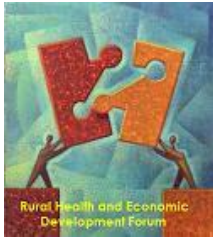


Rural Health Development Council Meeting Notes



Thursday, December, 2014

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Sheraton Hotel

Madison, WI

Present:

Traici Brockman, *WI Division of Public Health*

Blane Christman, *Christman Dental*

Byron Crouse, *UW School of Medicine and Public Health*

Mari Freiberg, *WI Primary Health Care Association*

Sarah Grossheusch, *Adams County Public Health*

Kevin Jacobson, *WI Office of Rural Health*

Wilda Nilsestuen, *UW Department of Family Medicine*

Leslie Patterson, *Medical College of Wisconsin*

Kye Richards, *WI Office of Rural Health*

Kathy Schmitt, *WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection*

Tim Size, *Rural WI Health Cooperative*

Jackie Szehner, *Community Care of Central Wisconsin*

Charlie Walker, *Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation*

Kurt Calkins, *Columbia County Land & Water Conservation*

Kevin Masarik, *UW Stevens Point Center for Watershed Science & Education*

Kevin J convened the meeting at 10:00.

Kevin Masarik talked with the Council about the potential impact of agricultural practices on groundwater, specifically private well water. Pollutants from animal manure include bacterial, such as e. coli and salmonella. Nitrate/nitrogen contamination from fertilizers and other sources is also a concern, especially for infants. Removing nitrates from public or private water systems is possible, but can be expensive. [[see presentation for more detail](#)]

Kurt Calkins spoke on how agriculture can impact water quality and on the Agricultural Enterprise Area program. This is a farm land preservation program that provides income tax credits to land owners with a goal of avoiding farm land development for other purposes. [[see presentation for more detail](#)]

Loan Assistance Programs

The Council discussed the LAP review committee award selections. Review committee members described their selection process. Charlie said that he considered applications from an economic development perspective. He considered whether applicants previously received an award and ranked those who had not, higher and prioritized mental health providers. He also mapped applicants, researched communities and unemployment rates and considered whether applicants lived in their practice community or commuted. Jackie said she factored in whether they were

applying to both programs. Sarah added that a map of applicants would be helpful in the future and knowing past awardees' practice sites. She saw three applications from the same site. Sarah also suggested a "prompt" for the essay, so they have a target to write about, although Leslie disagreed. Sarah didn't think applicants should be "dinged" for receiving an award in the past. Leslie looked at their essays for evidence of community engagement, what they enjoy doing in the community. Kevin J asked the committee members if their size was right. They agreed that 3-5 range is a good size. The Council unanimously approved the HPLAP and RPLAP review committee recommendations for awards (Blane and Mari abstained from the HPLAP vote) Sarah suggested that practice sites only put one provider forward for an award each year. Mari added that the site could indicate which applicant they prefer to get an award in their support letters.

There followed a discussion of the value of the awards as a recruitment v. retention tool. Tim observed that because they have to be working when they apply, it's really retention. Byron agreed and added that there can be a "three year itch." At that point in their practice providers are starting families and deciding if they want to remain. An award would be most effective for retention after they've been at a site for a while. Kevin J reminded the Council that WOI-ORH plans to conduct a survey on this issue.

The Council followed this with a discussion of future meeting topics. Tim asked, what is useful to the WIORH? The Council should pick topics that will impact its ability to advise and make policy recommendations. They should be a) relevant to rural and b) capable of making an impact. Jackie said that the Governor needs to look at this Council, is it needed? Kevin J reminded the group that the Council's statutory purpose is to advise on the loan assistance programs. Tim replied that statute is irrelevant, we are not restricted to just advising about LAP. Making recommendations can be part of what we do. Sarah said restrictions on lobbying doesn't prohibit us from educating. Mari added, there is no other place for rural health to be discussed in general terms and not in terms of advocacy. Charlie said we need to close the loop, report back to the Governor. Do we currently report to the Governor? We should, has the Council submitted a deliverable to the Governor? We can start there, provide a synopsis of what the Council has done to the Legislature. Tim said we should have a deliverable every time we meet. The Council agreed to these deliverables from today's meeting:

- The percentage of households on wells who know their water quality (have tested their well)
- The percentage who test their water, find some contamination and do nothing about it (and why they don't)
- What are the best practices for clinicians with patients on private wells?
- What is the percentage of clinicians implementing these practices?

On meeting site, Charlie said it's important to meet throughout the State, to see what is going on. Tim said sites should have technology to join virtually. Sarah said Adams County got a lot from hosting a meeting—legislators attended, received funding that wouldn't have happened. Charlie offered to host the next meeting and to discuss a CNA program at the technical college.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15

2015 meeting dates: March 5, June 4, September 10, and December 3