

Iowa Department of Public Health

✓ The Check-Up

An update on issues and ideas related to health reform in Iowa

The Check-Up is a monthly health care reform newsletter designed to keep interested Iowans up to date on the progress of health reform initiatives assigned to IDPH.

The Check-Up will feature updates on activities of active health reform councils and other activities as authorized by [HF 2539](#) (2008).

The Check-Up will be archived on the main IDPH Health Care Reform Website at http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hcr_committees/

Prevention and Chronic Care Management Advisory Council

May/June 2010

Websites

Advisory Councils

[Electronic Health Information](#)

[Medical Home](#)

[Health and Long-Term Care Access](#)

[Prevention and Chronic Care Management](#)

[Direct Care Worker](#)

[Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Nutrition](#)

[Patient Autonomy in Health Care Decisions Pilot Project \(IPOLST\)](#)

Other Iowa HCR Activities

[Iowa Healthy Communities Initiative](#)

[Small Business Qualified Wellness Program Tax Credit Plan](#)

The Prevention and Chronic Care Management (PCCM) Advisory Council Initial Report is available [here](#). Their issue brief on "Chronic Disease Management" is available [here](#). Another issue brief on "Disease Registries" is almost finalized and is being developed collaboratively by the PCCM Advisory Council, the Medical Home System Advisory Council, and the eHealth Advisory Council. The next issue brief produced by the PCCM Advisory Council will be on "Prevention".

Ed Wagner, who developed the [Chronic Care Model](#), will be receiving the University of Iowa's Public Policy Center Forkenbrock Series and the College of Public Health's Hansen Award. A conference will be held on **October 27th** in Iowa City to present Ed Wagner with this award. The PCCM Council staff is assisting in the coordination of this event.

The Council has broken into two subgroups- one representing Chronic Disease Management and the other representing Prevention. The main focus of the subgroups is the new legislation charged to the Council-

- The [Chronic Disease Management Subgroup](#) is focusing on [SF 2356](#) to develop a plan to coordinate care for individuals with diabetes who receive care through community health centers (CHC), rural health clinics, free clinics, and other safety nets. The plan may include a diabetic registry to provide drugs and to collect data to assist providers in tracking the care of their patients with diabetes. As a first step, focus groups will be conducted through the CHCs to determine the barriers that people with diabetes face. The first focus group has been completed and took place in Marshalltown.
- The [Prevention Subgroup](#) is focusing on [HF 2144](#) to submit recommendations by December 15, 2011 on strategies to collect and provide statistically accurate data concerning chronic disease in multicultural groups of racial and ethnic diversity in the state. Following implementation of the strategies and collection of data, the council shall also make evidence-based recommendations to the director to address and reduce identified disparities.

Next Meeting: June 24th 10:00 -3:00 at YMCA Healthy Living Center

Electronic Health Information Advisory Council

The Iowa e-Health Strategic and Operational Plan has been submitted to the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC). The plan, developed by the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) in conjunction with the e-Health Executive Committee and Advisory Council, is an important milestone and required component of the ONC State HIE Cooperative Agreement program. This program will provide \$8,375,000 to Iowa e-Health over the next four years to implement Iowa's statewide health information exchange (HIE).

The Iowa e-Health Strategic and Operational Plan is available for public comment and feedback at www.idph.state.ia.us/ehealth/reports.asp.

In related news, IDPH recently released two Requests for Proposals (RFP) for the following Iowa e-Health activities:

- The Business and Financial Sustainability Plan RFP is available at <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/IdphGBP/IdphGBP.aspx>. Proposals are due July 7, 2010.
- The Iowa Statewide Health Information Exchange (services and technology) RFP is available at http://bidopportunities.iowa.gov/index.php?pgname=viewrfp&rfp_id=5024. Letters of intent are due by July 2nd; and proposals are due by 3:00pm on July 22nd.

Next Meetings: June 18th 10:00 – 2:00 at Des Moines University
August 6th 8:30am – 12:30pm at the Hoover State Office Building

Medical Home System Advisory Council

The Medical Home System Advisory Council's Progress Report #2 is now finalized and is available [here](#). Progress Report #1 is available [here](#).

