

Iowa Department of Public Health

August 2009

✓ 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 the activities of active health reform councils 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 council minutes, agendas and important documents.

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

Advisory Councils

Electronic Health Information Advisory Council

Medical Home

Direct Care Worker

Health and Long-Term Care Access

Prevention and Chronic Care Management

Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Nutrition

Electronic Health Information Advisory Council

The Iowa Health Information Technology Plan is available [here](#). The plan was presented to the State Board of Health on July 8th.

Through a collaborative, multi-stakeholder planning process, known as the Iowa e-Health Project, the statewide plan for health IT describes the strategies and activities necessary to advance adoption of electronic health records (EHR) and develop a statewide health information exchange (HIE).

In the coming year, Iowa Department of Public Health and the Electronic Health Information Executive Committee and Advisory Council plan to:

1. Facilitate and support workgroup meetings and convene regular Executive Committee and Advisory Council meetings to further define and execute project activities.
2. Determine cost requirements to develop the HIE infrastructure and support project activities.
3. Pursue federal and state grant programs (e.g., American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Health IT grants) and other potential funding streams to secure startup and ongoing funding for the statewide HIE.

Health IT is a foundational piece of health reform across the nation. The initiative will modernize workflow processes and facilitate data-driven health care decision-making to elevate the quality, safety, and efficiency of health care available to current and future generations.

Next Meeting: August 28th 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 report was presented to the State Board of Health on July 8th.

The report gives four building block recommendations that the Council considers top-priority in building, spreading, and sustaining Iowa's patient-centered medical home (PCMH) system. They are:

1. Continue to develop and sustain the Iowa Medical Home System Advisory Council to promote the PCMH concept as a standard of care for all Iowans.
2. Encourage and support the identification and implementation of a multi-payer reimbursement model that supports the PCMH.
3. Support the current efforts to implement and expand the PCMH through existing infrastructures that educate providers and demonstrate best practices.
4. Support health reform initiatives that address health care workforce needs, health care information technology, prevention, and chronic care management.

Three workgroups have been created to plan and eventually implement a comprehensive Iowa-based PCMH system. The three workgroups are:

- ✓ **Definition and Certification** - they recently 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. A workday is scheduled in early September to work on building consensus of the certification of the PCMH in Iowa.
- ✓ **Reimbursement Strategies and Policy** – they are bringing together partners to develop a multi-payer reimbursement model that supports PCMH spread.
- ✓ **Education and Learning Collaborative** – they will help develop the curriculum for the Medical Home Learning Community for 2010. The Learning Community is geared towards primary care providers with the goal of aligning and equipping practices to become a PCMH. This workgroup also plans to build an Iowa-based PCMH informational website.

Patient-Centered Medical Home Symposium - September 18th 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 18th 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 30th. It met most recently on June 22nd. A career pathway model was discussed along with a report from the curriculum committee – a subset of the council that had met separately. The group reviewed strengths and challenges associated with the instructor trainer model. The end of the meeting consisted of subgroup discussions including the curriculum committee and an outreach committee meeting.

Next Meeting: August 18th 10:00 at Urbandale Public Library

Health and Long-Term Care Access Advisory Council

This council is set to submit recommendations for the 2010 strategic plan to IDPH by the end of September. IDPH plans to submit 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 legislative session. Following completion of the 2010 strategic plan, the council will continue its work as a 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 July 24th and received two presentations regarding long-term care workforce and a presentation from the Board of Nursing.

The August 27 meeting will be devoted to strategic planning to finalize recommendations with the September meeting allowing the council to give final approval to the plan that will be submitted to IDPH.

Next Meeting: August 27th 10:00 at Urbandale Public Library

Prevention and Chronic Care Management Advisory Council

The Prevention and Chronic Care Management Advisory Council Initial Report is available [here](#). The report was presented to the State Board of Health on July 8th. The recommendations given from the State Board of Health regarding the report are (1) The council should include evidence-based, population-based public health strategies in future efforts; (2) Substance abuse and hepatitis should be recognized and included in the prioritized list for chronic conditions (page 4); (3) The council should (a) include a focus on pediatric/childhood prevention and chronic disease management strategies and (b) be mindful of newer populations entering the state so the issues of those populations are also addressed (multicultural awareness).

The report gives six broad recommendations needed to take a proactive approach by putting a major emphasis on prevention and wellness, along with chronic disease management. They are:

1. Create the Iowa Prevention and Chronic Care Advisory Council to provide guidance and oversight for prevention and chronic care management.
2. Empower people with the knowledge and resources to live healthy lives and manage their own chronic illnesses.
3. Identify and recommend consensus guidelines for the use in chronic care management beginning with those that address the state chronic disease and prevention priorities.
4. Establish a chronic disease practice registry product that could be easily and readily incorporated into medical practices.
5. Improve incentives for prevention and chronic disease management by providing support for care through payment systems, organization and delivery of care, and care coordination.
6. Improve the health workforce and their skills in prevention and chronic disease management.

The council was also charged with coming up with two main priorities for prevention and chronic care management. They decided that these needed to be looked at separately, and therefore developed two different priority lists. Number one for prevention is **obesity** and number one for chronic care management is **diabetes**.

Next Meeting: September 16th 10:00 -2:00 at Urbandale Public Library

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 are now available. For a description of the awards and to download an application, click [here](#). The applications are due August 31, 2009.

Promotional activities are planned for the state fair, showcasing the new Governor's Council logo. (shown above)

The following URL has been selected for the Governor's Council: www.healthyiowa.gov. The URL is anticipated to go "live" in mid-August and will provide more information on all of the challenges/awards.

Next Meeting: September 10th 8:30 location TBD

Iowa Healthy Communities Initiative

24 Community Wellness Grants have been awarded for the FY2009-2011 project period. The HF 2539 and federal funding secured by Senator Tom Harkin was combined for the grant projects. For a brief description of each Community Wellness Grant, click [here](#). Additional grants are anticipated for the FY2010-11 project

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 30th 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 Website](#)