

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).

If you are interested in learning more about a specific council or project, at the end of this newsletter you will find a web link to more information including minutes, agendas handouts, and reports.

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

December
2009

Websites

Advisory Councils

[Electronic Health Information](#)

[Medical Home](#)

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

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

[Prevention and Chronic Care Management](#)

[Direct Care Worker](#)

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

Other Iowa HCR Activities

[Iowa Healthy Communities Initiative](#)

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

Electronic Health Information Advisory Council

Health information technology continues to gain momentum at state and national levels. Given the rapid advancement and complexities of health IT, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) recently created the "Health IT Buzz Blog," which will provide updates and information from the national perspective. To follow the Health IT Buzz Blog, visit <http://healthit.hhs.gov/blog/onc>.

During the November 2009 Executive Committee and Advisory Council meeting, the Executive Committee approved the Iowa e-Health Privacy and Security Report. In accordance with House File 811, 83rd General Assembly, Section 135, this report will be submitted to the Iowa Legislature by December 15th, providing an introduction to the privacy and security framework being developed by the Iowa e-Health Project. The report provides an overview of barriers to health information exchange (HIE), and six recommendations to overcome those barriers. [Click here](#) to view the full report or to learn more about the Iowa e-Health Project.

IDPH continues working with the Advisory Council, Executive Committee, and several workgroups in preparing the strategic and operational State Plan, which will be submitted to ONC early in 2010.

**Next Meetings: December 17th 10:00 -2:00 at West Des Moines Public Library
January 22nd 10:00 -2:00 at Grimes Building ICN Room (Des Moines)**

Medical Home System Advisory Council

The Medical Home System Advisory Council Progress Report #1 is available [here](#).

The December 9th Council meeting was cancelled due to weather. A rescheduled date will be determined, and it will be a 12:00 – 1:00 conference call. Information will be sent out and posted on the Council's website when a date is confirmed.

Medicare will be joining Medicaid and private insurers in a new 3 year demonstration project to improve the way healthcare is delivered. The public and private payers will be based on a model of primary-care delivery that's currently being tested in Vermont. Under this model, private insurers work in cooperation with Medicaid to set uniform standards for advanced primary-care models (medical home). This demonstration marks the first time Medicare will participate as a full partner in these experiments, where the practice model would align compensation offered by all insurers to primary-care physicians. The Council has agreed to move forward to develop a plan for application.

- The five overall goals of the demonstration are:
 1. Reduction of unjustified variation in utilization and expenditure
 2. Improvement in safety, timeliness, effectiveness, and efficiency
 3. Increased patient participation in decision making
 4. Increased access to evidence-based care in underserved areas
 5. Contribute to 'bending the curve' in Medicare/Medicaid expenditures

Iowa is applying for the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) Quality Demonstration Grant funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Iowa's application is titled *Navigating the Neighborhood: Improving Child Health Quality*. The project will be organized around a medical neighborhood model of care. The medical neighborhood approach will take place in two targeted Iowa communities, one rural and one urban. The application is due January 8th.

- The goal the grant is to establish and evaluate a national quality system for children's health care which encompasses care provided through the Medicaid program and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). It will:
 1. experiment with and evaluate the use of new and existing measures of quality for children covered by Medicaid & CHIP
 2. promote the use of health information technology (HIT) for delivery of care for children covered by Medicaid and CHIP
 3. evaluate provider-based models to improve the delivery of Medicaid and CHIP children's health care services;
 4. demonstrate the impact of the model electronic health record (EHR) format for children on improving pediatric health, and pediatric health care quality as well as reducing health care costs

Next Meeting: February 19th 10:00-3:00 at Urbandale Public Library

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

On November 6th, the IPOST Advisory Committee met to hear the progress and results of the Cedar Rapids Pilot Project and deliberate recommendations for the upcoming Legislative Session and the Governor. The local IPOST Committee recommended the extension of the pilot for another two years in order to more completely develop their community model and they recommended expanding the pilot into an adjacent rural community to more completely learn about the strategies necessary to implement IPOST in that environment.

