



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

HEALTH CARE ACCESS

Isaac Coggs Heritage Health Center
8200 West Silver Spring Drive
Milwaukee, WI

October 22, 2010
10:00 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

[The following is a summary of the October 22, 2010 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; and Approval of the Minutes of the October 1, 2010 Meeting

Chair Kessler called the meeting to order. The roll was called and it was determined that a quorum was present. Chair Kessler gave opening remarks and thanked the Isaac Coggs Heritage Health Center for hosting today's hearing.

The minutes of the October 1, 2010 meeting were approved by voice vote.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

Rep. Fred Kessler, Chair; Sen. Luther Olsen, Vice-Chair; Rep. John Townsend; and Public Members Sandy Anderson, Terry Brandenburg, Bruce Colburn, Curt Gielow, Ted A. Kay, Nathan Luedke, Greg Nycz, Roberta Riportella, Robert Schmidt, Dr. Sheldon Wasserman, and Dr. Earnestine Willis.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS
EXCUSED:**

Rep. Amy Sue Vruwink; and Public Members Mary Lu Gerke and Dr. Jeff Patterson.

COUNCIL STAFF PRESENT:

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

APPEARANCES:

Senator Spencer Coggs; Madelaine Tully, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Westside Healthcare Association; Ruby Sutton, RN, Health Ministry Coordinator, Monumental Baptist Church; Julie Willems Van Dijk, Wisconsin Public Health Council, WPHA, WALHDAB; Dr. Michael Brown and Dr. Andrew Traynor, Professors, Concordia University School of Pharmacy; Alan David, MD, Elizabeth Fleming, and Camille Garrison, Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW); Valerie Gilchrist, MD, Chair, Department of Family Medicine, University of Wisconsin (UW) School of Medicine and Public Health, and Pat Remington, UW School of Medicine & Public Health; Judith Hansen, Wisconsin Center for Nursing; Gina Dennik-Champion, Wisconsin Nurses Association; Kasey Bruch-Nenn, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Dental Clinic; Andrew C. Thorp and Thomas R. Willett, Access Affordable Healthcare; Clark Collins, Wisconsin Academy of Physician Assistants; and Gregg S. Silberg, D.O., Wisconsin College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Public Hearing

Senator Spencer Coggs welcomed the committee to the Isaac Coggs Heritage Health Center and noted that the center was named after his uncle. Senator Coggs discussed the importance of the health center and other Milwaukee Health Services, Inc., facilities in providing access to health care for an underserved population. He noted that he chairs the Milwaukee Health Services, Inc., Board and its mission is to expand health care access for the poorest of the poor in all impoverished areas.

Dr. Madelaine Tully, Chief Medical Officer, Westside Healthcare Association, stated that the two federally qualified health centers her association operates have had a positive impact on the community. She said that this has been accomplished through the strong relationships established between patient and provider and the use of the medical home model. According to Dr. Tully, the Westside Healthcare Association works with both the TRIUMPH and PATHWAYS programs and is always looking for new ways to provide training without sacrificing time spent with patients.

Ruby Sutton, Health Ministry Coordinator, Monumental Baptist Church, stated that communication is the key in reaching out to neighborhoods in need and to working with state agencies. She suggested that state agencies work more closely with church programs in reaching underserved needy populations.

Julie Willems Van Dijk, Wisconsin Public Health Council, WPHA, WALHDAB, emphasized that the public health system addresses all factors which contribute to an individual living a long healthy life. She informed the committee that public health is funded at the federal, state, and local level and that the state contribution is less than half of what federal and local governments each provide. She alerted the committee to the fact that the public health workforce is getting older and provided it with the following two recommendations:

1. Strengthen statutes regarding public health voluntary accreditation to align it with new national standards, especially in the area of community health improvement planning.
2. Consider assessing a user fee on tobacco, alcohol, and non-nutritious foods to fund public health.

