

# 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/](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hcr_committees/)

On September 9<sup>th</sup>, IDPH reported to the Legislative Health Care Coverage Commission on Council updates and other HCR activities.

## Electronic Health Information Advisory Council

The Iowa Health Information Technology Plan is available [here](#).

On August 20, 2009, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) released grant guidance for the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Grant Program. This cooperative, 4-year grant program is a funding opportunity to advance the development of a statewide HIE, one of the key deliverables of the Iowa e-Health Project.

Quick Facts about the State HIE Grant:

- **Funding Source:** American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, HITECH Act Section 3013
- **Number of agreements:** 1 cooperative, non-competitive agreement per state
- **Lead applicant:** Iowa Department of Public Health
- **Available Funding for Iowa:** Minimum of \$4 million (Final amount will be determined by ONC based on funding formula). Match requirements will begin October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.
- **Timeline:** Letter of Intent due September 11; Full application due October 16

Another grant of particular interest to the e-Health Executive Committee and Advisory Council is the ONC's funding opportunity for regional extension centers. Also a cooperative, 4-year grant, this program will facilitate the adoption and use of electronic health records (EHR) by providing hands-on technical support to providers. The type of assistance the centers will provide includes, but is not limited to, EHR product selection, workflow redesign, progress towards meaningful use, and education and outreach. Eligible applicants for this competitive grant are nonprofit organizations.

**Next Meeting: September 24<sup>th</sup> 10:00 -2:00 at Jesse Parker State Office Building**

## September 2009

### Advisory Councils

Electronic Health Information Advisory Council

Medical Home

Direct Care Worker

Health and Long-Term Care Access

Prevention and Chronic Care Management

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

Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Nutrition

### Other Iowa HCR Activities

Iowa Healthy Communities Initiative

Small Business Qualified Wellness Program Tax Credit Plan

## Medical Home System Advisory Council

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

The Definition and Certification workgroup reviewed a crosswalk of the definitions for the PCMH available through NCQA, the Joint Principles and HF 2539. Based on this crosswalk, they reached consensus that Iowa will use the definition established in HF 2539.

The workgroup met on September 2<sup>nd</sup> for a workday where they had in-depth discussions about certifying medical homes in Iowa. No final consensus was made, but they gave important guidance and input for next steps. They don't want to rush their decision, and are going to see where things go nationally in the near future.

Iowa was recently chosen as one of eight states for the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) Consortium to Advance Medical Homes for Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Participants. NASHP is supported through a grant from The Commonwealth Fund, to develop and implement policies that increase Medicaid and CHIP program participants' access to high performing medical homes. Each state will receive a one-year program of technical assistance to support their efforts. The technical assistance program will provide opportunities for consortium members to exchange insights and experience with national experts and their peers, as well as both in-person and distance learning and both group and individual assistance. The Consortium will launch with a Learning Session to be held in Baltimore, Maryland in October 2009. To view the press release click [here](#).

### **Patient-Centered Medical Home Symposium - September 18<sup>th</sup> at the Marriott in Coraville**

This [Patient-Centered Medical Home Symposium](#) is a collaborative effort of the University of Iowa's Public Policy Center Forkenbrock Series and the College of Public Health's Hansen Award Lecture. It has been designed to bring together the Iowa health community to learn about, and discuss strategies to achieve, patient-centered medical homes. The one-day symposium will include background and national perspectives, as well as examples of current practice. Special attention will be focused on redesign, reimbursement and incentives in Iowa.

### **Next Meeting: September 18<sup>th</sup> 3:00-5:00 at Marriott in Coraville**

## Direct Care Worker Advisory Council

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

This council reports to the Director of IDPH and has an interim report due September 30<sup>th</sup>. A final report for this year is due January 15<sup>th</sup>. The council met most recently on August 18<sup>th</sup>. A new revision of the career pathway model was discussed along with a report from the curriculum committee – a subset of the council that had met separately.

### **Next Meeting: September 22<sup>nd</sup> 10:00 at Urbandale Public Library**

## Health and Long-Term Care Access Advisory Council

The council is set to submit a progress report and recommendations for the 2010 strategic plan to IDPH by mid-September. IDPH plans to submit the initial phase of the strategic plan to the Governor and General Assembly by November 1, ahead of the mandated January due date, so that the document can be useful in preparation for the legislative session. Following completion of this initial phase of the strategic plan, the council will continue its work as an update of the strategic plan is due every two years on an ongoing basis. At this time, the council plans to continue addressing workforce during its second year but also plans to incorporate planning for health care infrastructure.

The council met most recently on August 27<sup>th</sup> and arrived at priority objectives through small group work and voting facilitated by Kevin Pokorny of Pokorny Consulting. IDPH staff used these results to produce a draft document for the council to review on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

The September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting was devoted to fine tuning and final approval of the progress report that will be submitted to IDPH.