On June 2nd, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released details on the Multi-payer Advanced Primary Care Practice Demonstration. This information (available [here](#)) includes:

- Demonstration Fact Sheet
- Solicitation for the Demonstration
- Summary of Eligibility Requirements
- Demonstration Q & As

Under this demonstration, CMS will participate in multi-payer reform initiatives that are currently being conducted by states to make advanced primary care practices more broadly available. The demonstration will evaluate whether advanced primary care practice will reduce unjustified utilization and expenditures, improve the safety, effectiveness, timeliness, and efficiency of health care, increase patient decision-making and increase the availability and delivery of care in underserved areas. To be eligible, states will need to demonstrate that they can meet certain requirements, including having a state agency responsible for implementing the program, being ready to make payments to participating practices six months after being selected for participation, and having mechanisms in place to connect patients to community-based resources. CMS anticipates making awards to up to six states and will perform an independent evaluation. Iowa will be submitting a letter of intent.

The Birth to Five Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) Pilot Project is underway. The project seeks to develop a model for a community based utility that will comprehensively serve children 0-5 to address their specific needs by providing a PCMH. The awarded applicant is Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa (VNS of Iowa) partnering with Iowa Health Physicians Walnut Creek Pediatrics. VNS of Iowa will serve as the community utility and Walnut Creek Pediatrics will serve as the pediatric healthcare provider. The project will provide an understanding of the requirements to create a PCMH for children working with other community providers and resources.

The Council is collaborating with Medicaid in the development the IowaCare Expansion, established in [SF 2356](#). The expansion will phase in Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) to provide primary health care services to the IowaCare population and to comply with certification requirements of a Medical Home. Initially, the FQHC's will be required the meet a set of medical home minimum standards. IDPH will draft and adopt rules for certification.

A large focus of the June 30th meeting will be to discuss a pediatric medical home system suitable for Iowa.

Next Meeting: June 30th 10:00-2:00 at the Urbandale Public Library

Health and Long-Term Care Access Advisory Council

The Phase 1 Strategic Plan for Health Care Delivery Infrastructure and Health Care Workforce Resources is available [here](#).

The Council is focused on sharing information and resources, integrating its work with other existing efforts, and assuring the progress occurs with the strategic plan. The Council's mandate for a Strategic Plan includes a specific requirement for a rural health care resources plan. The May meeting included a joint meeting session with the [Rural Health and Primary Care Advisory Committee](#). The session provided information to each group about the history, functions and initiatives of the other. Michelle Holst provided an [overview](#) of the Health and Long-Term Care Access Advisory Council and Dr. Laine Dvorak, Chair, provided an [overview](#) of the Rural Health and Primary Care Advisory Committee. State Office of Rural Health Director, Gloria Vermie, provided [information](#) about the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services.

Lynh Patterson [updated](#) the Council and the Committee on results of Iowa's legislative session.

The Council held a focused conversation about additional related activities and potentials for collaboration including the Iowa Physician Task Force, the Iowa Collaborative Safety Net Network, the process for Community Health Needs Assessment and Health Improvement Plans (CHNA/HIP), Area Health Education Centers and others.

Work at IDPH to implement the Phase 1 Strategic Plan and complete the 2012 Strategic Plan is also very active. Among the activities are drafting Iowa Code language per Objective 2 in the Plan and setting interim deadlines toward completion of the sub-plans required for the 2012 Plan.

[Next Meeting: August 26th 10:30 – 3:00 at TBD](#)

Direct Care Worker Advisory Council

The Direct Care Worker Advisory Council report is available [here](#).

The Iowa Legislature this year set a target date of July 1, 2014 for establishment of a Board of Direct Care Workers with a goal of certifying qualified direct care workers in Iowa. To adequately prepare for eventual implementation of a credentialing system and Board, the Council and Department have been charged by the Iowa Legislature with the following:

- Document the size of the direct care workforce. Identify what workforce data is currently being collected, who is currently collecting the data, the gaps in existing data, and the collection methods necessary to address such gaps.
- Identify the information management system required to facilitate credentialing of direct care workers and estimate the costs of development and maintenance of the system.
- Report the results of any pilot relating to and evaluating the recommendations of the advisory council that address direct care worker training, credentialing, and curricula.
- Continue developing an education and outreach campaign to direct care workers and other stakeholders regarding the Council's recommendations and eventual implementation of credentialing.
- Make recommendations regarding the functions and composition of the board of direct care workers, as well as other aspects of the credentialing system, including the timeframe for credentialing and the estimated costs of establishing and maintaining board operations.