The IPOST Advisory Council has been engaged on developing the report to be submitted to the Governor and Legislature in January 2010. The report will include the recommendations both of the local pilot committee and of the state Advisory Council. An executive summary will provide an overview of the total project and the project narrative will describe the movement of this work across the nation as well as the issues that are driving forces and barriers to implementation of this community based end of life decision making network.

Health and Long-Term Care Access Advisory Council

Phase 1 of the Strategic Plan for Health Care Delivery Infrastructure and Health Care Workforce Resources will be released very soon. Watch for it at http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hcr_committees/care_access.asp.

Next Meeting: January 28th 10:00 – 3:00 at the West Des Moines Learning Resource Center

Prevention and Chronic Care Management Advisory Council

The Prevention and Chronic Care Management Advisory Council Initial Report is available [here](#).

The Council met on December 4th in which a panel of mental health experts came to share important information and strategies to the Council. The Department of Aging presented to the Council their Iowa Healthy Links Chronic Disease Self-Management Program. It is a workshop given in a community setting, such as senior centers, churches, libraries and hospitals. Workshops are conducted by two trained leaders, one or both of whom have health conditions themselves or have a family member that does.

Also, at this meeting, the Chair of the Legislative Health Care Coverage Commission, Dr. David Carlyle, gave an overview of the Commission and ways to collaborate. For more information about the Legislative Health Care Coverage Commission, click [here](#).

The Council decided to develop issue briefs to expand on the six broad recommendations laid out in the initial report. The issue briefs will be very fundamental and informative, with added strategies for implementation. The first issue brief is an overview of chronic disease management. A major focus for their next meeting will be to determine the short-term and long-term next steps of the Council.

Next Meeting: February 5th 10:00 -3:00 at Urbandale Public Library

Direct Care Worker Advisory Council

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

The December 10th council meeting was cancelled due to weather, and there are no further updates at this time.

Next Meeting: TBA

Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Nutrition



Youth Individual Challenge: The Council is partnering with the Live Healthy Iowa Kids program through the Iowa Sports Foundation. New tracking posters were designed to add the healthy behaviors fruit, vegetable, water & milk and limiting screen time to the current physical activity tracking system. Supporting classroom lessons are being developed that align with the Iowa Core Curriculum. The Live Healthy Iowa Kids/Iowa Governor's Youth Challenge will begin in January, 2010.

School Challenge: The Governor's Council has agreed to support the criteria of the USDA's HealthierUS School Challenge ([click here](#)) for the school award. They have developed 12 core strength training exercises, in instructional picture format, for use as a resource to develop the physical activity criteria of the challenge. The exercises have been posted [here](#). Physical Education teachers have been asked to pilot the exercises and provide feedback.

Healthy Iowa Awards: The Council partnered with the Wellness Council of Iowa to provide Healthy Iowa awards for communities, schools, colleges, and visionaries. The 2009 award winners are listed below.

Healthy Iowa Visionary: Trent Unde and Larry Raymon of Raymon-Donco Air Distribution in Albion, Iowa.

Healthy Iowa Community: Linn County.

Healthy Iowa Emerging Leader Award Devin DeWeerd, a freshman at Iowa State University.

Healthy Iowa School Award: Waverly Shell Rock Junior High School.

Healthy Iowa College or University Award: University of Iowa.

The Governor's Council's new website is now active: www.healthyiowa.gov.

Next Meeting: December 10th location TBD

Iowa Healthy Communities Initiative

24 Community Wellness Grants have been awarded for the FY2009-2010 project period. Five additional communities were added for 2010-11 and additional grants are anticipated. The five additional counties receiving Community Wellness Grants include Wapello County, Jasper County, Hancock County, Floyd County and Montgomery County. HF 2539 funding and federal funding secured by Senator Tom Harkin were combined for the grant projects.

For a brief description of the 2009-10 Community Wellness Grants, click [here](#).

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 July of 2010.