



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

HEALTH CARE ACCESS

Legislative Council Conference Room
One East Main Street, Suite 401
Madison, WI

February 14, 2011
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

[The following is a summary of the February 14, 2011 meeting of the Special Committee on Health Care Access. The file copy of this summary has appended to it a copy of each document prepared for or submitted to the committee during the meeting. A digital recording of the meeting, PowerPoint presentations, and other documents referred to by the speakers are posted on the committee's Internet site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/committees/study/2010/ACCESS/index.html>.]

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Olsen called the meeting to order. The roll was called and it was determined that a quorum was present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
PRESENT:

Sen. Luther Olsen, Chair; Rep. Fred Kessler, Vice-Chair, and Rep. Amy Sue Vruwink; and Public Members Sandy Anderson, Terry Brandenburg, Bruce Colburn, Mary Lu Gerke, Curt Gielow, Greg Nycz, Dr. Jeff Patterson, Roberta Riportella, Robert Schmidt, John Townsend, Dr. Sheldon Wasserman, and Dr. Earnestine Willis.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
EXCUSED:

Public Members Ted Kay and Nathan Luedke.

COUNCIL STAFF PRESENT:

Richard Sweet, Senior Staff Attorney, and Heidi Frechette, Staff Attorney.

APPEARANCES:

Dr. Robert Golden, Dean, University of Wisconsin (UW) School of Medicine and Public Health; Dr. John Raymond, President, Dr. Ken Simons, and Dr. Alan David, Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW).

Approval of Minutes of the Committee's January 7, 2011 Meeting

The minutes of the January 7, 2011 meeting were approved by a voice vote.

Presentations by Invited Speakers

Dr. Robert Golden, Dean, UW School of Medicine and Public Health

Dean Golden noted that UW Hospital and Clinics sponsors 432 residents and 99 fellows, with the difference between the cost and the reimbursement from Medicare being \$19 million per year. He added that the UW School of Medicine and Public Health sponsors 100 to 110 residents in family medicine programs throughout the state. In addition, the school has programs for physician assistants, genetic counselors, physical therapists, and masters of public health.

In describing the school, Dean Golden noted that there are 171 students in the first-year class. Of those, 21 students are in the Wisconsin Academy on Rural Medicine (WARM) program and eight are in the Training in Urban Medicine and Public Health (TRIUMPH) program, with those numbers expected to be 25 and 12 respectively next year. Of the 171 students, 129 are state residents and 42 are non-residents. Of the 129 from Wisconsin, 66 are from Milwaukee, Dane, and Waukesha Counties and the other 63 are from 49 other counties.

Dean Golden stated that the biggest single predictor of where physicians will practice is where they did their residency, not where they went to medical school. He added that the biggest problem in the physician shortage is maldistribution and that increasing the supply of physicians would not change this. He noted the income disparities between specialists and generalists, with a three-fold difference. He also noted that some potential strategies for addressing physician shortages are expanding loan repayment programs, emphasizing that retention is just as important as recruitment, expanding primary care residency training opportunities, and expanding medical student capacity in a targeted, strategic way, such as WARM coupled with financial aid. He added that increasing the diversity of the school's faculty is an important strategy that is being undertaken.

Dean Golden noted that in determining which students to admit, the school is more interested in life experiences than in perfect grade point averages and high test scores.

In response to a question from Dr. Patterson as to the desirability of establishing a school of osteopathic medicine in Wisconsin, Dean Golden stated that a third medical school in Wisconsin would be bad policy, regardless of whether it is osteopathic or allopathic. He noted that a third medical school would take away training slots from the existing medical schools.

Dr. John Raymond, President, Dr. Ken Simons, and Dr. Alan David, MCW

Dr. Raymond, President, MCW, noted that there are 820 medical students at MCW and 644 physicians in residency training and 127 physicians in fellowship training.

Dr. Simons described six pipeline programs for MCW, including four for high school students and two for undergraduate students. One of the undergraduate programs is a diversity summer health-related research education program. He also noted that a 4.0 grade point average and a good test score does not guarantee admission. He added that MCW used to take 50% of its students from Wisconsin, as required by statute, before the state reduced its capitation payments to MCW. He stated that 69 of the

204 new students in 2010 were Wisconsin residents. Of the 32 African-American student applicants from Wisconsin, seven were accepted, but only one enrolled.