The Council submitted a Strategic Plan to the Department on May 14, 2010; The plan provides recommendations for implementing a pilot to test the education, training, and credentialing recommendations of the Council. It includes details regarding a timeframe, geographic targets, workforce targets, types and modes of education, and technology needs to include in a pilot project. In addition, the Council highlighted the importance of incentives for participation and significant outreach to all stakeholders. The Plan also provides an interesting overview of the history of Council discussions over the last five years and rationale for the current recommended system of training and credentialing. The Strategic Plan can be found [here](#).

The activities outlined by the legislation and the Strategic Plan will dictate the activities of the Council during the next year. Meetings are tentatively scheduled for the second Thursday of every month beginning in July.

[Next Meeting: June 28th 10:00- 3:00 at TBD](#)

Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Nutrition



The Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Nutrition (GCPFN) and IDPH staff met with the Executive Director of the President's Council on Physical Fitness. Information was shared on the President's Challenge and Live Healthy Iowa Kids/Governor's Challenge during the conference call. The GCPFN will discuss ways to collaborate with and promote the President's Challenge.

Youth Individual Challenge: The Live Healthy Iowa Kids/Governor's Challenge ended on April 28, 2010 with more than 10,700 Iowa youth participating. During the 100 day challenge, teams tracked their physical activity, television time, and fruit, vegetable, low-fat milk and water intake. Supporting classroom activities that align with the Iowa Core Curriculum were available. For more information click [here](#).

School Challenge: The Governor's Council has agreed to support the criteria of the USDA's HealthierUS School Challenge. Visit [here](#) for the HealthierUS School Challenge criteria. The Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Nutrition has developed 12 strength training exercises, in instructional picture format, for use as a resource. The exercises have been posted [here](#).

Healthy Iowa Awards: The Council partnered with the Wellness Council of Iowa to provide Healthy Iowa awards for communities, schools, colleges, and visionaries in 2009. The 2010 Healthy Iowa Awards Ceremony will be held September 23, 2010. Applications are posted at the Wellness Council of Iowa Web site <http://www.wellnessiowa.org>

Next Meeting: July 29th Location TBD

Iowa Healthy Communities Initiative

Project directors for the 2010-11 Community Wellness Grants attended a coalition building training offered by the Prevention Research Center for Rural Health through the University of Iowa. Attendees participated in the interactive training and received a Community Organizing in Rural Environments resource. As a result of the training, Community Wellness Grant projects will have the tools to increase the capacity of their local coalition. Coalitions are one of the components of the Iowa Community Wellness Grant model to build sustainability of the health promotion initiatives.

The 2009-10 Community Wellness Grant project coordinators attended a sustainability training offered by the IDPH Health Promotion staff on April 28th.

For a brief description of the 2009-10 Community Wellness Grants, click [here](#).
To view a map of the 2009-10 Community Wellness Grant projects, click [here](#)
To view a map of the 2010-11 Community Wellness Grant projects, click [here](#)

Pictured is Dr. Theresa Armstead of the University of Iowa Prevention Research Center presenting at a Community Wellness Grantee training.



Small Business Qualified Wellness Program Tax Credit Plan

Click [here](#) for a copy of the plan. A small business worksite wellness toolkit is being developed as part of a separate, but supportive, project for the Iowans Fit for Life worksite wellness initiative. The toolkit is projected to be completed by Fall of 2010.

Patient Autonomy in Health Care Decisions in Pilot Project Advisory Council (IPOST)

The final report of the Patient Autonomy in Health Care Decisions Pilot Project is available [here](#)

The outreach work in Jones County has begun with the first of two trainings completed and the second scheduled for July. Two town hall meetings will be held in Jones to tell the community what IPOST is all about and a Medical Staff meeting is scheduled for July 14 to provide an opportunity for the physicians in Linn to explain their process to the physicians in Jones and answer any questions they might have. On October 19th and 20th they are convening a meeting and bringing Linda Briggs, a nationally known POLST educator as keynote speaker. The start date for implementation in Jones County is November 1, 2010. The group has begun a newsletter and the first issue is scheduled for publication by July.