

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/

Electronic Health Information Advisory Council

**November
2009**

Websites

Advisory Councils

[Electronic Health Information](#)

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

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IDPH and the Executive Committee and Advisory Council are preparing a comprehensive State Plan that will be submitted to Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) in order to release implementation funding available through the state grants to promote health information technology. This funding will be instrumental in developing a statewide health information exchange (HIE) infrastructure, which will enable the following core HIE services: continuity of care document, immunizations, labs, and e-prescribing. ONC identified five domains that must be addressed in the State Plan, which include: governance, finance, technical infrastructure, business and technical operations, and legal/policy. By linking those domains with our preliminary strategic plan, the Iowa Health Information Technology Plan, we will build upon existing planning efforts.

A physician practice assessment will be released in fall 2009 through a contract with Iowa State University. This assessment will capture provider baseline information including: current health information technology use and capabilities; preferences for types of high value clinical exchange; perceived benefits and barriers of health IT; and interest in receiving Medicare and Medicaid incentive payments. Information obtained from the assessment will be instrumental in finalizing the State Plan, which will include an implementation schedule for different provider types.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Iowa e-Health Project.

Next Meeting: November 19th 10:00 -2:00 in Des Moines

Medical Home System Advisory Council

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

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. Iowa's NASHP team attended the Consortium's kick-off learning session in Baltimore, Maryland in October 2009. To view the press release click [here](#).

Medicare will be joining Medicaid and private insurers in a new 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 Medical Home System Advisory Council has agreed to move forward to develop a plan for application. This is a 3 year demonstration project open to states.

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

Next Meeting: December 9th 10:00-2:00 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. After rich conversations and much deliberation the Advisory Council produced a set of four recommendations of their own:

The Iowa Department of Public Health shall assist the community pilot in the following education and outreach activities: 1) Continue education of pilot county providers and promote change in all involved facilities; 2) Develop a plan for statewide outreach and education about the pilot program; 3) Identify statewide stakeholders to increase their knowledge of the pilot program; and 4) Determine if additional stakeholders should be included in the pilot program.

1. Affiliate with organizations (including but not limited to local public health departments to establish partnerships and enhance funding opportunities for replication of the IPOST pilot.
2. Continue data analysis including pilot medical chart reviews. Expand analysis to include health care providers, patient, and family surveys. Analyze the need for extension into various health care settings (home/hospital/rural/urban) and continue the literature review and content analysis for current best practice.
3. In support of the ultimate goal of statewide implementation of IPOST: we recommend a two year extension of the pilot project. This extension could include an expansion to a contiguous rural county that has a referral relationship with the pilot county. Additionally, in preparation for statewide implementation, assess the feasibility for future expansion to a community-based setting and a county with a state owned tertiary care hospital.
4. Continue the current pilot for another two years. Additionally, charge the pilot with assisting to provide outreach education statewide to achieve culture change. Collect data on the need for IPOST in all settings and do a needs assessment exploring regional and/or statewide future expansion. Identify sustainability issues including funding.

The next steps for the Council include the development of the report to the Governor and Legislature due by January 2010. The development of this report has begun with a first draft expected by middle of December. Click [here](#) for information about IPOST.

Health and Long-Term Care Access Advisory Council

The Health and Long-Term Care Access Advisory Council report is available [here](#).

This council has not met since last-month's Check-Up. The past several weeks have been especially demanding as the State of Iowa works to address significant budget shortfalls. These efforts have required necessary delays in some projects, including work on the strategic plan, as budgets have been reexamined and impact plans submitted and approved. At this time, IDPH is not offering a projection regarding completion and release date of the strategic plan; however, IDPH will meet the statutory deadline of January 2010. In our ongoing efforts to make meetings as productive as possible, we have canceled the November 20, 2009 meeting. This council will not meet in December.

Next Meeting: 2010 TBD

Prevention and Chronic Care Management Advisory Council

The Prevention and Chronic Care Management Advisory Council Initial Report is available [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 will be an overview of chronic disease management.

Mental health issues were discussed at the September meeting, and it was noticed that this topic was greatly overlooked in the initial report. The Council feels that they need more education and information about mental health, therefore the December 4th meeting will consist of a panel of mental health experts to share important information and strategies to the Council. Also, at this meeting, the Chair of the Legislative Health Care Coverage Commission, Dr. David Carlyle, will give an overview of the Commission and ways to collaborate. For more information about the Legislative Health Care Coverage Commission, click [here](#).

Next Meeting: December 4th 10:00 -2:00 at West Des Moines Public Library

Direct Care Worker Advisory Council

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

The Direct Care Worker Advisory Council met on Thursday, November 12th. Guest speaker, Eileen Creager, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise, provided a presentation regarding Consumer Directed Attendant Care Services (CDAC) and Consumer Choice Option (CCO). Jennifer Furler reviewed progress toward compiling a list of research about return on investment of education and training. Shelly Chandler, representing the Iowa Association of Community Providers provided council members with copies of a letter addressed to Director Tom Newton. The letter stated the withdrawal of the Iowa Association of Community Providers and disability providers from the council. It formally requested that recommendations made by the council regarding the mandatory credentialing process not be applied to disability providers.

Next Meeting: December 10th Location 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.