Dr. Simons stated that from 1975 to 2002, over \$4 million per year was used for capitation payments to MCW, with \$10,000 for each student and with 50% of each class being Wisconsin residents. These payments were designed to keep equality with the UW medical school. The payments were cut in half in the 2003-05 biennium and cut again in the 2009-11 biennium. Dr. Simons also noted that New York and Maryland use a tax on insurance premiums to fund graduate medical education (GME).

Dr. David noted that since 1975, the Department of Family and Community Medicine at MCW has educated over 961 family physicians. Of these residency program graduates, 552, or 57% have entered practice in Wisconsin. Of the family medicine graduates who originally came from Wisconsin, 84% stayed in Wisconsin.

With respect to proposals, suggestions included expanding the residency program capacity through an increased state appropriation of \$1.5 million per year for MCW, restoring the capitation payments to MCW to its previous level, increasing the family medicine residency training program, expanding pipeline programs, increasing the number and scope of practice of allied health professionals, and expanding medical education through a statewide team approach to medical and allied health professional education.

Summary of Previously Approved Drafts

WLC: 0058/2, relating to the administration of vaccines by pharmacists

WLC: 0066/2, relating to collecting workforce survey information from health care providers

Richard Sweet noted that the two drafts above were both previously approved by the committee, with changes incorporated into them. He added that no further committee action was needed on those two drafts.

Discussion of Potential Committee Recommendations

WLC: 0091/1, relating to dental licensing exceptions

Heidi Frechette discussed WLC: 0091/1, which dealt with dental licensing exceptions for certain dental interns and residents. Chair Olsen emphasized that since there were no dentists on the committee, he preferred that the committee not take action on this draft for that reason. Mr. Nycz mentioned that the Department of Health Services (DHS) had a task force that included representatives of the Marquette School of Dentistry and the Wisconsin Dental Association, which recommended more residencies.

It was moved by Mr. Nycz, seconded by Dr. Willis, that the committee recommend introduction of WLC: 00901/1. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of Ayes, 13 (Reps. Kessler and Vruwink; and Public Members Anderson, Brandenburg, Gerke, Gielow, Nycz, Patterson, Riportella, Schmidt, Townsend, Wasserman, and Willis); Noes, 0; and Absent, 4 (Sen. Olsen; and Public Members Colburn, Kay, and Luedke).

WLC: 0095/1, relating to the creation of a matching grant program for the physical expansion of existing teaching institutions related to health care

Ms. Frechette described WLC: 0095/1, which creates a matching grant program for expansion of existing teaching institutions. Mr. Townsend introduced the President of Marion College and they discussed how if this draft would become law, the institutions could solicit dollars from the private sector which would be matched by this grant program. There will be no dollars provided until the 2013-15 biennium.

Representative Kessler said there is a need to target these dollars to students in underserved areas. Mr. Townsend added that this could be part of the application process for the grant funds. Representative Kessler stated that some agency or board should evaluate applications and make recommendations regarding the applicants' geographic and cultural diversity. He suggested that this agency not be the Building Commission.

It was moved by Mr. Gielow, seconded by Ms. Riportella, that WLC: 0095/1 be tabled. The motion failed on a roll call vote of Ayes, 3 (Public Members Anderson, Gielow, and Riportella); Noes, 10 (Reps. Kessler and Vruwink; and Public Members Brandenburg, Gerke, Nycz, Patterson, Schmidt, Townsend, Wasserman, and Willis); and Absent, 4 (Sen. Olsen; and Public Members Colburn, Kay, and Luedke).

In response to a suggestion from Mr. Gielow that the Wisconsin Health and Educational Facilities Authority (WHEFA) review applications for diversity and geographic dispersal, Representative Kessler stated that he would support this suggestion. Mr. Townsend suggested that WHEFA could administer the grant program. Ms. Anderson suggested that staff contact WHEFA to determine whether they feel they might have a conflict of interest by doing so.

Ms. Riportella suggested that the draft include a requirement that schools that apply for the grant have a strategic plan to work toward the goals of geographic and cultural diversity.

Nelse Grundvig of the Department of Workforce Development said the committee might also want to look at whether the Council on Workforce Investment could administer such a program.

It was moved by Rep. Kessler, seconded by Rep. Vruwink, that staff contact WHEFA and the Council on Workforce Investment regarding this issue and that the bill be redrafted to take into account these issues and suggestions that have been made by the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of Ayes, 13 (Reps. Kessler and Vruwink; and Public Members Anderson, Brandenburg, Gerke, Gielow, Nycz, Patterson, Riportella, Schmidt, Townsend, Wasserman, and Willis); Noes, 0; and Absent, 4 (Sen. Olsen; and Public Members Colburn, Kay, and Luedke).