**Next Meeting: October 22<sup>nd</sup> 10:00 – 3:00 at Urbandale Public Library**

## Prevention and Chronic Care Management Advisory Council

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

Angie Doyle Scar has filled the position of Coordinator for the Prevention and Chronic Disease Management Advisory Council. She will also be representing PCCM issues on IDPH's Health Care Reform Team. Angie has spent the last seven years serving as the Statewide *hawk-i* Outreach Coordinator for IDPH. In this capacity she coordinated and implemented statewide outreach efforts and oversaw local grassroots efforts for the *hawk-i* (Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa) program. Before her work at IDPH, she worked several years with the State Public Policy Group (SPPG) in Des Moines. In this role, she conducted community outreach, legislative lobbying, advocacy training policy consultation, and research. Angie graduated with honors from Upper Iowa University with a degree in Psychology and is currently working on a graduate degree in Public Health at Des Moines University.

**Next Meeting: September 16<sup>th</sup> 10:00 -2:00 at Urbandale Public Library**

## Patient Autonomy in Health Care Decisions in Pilot Project Advisory Council (I POLST)

The IPOLST pilot continues to move forward in Cedar Rapids. They got IRB approval for their medical record audits as part of their process evaluation and have done the first of several sets of scheduled audits. There have been 256 completed IPOLST forms and 26 facilities have had staff trainings done and have educated trainers for ongoing internal orientations. Data is being collected from all of the facilities, though 12 of the 26 have had no forms put to use as yet. Of the 256 individuals that have filled out forms and, with their physicians, created a set of orders covering how they want their final cares to go -- one-third also have signed Do Not Resuscitate orders on their charts. A smaller percentage indicated they want everything possible done for the course of their treatment. These and multiple other pieces of information are being collected into a database to allow the pilot leaders to provide the measures and information to adequately judge the impact of the work.

At their November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, they will hear the report of the Cedar Rapids pilot and to contemplate any recommendations they want to make to the Legislature and the Governor by January 2010.

**Next Meeting: November 6<sup>th</sup> location TBD**

## Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Nutrition



**Youth Individual Challenge:** The Iowa Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Nutrition 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. The Council invited 7 statewide organizations working with schools to provide input on the changes to the program in July. 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 a core set of strength training exercises, in instructional picture format, for use as a resource to develop the physical activity criteria of the challenge.

**Healthy Iowa Awards:** The Council is partnering with the Wellness Council of Iowa to provide Healthy Iowa awards for communities, schools, colleges, and visionaries. Applications for the 2009 Healthy Iowa/Iowa Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Nutrition awards were due August 31, 2009. For a description of the awards, click [here](#). The awards banquet will be held October 1st, 2009.

The Governor's Council's new website is now active: [www.healthyiowa.gov](http://www.healthyiowa.gov).

### **Next Meeting: December 10<sup>th</sup> location TBD**

## Iowa Healthy Communities Initiative

24 Community Wellness Grants have been awarded for the FY2009-2011 project period. HF 2539 and federal funding secured by Senator Tom Harkin was combined for the grant projects. IDPH staff will provide two group technical assistance to the 24 grantees in the areas of Sustainability and Project Evaluation, monthly individual project technical assistance calls, and schedule site visits to assigned communities. A Community Wellness Grant newsletter will also be created to current and former Community Wellness Grantees.

For a brief description of each Community Wellness Grant, click [here](#). Additional grants are anticipated for the FY2010-11 project period.

## Small Business Qualified Wellness Program Tax Credit Plan

The committee that developed the Small Business Qualified Wellness Program Tax Credit Plan will meet again to plan next steps. Click [here](#) for a copy of the plan.

### **Health Care Reform Websites**

-Coordinated by the Iowa Department of Public Health

[Medical Home System Advisory Council Website](#) **Report Due:** "Annually" to Governor and General Assembly  
[Health and Long Term Care Access Advisory Council Website](#) **Report Due:** January 1, 2010

[Direct Care Worker Advisory Council Website](#) **Report Due:** November 2008 (Complete) and September 30<sup>th</sup> 2009

[Electronic Health Information Advisory Council Website](#) **Report Due:** July 1, 2009 (Complete)

[Clinicians' Advisory Panel Website](#) Meet Quarterly

[Patient Autonomy in Health Care Decisions Pilot Advisory Council Website](#) **Report Due:** January 1, 2010

[Prevention and Chronic Care Management Advisory Council Website](#) **Report Due:** July 1, 2009

-Coordinated by the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS)

*hawk-i* and Medicaid Expansion Advisory Council

Medicaid Quality Improvement Council

Family Opportunity Act Advisory Council

-Coordinated by Iowa Insurance Division (IID)

[Iowa Choice Advisory Council Website](#)

-Coordinated by Iowa Healthcare Collaborative (IHC)

Health Care Transparency Council