

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/

Prevention and Chronic Care Management Advisory Council

March 2010

Websites

Advisory Councils

[Prevention and Chronic Care Management](#)

[Medical Home](#)

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[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](#).

The Council has finalized their first issue brief "[Chronic Disease Management](#)" which aims to increase education about chronic disease prevention and management and include Iowa-specific information and data. During the creation of this issue brief, the Council decided to add a seventh recommendation to the initial six laid out in their first report. The seventh recommendation is:

"Create a societal commitment to health through implementing policies to remove barriers that prevent Iowans from leading healthy lives. Empower and expect Iowans to take personal responsibility for being as healthy as genetically possible and improving their own health, as well as the health of those around them."

Another issue brief on "Disease Registries" is currently being developed collaboratively by the PCCM Advisory Council, the Medical Home System Advisory Council, and the eHealth Advisory Council.

At the last meeting, 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 in the mornings of the Council meetings, and then we will come back as a full Council in the afternoon. It was also decided that there will be a Chair and Co-Chair of the Council, each representing a different subgroup.

Results for Chair and Co-Chair have been calculated and determined. We are excited to announce:

- [Chair](#) (representing the Chronic Disease Management subgroup)- Dr. Don Skinner, McFarland Clinic
- [Co-Chair](#) (representing the Prevention subgroup)- Terri Henkels, Iowa State Association of Counties

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 PCCM working together to promote a healthier population.

Next Meeting: April 30th 10:00 -3:00 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.

Iowa submitted an application 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 in Iowa* and is organized around a medical neighborhood model of care. Unfortunately, Iowa did not receive funding for the CHIPRA Quality Demonstration Grant. However, the partnerships that were formed when writing the grant and the medical home implementation plan that was created for children in Medicaid are very valuable and will be utilized in the future.

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.

Prior to their last meeting, the Council members completed an electronic survey regarding developing issue briefs. The results of the survey show that there is a strong interest in developing these. The purpose of the issue briefs is to educate legislators, members of other HCR councils, interested parties, and other stakeholders. They will summarize the topic and provide Iowa specific information and data. Their first issue brief will be "**Patient Centered- What Does it Look Like**" and will summarize what patient-centered care encompasses and will lay out improvement strategies at an organization and system level to help leverage widespread implementation of patient-centered care.

The Iowa Healthcare Collaborative will be hosting the Medical Home Learning Community on April 21st. Register online at www.ihconline.org

Next Meeting: April 16th 10:00-2:00 at the Pleasant Hill 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 advisory council met most recently on Thursday, January 28th. Minutes from the meeting are available [here](#).

At the meeting on March 25th, Anne Kinzel will provide information on SF 2092 and IowaCare. Jennifer Furler, State Public Policy Group, will also provide information regarding the Direct Care Worker Advisory Council.

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

Electronic Health Information Advisory Council

On March 15th, IDPH received notification from the Office of National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) that Iowa has been awarded \$8,375,000 over the next four years to plan and implement Iowa's statewide Health Information Exchange (HIE). This funding, made possible through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, is instrumental in moving Iowa e-Health forward to develop the statewide HIE.

The Iowa e-Health Executive Committee and Advisory Council continue to draw on several volunteer workgroups and subcommittees that provide expertise regarding the components of health information technology (health IT). The workgroup and subcommittee members have offered enormous support and volunteer hours which are instrumental in developing Iowa's strategic and operational plan. The Iowa e-Health workgroups and subcommittees include:

- *Assessment Subcommittee*- Guiding various health care provider assessments, including provider practices, home health, long-term care, laboratories, and pharmacies, to name a few.
- *Communication and Outreach Subcommittee*- Developing communication materials that will be used to educate and inform Iowa health care providers and consumers about the uses and benefits of health IT.
- *Continuity of Care Document and Interoperable Electronic Health Records (EHRs)*- Describing the types of data transactions that will take place through the Health Information Exchange (HIE).
- *Governance and Finance*- Discussing preferences and recommendations for a long-term governance structure, including finance options and strategies.
- *HIE Infrastructure and Networks*- Discussing and outlining the core components needed for the HIE technical infrastructure (e.g., Master Person Index, Record Locator Service, Data Storage, and Participation Expectations).
- *Provider Adoption of EHRs*- Reviewing the HIE data transactions to ensure they will effectively improve patient care within and across provider settings.
- *Safeguard Privacy and Security*- Identifying potential privacy and security policies that will need to be in place to securely exchange patient information through the Iowa HIE.
- *Workforce and Education*- Outlining the core competencies of the health IT workforce and preparing for health IT curriculums at Iowa community colleges.

Next Meetings: March 26th 10:00 – 2:00 at Urbandale Public Library
April 16th, 10:00 – 2:00 at the Jesse Parker State Office Building

Direct Care Worker Advisory Council

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

The Council met on February 17th. Minutes of the meeting are available [here](#). The council discussed whether to pilot the curriculum, a geographic target for a pilot, outreach, and evaluation. The council met again March 4th. Members discussed more detail regarding a plan to pilot recommendations in the report. Included in the discussion were timeframes for activities, products and resources. The council discussed next steps for the curriculum committee.

Next Meeting: April 16th 10:00- 3:00 at the Johnston Public Library

Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Nutrition



Youth Individual Challenge: The Live Healthy Iowa Kids/Governor's Challenge began on January 19, 2010. 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. For more information click [here](#).

School Challenge: The Governor's Council has agreed to support the criteria of the USDA's HealthierUS School Challenge (click [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](#). 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 2009. The 2010 Healthy Iowa Awards Ceremony will be held September 23, 2010. Applications will be posted to the Wellness Council of Iowa Web site <http://www.wellnessiowa.org/>

Next Meeting: March 25th 9:00 – 2:00 YMCA Healthy Living Center, West Des Moines

Iowa Healthy Communities Initiative

The Iowa Healthy Communities Initiative Grant Program, also known as Community Wellness Grants, provides funding for local health improvement initiatives. Each year during the legislative session, local grant projects come to the Capitol to tell their story in an exhibit demonstrating their local impact. This year's showcase event was held on March 11th and drew a dozen community exhibitors.

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](#).



The above picture shows the Jasper County Worksite Wellness Project. Telling the Jasper County story are Jenny Mann and Deb Nilles, the grant project coordinators.

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 state advisory council has not met since its last meeting but the local project committees continue to meet regularly in continuation of the Cedar Rapids pilot. The final report of the Patient Autonomy in Health Care Decisions Pilot Project is available [here](#).