

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/

February
2010

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Electronic Health Information Advisory Council

With great support from many public and private stakeholders, Iowa e-Health continues planning for Iowa's statewide health information exchange (HIE). The Office of National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) is reviewing each state's proposal for the State HIE Cooperative Agreement program. IDPH submitted this cooperative agreement application in October 2009, and anticipates a funding notice within the next 1 – 2 months. In order to receive HIE implementation funding, Iowa e-Health must submit an approved strategic and operational plan to ONC. This "state plan" is currently being developed with the help of the Executive Committee, Advisory Council, and several stakeholder workgroups.

In addition to the State HIE Cooperative Agreement program, ONC is currently awarding the Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center (HITREC) programs across the country. Iowa Foundation for Medical Care (IFMC) was recently designated as the HITREC for Iowa. IFMC has been an active participant in Iowa e-Health, with a representative on the Advisory Council, and several representatives on various workgroups. The Iowa HITREC will offer technical assistance and support to Iowa health care providers in adopting, implementing, and achieving meaningful use with their electronic health record systems.

To learn more about Iowa e-Health, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/ehealth.

**Next Meetings: February 19th 10:00 -2:00 at Grimes Building ICN Room (Des Moines)
March 26th 10:00 – 2:00 at Urbandale Public Library**

Medical Home System Advisory Council

The Medical Home System Advisory Council Progress Report #1 is available [here](#). The Council's Progress Report #2 is currently being developed and will describe the activities of the Council over the past year, as well as other Medical Home advances in the state, and next steps for the Council.

Notice of grant award for the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) Quality Demonstration Grant will be given by February 22nd, 2010. Iowa's application is organized around a medical neighborhood model of care and provides a foundational plan for moving forward a medical home system for Iowa children enrolled in Medicaid.

April 8th, 2010 is the scheduled date for Iowa's National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) technical assistance site visit. Iowa was chosen as one of eight states for the NASHP Consortium to Advance Medical Homes for Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Participants. The site visit will provide an opportunity for the MHSAC and partner organizations to receive technical assistance and learn from experts regarding the spread of the medical home concept.

The Council is awaiting future information from CMS on their Multi-payer Advanced Primary Care Practice Demonstration Project. The Council is moving forward and has been doing initial planning to prepare for the release by meeting with partners, insurers and national policy experts until further guidance is distributed by CMS.

At the February 26th meeting, the Council will discuss the results of the CHIPRA grant, the upcoming NASHP site visit, developing issue briefs, the Council's Annual Report, and next steps for the CMS Demonstration Project.

**Next Meeting: February 26th 10:00-2:00 at the State Library, Room 310
(Ola Babcock Miller Building)**

Prevention and Chronic Care Management Advisory Council

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

The Council met on February 5th at which time important next steps were decided. Prior to the meeting, council members completed an electronic survey concerning future work of the council and these results were discussed. It was decided that the Council will break into two subgroups – one representing Chronic Disease Management and the other representing Prevention. The Subgroups will meet the mornings of the Council meetings, and then come back as a full group in the afternoons. This structure will allow focused work but will also continue to keep the issues of Prevention and Chronic Care Management (PCCM) working together to promote a healthier population. A Council Chair and Co-Chair will be appointed, each representing a separate subgroup to assist staff in facilitation and planning of the meetings and to further promote PCCM issues in Iowa. The council is also revisiting their initial recommendations to see if they encompass all of the council's priorities.

The Disease Registry Workgroup has met to discuss what would be needed from a statewide chronic disease registry to help address chronic diseases in Iowa from a population level. The group agreed upon a robust registry that can track multiple chronic disease and prevention. It was also decided that the registry should be easy to use, affordable and have uniform measures.

PCCM Advisory Council staff is working with other chronic disease programs at IDPH and the Iowa Nebraska Primary Care Association to pilot a few chronic disease management and consumer engagement strategies at local community health centers (CHC). This collaboration may include access to chronic disease population data from the CHC's disease registry.

PCCM Advisory Council staff continues to monitor the work of the Legislative Health Care Coverage Commission and offer information and assistance as requested. The Commission completed their progress report to the General Assembly which summarizes the Commission's activities from September through December 2009. The report can be found [here](#).

The Council's first issue brief "Chronic Disease Management" is in the process of being finalized and will be available on their website soon. The purpose of the issues briefs are to expand on the six recommendations laid out in the initial report. The issue briefs will be very fundamental and informative, with added strategies for implementation. The next issue brief topic will be focusing on Disease Registries.

