

# The Check-Up

Iowa Department of Public Health

October  
2009

## 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/](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hcr_committees/)

### Websites

#### Advisory Councils

[Electronic Health Information](#)

[Medical Home](#)

[Direct Care Worker](#)

[Health and Long-Term Care Access](#)

[Prevention and Chronic Care Management](#)

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

[Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Nutrition](#)

#### Other Iowa HCR Activities

[Iowa Healthy Communities Initiative](#)

[Small Business Qualified Wellness Program Tax Credit Plan](#)

### Electronic Health Information Advisory Council

The Iowa Health Information Technology Plan is available [here](#).

IDPH and the e-Health Executive Committee, Advisory Council, and Workgroups are finalizing the application for the state HIE cooperative agreement program through the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC). Iowa is eligible to receive \$8,375,000 from ONC, which is approximately one-third of the estimated four-year budget. Funding from the cooperative agreement will be used to prepare and begin execution of a comprehensive State Plan. This State Plan builds on the Iowa Health Information Technology Plan approved in July 2009 to align with expectations from ONC. The State Plan will include a strategic and implementation plan for:

- An Environmental Scan
- Progress across five domains: governance, finance, technical infrastructure, business and technical operations, and legal/policy
- HIE Development and Adoption
- Coordination with Medicaid, Medicare, Federally Funded State Based Programs, and other ARRA programs

**Next Meeting: October 22<sup>nd</sup> 10:00 -2:00 in Iowa City**

## Medical Home System Advisory Council

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

The [Patient-Centered Medical Home Symposium](#) was held on September 18<sup>th</sup> at the Marriott in Coraville. This symposium was 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 brought together the Iowa health community to learn about, and discuss strategies to achieve, patient-centered medical homes. The symposium included background and national perspectives, as well as examples of current practice. Special attention was focused on clinical practice redesign, reimbursement and incentives in Iowa. Presentation materials from the Symposium are 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. NASHP is supported through a grant from The Commonwealth Fund, to develop and implement policies that increase Medicaid and CHIP program participants' access to high performing medical homes. Each state will receive a one-year program of technical assistance to support their efforts. The technical assistance program will provide opportunities for consortium members to exchange insights and experience with national experts and their peers, as well as both in-person and distance learning and both group and individual assistance. The Consortium will launch with a Learning Session to be held 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, HHS Secretary Sebelius announced at a recent news conference. Sebelius, joined by Vermont Gov. Jim Douglas and White House Office of HCR Director Nancy-Ann DeParle said this new partnership between 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. To view the news release, click [here](#).

**Next Meeting: December 9<sup>th</sup> 10:00-2:00 at Urbandale Public Library**

## Direct Care Worker Advisory Council

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

A final report for this year is due January 15<sup>th</sup>. The council met most recently on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Refinements to the career pathway model were discussed along with the final report to IDPH on September 30<sup>th</sup>. As a reminder, this council reports to the Director of IDPH.

**Next Meeting: November 12<sup>th</sup> 10:00 Location TBD**

## Health and Long-Term Care Access Advisory Council

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

IDPH plans to submit the initial phase of the strategic plan to the Governor and General Assembly in November, ahead of the mandated January due date, so that the document can be useful in preparation for the legislative session. Following completion of this initial phase of the strategic plan, the council will continue its work as an update of the 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 will not meet in October.

**Next Meeting: November 20<sup>th</sup> 10:00 – 3:00 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 Council last met on September 16<sup>th</sup> where the State Board of Health Recommendations were discussed. Additionally, the Council discussed important next steps. It was decided that they are going 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 on chronic disease management, including self-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 meeting will consist of a panel of mental health experts to share important information and strategies to the Council.

**Next Meeting: December 4<sup>th</sup> 10:00 -2:00 at West Des Moines Public Library**

## Patient Autonomy in Health Care Decisions in Pilot Project Advisory Council (IPOLST)

**At the November 6<sup>th</sup>** meeting, the Council will hear the results of the Cedar Rapids pilot project, discuss the challenges and opportunities and develop a set of recommendations for the Governor and the Legislature. The two year pilot develops a community based health-service and facilities system that honors physician orders that implement patient treatment preferences. The purpose is to assure patient treatment preferences across facilities and through emergencies. To date, just under 300 individuals have created IPOST documents and filed them with their providers.

**Next Meeting: November 6<sup>th</sup> at the Lucas State Office Building Room 201**

## 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. 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 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 were due August 31, 2009. For a description of the awards, click [here](#). An awards ceremony was held October 1st, 2009. 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](http://www.healthyiowa.gov).

**Next Meeting: December 10<sup>th</sup> location TBD**

## Iowa Healthy Communities Initiative

*24 Community Wellness Grants have been awarded for the FY2009-2011 project period. HF 2539 and federal funding secured by Senator Tom Harkin was combined for the grant projects. The Grantees attended a training on sustainability in September, which was very well received.*

For a brief description of each Community Wellness Grant, click [here](#). Additional grants are anticipated for the FY2010-11 project period.

## 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.*