WLC: 0096/1, relating to duties of local health departments

Mr. Sweet described WLC: 0096/1, which modified the statute dealing with duties of local health departments. The draft was prepared at the request of Mr. Brandenburg and public health organizations. Mr. Brandenburg described two changes that were suggested by DHS and that he agreed with: (1) the

word “Regularly” would be inserted on page 2, line 3; and (2) the words “Involve key policymakers and the general public to” would be inserted on page 2, line 9.

It was moved by Mr. Gielow, seconded by Dr. Patterson, that the amendments be incorporated into the draft. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of Ayes, 13 (Reps. Kessler and Vruwink; and Public Members Anderson, Brandenburg, Gerke, Gielow, Nycz, Patterson, Riportella, Schmidt, Townsend, Wasserman, and Willis); Noes, 0; and Absent, 4 (Sen. Olsen; and Public Members Colburn, Kay, and Luedke).

It was moved by Mr. Gielow, seconded by Dr. Patterson, that the committee recommend introduction of WLC: 0096/1, as amended. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of Ayes, 13 (Reps. Kessler and Vruwink; and Public Members Anderson, Brandenburg, Gerke, Gielow, Nycz, Patterson, Riportella, Schmidt, Townsend, Wasserman, and Willis); Noes, 0; and Absent, 4 (Sen. Olsen; and Public Members Colburn, Kay, and Luedke).

WLC: 0097/1, relating to repayment of state aid by medical school graduates

Mr. Sweet described WLC: 0097/1, which was prepared at the request of Dr. Wasserman, and related to repayment of state aid by medical school graduates.

Ms. Anderson suggested that the draft be amended on page 2, lines 4 and 5, to also include rural areas described in s. 36.63, Stats. Dr. Wasserman had no objection to this change.

Dr. Willis suggested that the draft be amended to double the amount of time specified for graduates of MCW and to include the Marquette School of Dentistry in this provision. Dr. Wasserman had no objection to these suggested changes.

It was moved by Mr. Nycz, seconded by Dr. Willis, that the committee recommend introduction of WLC: 0097/1, as amended. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of Ayes, 12 (Reps. Kessler and Vruwink; Public Members Anderson, Brandenburg, Gerke, Gielow, Nycz, Riportella, Schmidt, Townsend, Wasserman, and Willis); Noes, 0; and Absent, 5 (Sen. Olsen; and Public Members Colburn, Kay, Luedke, and Patterson).

WLC: 0098/1, relating to the expansion of the health care provider loan assistance program to include public health professionals

Ms. Frechette described WLC: 0098/1, which would expand the health care provider loan assistance program to include public health professionals, as defined in the draft.

It was moved by Dr. Wasserman, seconded by Mr. Gielow, that the draft be amended to include pharmacists in this program. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of Ayes, 10 (Public Members Anderson, Brandenburg, Gerke, Gielow, Nycz, Riportella, Schmidt, Townsend, Wasserman, and Willis); Noes, 2 (Reps. Kessler and Vruwink); and

Absent, 5 (Sen. Olsen; and Public Members Colburn, Kay, Luedke, and Patterson).

It was moved by Representative Kessler, seconded by Ms. Anderson, that the draft, as amended, be laid on the table and that staff obtain additional information from DHS on the number of public health professionals that might be affected by the draft. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of Ayes, 9 (Reps. Kessler and Vruwink; and Public Members Anderson, Gerke, Nycz, Riportella, Schmidt, Wasserman, and Willis); Noes, 3 (Public Members Brandenburg, Gielow, and Townsend); and Absent, 5 (Sen. Olsen; and Public Members Colburn, Kay, Luedke, and Patterson).

Letter from Representative Fred Kessler

Representative Kessler described a letter that he had sent to Chair Olsen asking that the committee consider three options regarding the anticipated physician shortage in Wisconsin, including increasing enrollment at the UW, creating a new medical school, or creating a new school of osteopathic medicine. Representative Kessler stated that the school of osteopathic medicine may happen on its own, without action by the Legislature.

Following discussion, Representative Kessler suggested that the committee contact the two medical schools and recommend increased enrollment and resources for rural and inner city areas. There was no objection to this suggestion.

Plans for Future Meetings

During the meeting, Representative Kessler noted that Chair Olsen had indicated his desire that this be the final meeting of the committee. The two drafts that had been tabled could be submitted to the committee for a vote by mail ballot.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

RNS:jb;ksm;jal