Next Meeting: April 30th 10:00 -3:00 at Urbandale Public Library

Health and Long-Term Care Access Advisory Council

IDPH thanks the members of this Council for their assistance to the Department to complete Phase 1 of the Strategic Plan for Health Care Delivery Infrastructure and Health Care Workforce Resources. IDPH submitted the strategic plan to the Governor and General Assembly in early January. It is available [here](#). The strategic plan sets forth three main objectives with action steps, timelines and responsible parties as listed below.

1. To support IDPH in its charge to “coordinate public and private efforts to develop and maintain an appropriate health care delivery infrastructure and a stable, well-qualified, diverse and sustainable health care workforce in this state,” codify the Iowa Health Workforce Center as the state’s coordination point to address health workforce concerns in Iowa.

Action Steps	Timeline	Responsible Entity(ies)
Propose Iowa Code language	For consideration during 2011 Legislative Session – Aug. 2010	IDPH
Enact Legislation	2011 Legislative Session	Policymakers
Complete remaining components of strategic plan	January 1, 2012	Iowa Health Workforce Center, IDPH, and other entities as listed in Appendix

2. Target and fund loan repayment programs and other recruitment and retention efforts to attract and retain health and long-term care professionals to underserved areas and underserved populations. Target and fund financial assistance programs for students of minority status.

Action Steps	Timeline	Responsible Entity(ies)
Facilitate implementation of National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program	Ongoing	Center for Rural Health and Primary Care, IDPH
Monitor opportunities for grant funding for loan repayment programs	Ongoing	Iowa Health Workforce Center, IDPH
Propose funding for loan repayment programs	For consideration during 2011 Legislative Session – July 2010	Iowa Health Workforce Center, IDPH

3. Support educational institutions, including Area Health Education Centers, and other entities in their efforts to create or update training, curricula and practicum experiences and in providing targeted continuing education opportunities for existing health professionals to support health care reform efforts. This includes training and curricula to support the medical home model, interdisciplinary and interprofessional practice models, practice in rural areas, service to low-income populations, development of new levels of practitioners who will serve underserved populations, service to people with disabilities, geriatrics, cultural competence, training on the use of health information technology and electronic health records, prevention and chronic care management, and service to ethnic and racial minorities.

Action Steps	Timeline	Responsible Entity(ies)
As appropriate per organization, approach funders or apply for funding	Ongoing	Entities implementing training programs
Monitor and share opportunities for grant funding	Ongoing	Iowa Health Workforce Center, IDPH

The advisory council met most recently on Thursday, January 25th and discussed the logic model (Appendix 2) and planning for the next phase of the strategic plan, due January 2012. This phase will integrate several sub-plans as required by Iowa Code 135.164.

Next Meeting: March 25th 10:30 – 3:00 at the West Des Moines Learning Resource Center

Direct Care Worker Advisory Council

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

The Council met via conference call on January 21. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss progress to date and develop a work plan for the remainder of the fiscal year. Council members reviewed accomplishments from the last year, notably increased awareness about the diversity of the direct care workforce and development of a credentialing model that incorporates a variety of skills. Members prioritized development of a training and credentialing pilot to focus the work of the Council over the next several months. Council members discussed key components to address as part of the pilot, including diverse direct care worker populations, various settings (including institutional and home and community based settings), grandfathering of the current workforce, marketing and outreach for participation, continuing education modes and availability, incentives for providers and direct care workers, and evaluation measures.

Next Meeting: February 17th 10:00- 3:00 at Urbandale Public Library

Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Nutrition



Youth Individual Challenge: The Live Healthy Iowa Kids/Governor's Challenge began January 19, 2010. One adult captain with 5 to 30 youth comprise a team. During the 100 day challenge, teams track their physical activity, television time, and fruit, vegetable, low-fat milk and water intake. Supporting classroom activities are available that align with the Iowa Core Curriculum <http://www.iowasportsfoundation.org/LiveHealthyIowaKids/toolsAndResources.aspx>. Teams may still register for the challenge. For more information click [here](#).

School Challenge: The Governor's Council has agreed to support the criteria of the USDA's HealthierUS School Challenge for the 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](#). 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 in October, 2009. Applications for the 2010 awards will be posted here (<http://www.wellnessiowa.org/events/healthy-iowa-awards/>) on March 1, 2010.

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

Next Meeting: March 2010 Location TBD

Iowa Healthy Communities Initiative

In the last issue of The Check-Up, one component of the Community Wellness Grant Model, technical assistance provided by IDPH Health Promotion, was discussed. Another component of the Iowa Community Wellness Grant model is the requirement for a community coalition. Each community wellness grant project receives technical assistance in the area of coalition development. Sustaining the positive health impact achieved through the local community wellness grant project is a goal of the initiative. An active, local coalition of community partners will assist in that effort.

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 the 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](#).