Dr. Michael Brown and Dr. Andrew Traynor, Professors, Concordia University School of Pharmacy, requested that the committee consider pharmacists when developing health care access policies. They emphasized the importance of including pharmacists on the medical home model team. They suggested that the committee look at providing incentives to attract and retain pharmacists in rural areas and creating loan forgiveness programs for those who work in rural areas.

Dr. Alan David, MCW, was accompanied by **Elizabeth Fleming and Camille Garrison**, who shared their experiences as medical students at MCW and emphasized the importance of family practice residency programs. Dr. David stressed the need to make sure that junior high and high school curriculum in Wisconsin schools prepare students who are able to compete in the medical field. Dr. David asked the committee to look at ways to address the high debt load graduating medical students face and ways to fund additional residency programs.

Dr. Valerie Gilchrist, Chair, UW Department of Family Medicine, and **Dr. Pat Remington**, UW School of Medicine & Public Health, discussed the factors that have contributed to a shortage of primary care physicians and suggested ways to address the shortage. Dr. Gilchrist discussed the threat of what she termed the “gray tsunami” that may occur as many primary care physicians near retirement at the same time as demand for services increases from an aging population. She stated that in regard to primary care providers, there is both a supply and distribution problem. Dr. Gilchrist recommended that the committee consider supporting the debt load and look at ways to enhance practice environments and training programs as ways to increase the number of primary care physicians. Dr. Remington stressed the importance of looking at the demand side and investing in public health infrastructure.

Judith Hansen, Wisconsin Center for Nursing, and **Gina Dennik-Champion**, Wisconsin Nurses Association, discussed the important role nurses play in the health care system largely due to the fact that they comprise the largest segment of health care providers. Ms. Hansen gave an overview of the Wisconsin 2010 Registered Nurse (RN) Survey Summary stressing that the median age for RNs is 46-49 with 46% of RNs over the age of 50. She recommended that the committee look at ways of: (1) doubling the number of doctoral prepared nurses; (2) providing access to high quality, cost-effective care by advanced practice nurses with fewer constraints on their practice; and (3) encouraging nurses without bachelor’s degrees to work toward a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). She informed the committee that a deeper analysis of the survey results will be summarized in a comprehensive report to the Legislature.

Ms. Dennik-Champion provided the committee with comprehensive written testimony containing eight recommendations derived from a report by the Institute of Medicine titled, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*. Her number one recommendation to the committee was to institute loan forgiveness and scholarship programs to attract people to the field of nursing, particularly in the public health area. She acknowledged that as team models and medical home models are developed there will be an increased demand for nurses who will be key players in these new systems.

Kasey Bruch-Nenn, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Dental Clinic, discussed the importance of providing dental care in public schools in hopes that the program conducted by her dental clinic will be replicated throughout the state.

Dr. Thomas R. Willett and Andrew C. Thorp, RN, Access Affordable Healthcare, presented the committee with a model of health care delivery they recently instituted. The goals of the model are to provide transparency regarding costs of medical care and avoid paperwork associated with health insurance, Medicare, and Medicaid claims.

Clark Collins, President, Wisconsin Academy of Physician Assistants, provided the committee with background information on the role and training of physician assistants (PAs). He informed the committee that over one-half of PAs work in primary care. He stated that UW-Madison encourages its PA students to work in primary care and provides opportunities to train in at least one rural setting. He emphasized the need for more clinical training sites for PA students. He stated that legally authorizing PAs to order physical therapy services, complete Division of Motor Vehicle medical reports, order patient restraints, and order home health services will help address some access issues. He suggested that the committee consider including 2009 Senate Bill 698 into any measure it recommends.

Dr. Gregg S. Silberg, Wisconsin College of Osteopathic Medicine, spoke regarding the creation of a college of osteopathic medicine in Wisconsin. He stated that the college would be located in Racine because, as part of southeast Wisconsin, it is the highest provider shortage area in the state. According to Dr. Silberg, the school will open in August of 2012 or August 2013.

Plans for Future Meetings

The committee will hold its next meeting on *Monday, November 22, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., in the Legislative Council Large Conference Room, One East Main Street, Suite 401, Madison, Wisconsin.*

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

HJF;jb;ksm