

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Governor's Health Equity Council Subcommittee: Structural Funding Inequities		Attending: Members: Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes, Andrea Werner, William Parke-Sutherland
Date: 12/1/2021	Time Started: 3:00 PM Time Ended: 4:00 PM	State staff: MayChee Yang, Josh Lucas, Julia Nagy Members not attending: Janel Hines (excused), Guy Reiter (excused), David Frazer (excused) Members from the public:
Location: Zoom Video Conference Zoom Link: https://dcfwi.zoom.us/j/86941196445?pwd=VG96cjNpd1drY0xneit1L1dKSHd5dz09 Toll-free audio: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 518 9805 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 Webinar ID: 869 4119 6445 Passcode: 803434		Presiding Officer: Chair: Gale Johnson Co-Chair: Maria Barker

Minutes

1. Welcome and check-in

2. Review and approve minutes from 11/10/21 meeting

11/10/21 minutes: Gale moved to approve, and Maria seconded the motion. All members in favor; none opposed.

3. Check-in with teams on progress in drafting proposals

Access to Health Care

Earlier today, Maria, Gale, William, Andrea, Janel, and MayChee met with Jim Jones (State Medicaid Director) to discuss the three recommendations:

- a) *Expansion of Family Planning Only Services (Medicaid Program)*
- b) *Ensure more immigrants can receive urgent health care by expanding emergency services under BadgerCare*
- c) *Continuous eligibility for children on BadgerCare*

Jim provided some helpful insight of other possible pathways to expand state Medicaid, specific to our recommendations. MayChee took notes and will send them to this group.

a) *Expansion of Family Planning Only Services (Medicaid Program)*

Maria completed an initial draft and sent it to MayChee and William for review and feedback.

b) *Ensure more immigrants can receive urgent health care by expanding emergency services under BadgerCare*

Gale is looking into what other states are doing to fund health care coverage for immigrants, and exploring how Wisconsin might use state dollars to make this recommendation happen. If Wisconsin happened to expand Medicaid in the state, many of our recommendations would likely fall under the expansion.

William noted that Jim had indicated he would contact the federal DHHS Centers of Medicare & Medicaid to find out whether Wisconsin's Medicaid Program is currently compliant with federal law. Depending on the answer, we learned there might be other pathways or opportunities here to change the state's Medicaid policies concerning our recommendations. For example, another policy pathway would be for DHS to submit a state plan amendment to CMS. From a strategic advocacy standpoint, this subcommittee may want to consider pursuing other pathways in addition to submitting recommendations to the GHEC.

c) Expansion of Family Planning Only Services (Medicaid Program)

Maria completed an initial draft and sent it to MayChee and William for review and feedback.

d) Continuous eligibility for children on BadgerCare

William updated that it's still uncertain if the final version of the Build Back Better (BBB) budget reconciliation will include this recommendation; it's pending at the federal level with a planned vote on 12/13/21. Ultimately if the BBB bill does not include this recommendation, the team will decide to either draft a major recommendation or minor recommendation in January, given the working timeframes and draft deadline.

Economic Security

a) Raising the minimum wage

b) Expanding the EITC to include adults without dependent children

William's group completed a well-attended public listening session on 11/12/21 with good amount of input/feedback. Next step is to gather the feedback from the listening session, and then they will draft their recommendations as a group. Due to the tight timeframe and workload makes a 2nd public listening session unlikely to happen.

Environmental Justice

Create an Office of Environmental Justice – Josh gave an update that they held a public listening session on 11/23/21. Fred and Guy will be working on finalizing their draft in the coming weeks.

4. Public Comments/Q & A

Starting at 48:45 – First caller named Ramsey (Phone:715/381-7266) thanked the subcommittee for their work and voiced concerns about having trouble finding good, quality caregivers.

Second caller named Lawrence Brown (from South Milwaukee) voiced concerns about the state spending more money on burdensome regulations like “electronic visit verification” (EVV). Doing so, takes money away from paying livable wages to the workforce of caregivers. The current shortage of caregivers exacerbates this into a crisis than people realize. He voiced support for the state to expand BadgerCare to individuals with a more income who can't otherwise get affordable health care. At 55:26 he gave suggestions how to use state money on real priorities.

5. Decision voting

Did not happen because topics discussed today did not require decision voting.

6. Review assignments/tasks for next meeting 12/8/21

- Access to Health Care teams will meet to discuss their recommendations further.
- Proposal teams try to have an initial draft or share what they have done so far with the subcommittee. If not doable, that is fine. Draft deadline for internal review is 12/23/21.
- Follow-up question for GHEC Leadership: What happens to our major recommendations, if they do not become an actual policy?

7. Adjourn

Link to recording of 12/1/21 Zoom meeting. *(Please note: The actual meeting began at 4:03.)*

https://dcfwi.zoom.us/rec/share/KzT1zX9djch8DxkBORRV_fMDIi5IIHWbxFr-SaYCaI-3sSs8mXUnqvOmAO5jkusX.TAmpJHVioJByEHYL?startTime=1638392386000

Prepared by: MayChee Yang on 12/3/2021.

These minutes will be approved by the Governor's Health Equity Council subcommittee Structural Funding Inequity on: 12/8/2021