programs and Activities: March 11, 2010

First Monday Seminar Series

The Institute offers monthly seminars on public health and health policy topics. The Spring 2010 schedule includes:

- February** **Jonathan Patz**, MD, MPH, Professor and Director, Global Environmental Health and Population Health Sciences, Nelson Institute Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment (SAGE), University of Wisconsin, ***“Climate Change and Health: Why Energy Policy Decisions Could Be Our Largest Population Health Intervention this Century”***
- March** **Guy Boulton**, Reporter, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, ***“Covering Health Care Reform”***
- April** **Margot Wooten**, D.Sc., Director of Nutrition Policy, Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI), Washington, DC, ***“It Takes More than Willpower: Supporting Americans’ Efforts to Eat Well and Watch Their Weight.”***

Healthy Wisconsin Leadership Institute:

- The Healthy Wisconsin Leadership Institute was created in 2005 to develop collaborative leaders who engage in innovative community health improvement activities to protect and promote the health of the public.

- The Leadership Institute has reached over 900 practitioners to date with its programming.

- **Programs offered include:**

The Community Teams Program: A year-long applied learning program to facilitate the development of collaborative leadership and public health skills among teams committed to mobilizing their communities to identify and solve health problems

Regional Workshops: To reduce distance, time and cost barriers, workshops are offered at low or no cost in one-day formats across the state on topics relevant to local public health practice. This has included workshops on community organizing, policy approaches to health improvement, media advocacy, coaching and mentoring, and conflict management.

Online Learning Library: Modules, tools and links to support distance learning in public health and leadership.

- **Leadership Institute Highlights:**

A record nine teams are participating in the Community Teams Program this year:

- Challenge Chippewa
- Eau Claire Childhood Nutrition Coalition
- Greater Green Bay Cancer Network
- Green Lake Area Health and Wellness Coalition
- Healthy Lifestyles Calumet County
- Milwaukee Consortium for Hmong Health
- Polk County Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition
- Tobacco Free and Drug Free Communities Coalition of Winnebago County
- Urban Indian Wellness Consortium – Milwaukee

- Participants in the Leadership Institute’s Community Teams Program represent a diversity of sectors including non-profit, governmental, academic, business and local public health.
- Program evaluations have shown that participation in the program increases knowledge and application of learning, particularly in the areas of coalition building and collaborative leadership, the social ecological model of health, evidence-based public health, understanding leadership styles, effective communication, and teambuilding.
- Participating teams report outcomes including:
 - Policy and program implementation
 - Expansion of preventive services
 - Increased media coverage
 - Strengthened community coalitions
 - Increased grant funding

Wisconsin Population Health Fellowship Program:

- The Wisconsin Population Health Fellowship Program is a two-year public health service learning program that was initiated in 2004 to contribute to workforce development in Wisconsin by training the next generation of public health professionals.

Fellows and Community-Based Service Learning Sites to Date

Class	Fellow	Community Service	Current Position	Location
1	Alison Gustafson	Dane Co. HD	PhD	UNC
	Benjamin Jones*	MHD	Epidemiologist	Waukesha Co. HD
2	Deannah Byrd	MHD/ACS	PhD Student	UCLA
	David Garcia	MHD	Comm. Educator	FHCRC- Seattle
	Matthew Landis	DPH	Law Student	Hamline Law School
	Pa Chia Vue	La Crosse Co. HD	Wellness Coordinator	Hmong Am. Assn. MN
3	Morgan Alexander-Young	MHD	Researcher	UIC
	Casey Schumann*	DPH	Epidemiologist	DPH
	Sabrina Smiley	MHD/Planned Parenthood	PhD Student	Howard U. DC
	Jessica Tobin*	Center for Resilient Cities	Prog. Coordinator	CCPH Milwaukee
	Melissa Olson*	Southern Reg. Office-DPH	Epidemiologist	DPH
4	Traici Brockman*	DPH	Analyst	DHS
	Suzanne Gaulocher*	PH Mad/Dane	PhD Student	UW-Madison
	Carrie Henning-Smith	MKE Aging/S.E.T. Ministry	ESL teacher	Shanghai, China
	Amanda Schultz	MHD/Core El Centro	Community Volunteer	Solar Energy Project - Honduras

5	Evan Cole Marjory Givens Courtenay Kessler Kate Konkle Samantha Perry	Div. HCAcc/Accountability DPH MHD/Task Force Fam. Viol. DPH - Eau Claire MHD/March of Dimes		
6	Sara Kazmierczak Raisa Koltun Marisa Stanley	DPH/WPHCA MHD/Core el Centro DPH		

* Working in Wisconsin post completion of Fellowship

Fellowship Highlights:

- The University of Wisconsin Oversight and Advisory Committee to the Wisconsin Partnership Program has approved funding for four new Fellows. Recruitment is nearly complete to place four Fellows in community-based service learning placements for June 2010-May 2012.
- Fellows bring skills and conduct projects across all areas of public health competencies, including:
 - Analysis and recommendations for public health financing in Wisconsin
 - Data collection for community health improvement
 - Project and grant development leading to a larger public health “pie” in Wisconsin
 - Literature reviews and analyses: infant mortality, health care professional shortages, quality improvement in public health agencies and the built environment and health
 - Scholarly publications and presentations at state and national conferences
 - Intervention programs to improve health and wellbeing of the elderly in Milwaukee County
 - Participation in planning for and response to H1N1
- In the Fellowship Program’s annual evaluation, preceptors and Fellows describe the contributions the program makes to agencies and communities where Fellows are placed, as exemplified in this quote:

“Your program helped us to improve the quality of our programs and create better outcomes in the community. Especially because we work in a community that faces great health and economic disparities... the partnership was of extreme importance for us and our population.”