



November 29, 2010

Alderman Michael J. Murphy  
Chair, Milwaukee Common Council Finance and Personnel Committee  
City Hall, Room 205  
200 E. Wells St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

VIA E-MAIL and POSTAL MAIL

Dear Alderman Murphy:

We regret that it was impossible for representatives from the Wisconsin Partnership Program of the UW School of Medicine and Public Health to attend the November 17, 2010 meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee. As Eileen Smith indicated in an e-mail to Tobie Black on November 9, the meeting conflicted with a long-planned special meeting of the Wisconsin Partnership Program's two governance committees, which included the leadership of the UW School of Medicine and Public Health. We remain willing to meet to discuss the findings of the Legislative Audit Bureau and the activities of the Wisconsin Partnership Program.

After viewing the video of the meeting, we would like to respond to an apparent misunderstanding on the part of the committee regarding the findings of the LAB report and the activities of the Wisconsin Partnership Program. We hope this letter will provide greater context for the report and describe the efforts we are supporting in Milwaukee to help address the city's entrenched public health challenges.

The Legislative Audit Bureau spent more than a year conducting a comprehensive evaluation of the Wisconsin Partnership Program, and published a generally positive assessment of the program's activities. Specifically, LAB found:

- The Wisconsin Partnership Program is in compliance with the Order of the Insurance Commissioner that entrusted stewardship of the funds to the two medical schools;
- The Program has achieved the vision set forth by the Insurance Commissioner in 2000 of promoting "public health initiatives that will generally benefit the Wisconsin population."
- The Program has instituted grant processes and procedures for awarding and monitoring funding;
- Most grantees are meeting the objectives described in their proposals.

LAB never suggested that the Wisconsin Partnership Program misinterpreted the Order, misused the funds, or ignored conflicts of interest. We accepted LAB's recommendations in the spirit in which they were intended, in the context of process improvement.

No organization can address the health of the state of Wisconsin without strong connections to Milwaukee. Since the inception of the Program, the Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC), which oversees the community grants, has maintained representation from Milwaukee-based organizations. All OAC public members are nominated by Wisconsin based-organizations, including those in Milwaukee, through an open process. In addition, the most recent faculty appointment to the OAC is a physician who practices at Milwaukee's Bread of Healing Clinic, giving her extensive experience with many of the city's public health challenges. She also leads a program for medical students in Milwaukee designed to provide experience with underserved urban communities.

We understand that as a representative of the Milwaukee Common Council, your role is to advocate for more resources for the city and its people. The OAC has a responsibility to address statewide public health needs, including not only urban, but also rural and other underserved communities in Wisconsin. Nevertheless, the OAC has directed significant resources to the public health needs of Milwaukee. Specifically:

- Since 2004, 23% of all Community-Academic Partnership grants (\$5.4 million) have been awarded to Milwaukee-based organizations. Many of these projects focus on planning or implementing interventions to reduce health disparities in minority and underserved populations.
- Among the Program's success stories are grants to the Milwaukee Police Department for the Homicide Review Commission, which reviewed data from more than 150 homicides and developed strategies that resulted in a 15 percent drop in homicide rates in the districts served.
- The Nurse-Family Partnership Program grant to the Milwaukee Health Department hired public health nurses to conduct home visits with new mothers and improve child health outcomes.
- Milwaukee is central to the Program's major strategic initiative on improving African-American infant survival and health in the state. We have committed up to \$10 million to this effort and are developing plans to engage other funders in this effort. Eight of the 15 members of the Steering Committee for this initiative are from Milwaukee.
- The Wisconsin Population Health Fellowship Program has placed 12 fellows in the Milwaukee Health Department. As you heard at the meeting, Commissioner of Health Bevan Baker estimates these fellows provided more than 20 years of work worth about \$1.5 million to the city at no charge.
- We have developed a strong relationship with the Milwaukee Health Department and intend to build on this partnership.

In addition to direct public health grants, WPP research and education dollars are flowing into Milwaukee as well to help improve the health of the city's residents. For instance, the WPP funded the Center for Urban Population Health, which has facilitated publication of the Milwaukee Health Report. This document describes the health and well-being of residents in each of the city's Zip Codes to help guide policymakers and community health advocates in formulating priorities and directing resources. The WPP also supports the Survey for the Health of Wisconsin, which is conducting a broad survey of the state's residents to develop a comprehensive picture of the state's health. This project was called by an external reviewer "among the most innovative and far-reaching state level projects in the field of public health today." A significant component of the survey will include underserved populations in Milwaukee.

Another set of research grants has worked to improve access to Alzheimer's care in the African American and Hispanic communities, specifically building connections with Milwaukee Health Services and the United Community Center to effectively deliver care. For example, in partnership with the Milwaukee Health Services, the Wisconsin Registry for Alzheimer's Prevention is recruiting the adult children of African-Americans and Hispanics with Alzheimer's disease for baseline testing. Additionally, a \$300,000 grant has been awarded to a collaboration between a faculty member and the United Community Center to examine how a variety of factors affect a child's diet and physical activity in the Hispanic Community.

In closing, we would like to underscore our response to certain points that arose at the meeting:

- Revised conflict of interest policies clarifying the practices of both committees to exclude conflicted members from discussion and voting have been approved with the advice of UW-Madison Legal Counsel and filed with the Commissioner of Insurance.
- Community-Academic Partnership grants are awarded directly to community organizations, not to academic partners. The community partner has ultimate authority over the project, but works with academic partners to identify or solve health problems. Academic partners often bring different skill sets to projects. These grants allow communities to work with the University to achieve improvements in health outcomes. The most common roles for academic partners are consultation, data collection, and evaluation.

- As we told LAB, simply looking at objectives met does not accurately reflect the success of projects, especially in the case of community-based participatory research. Still, we believe our grantees are achieving their stated goals.
- The Wisconsin Partnership Program has developed important relationships in Milwaukee through support of successful projects and its growing connections with community groups, including the Milwaukee Health Department.

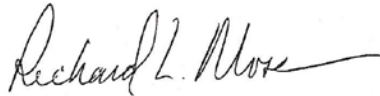
We are proud of what we are accomplishing both in Milwaukee and around the state. Our aim is to be an active partner with many public and private organizations to build healthier communities for the people of Wisconsin. Attached to this letter is a list WPP-funded projects that focus on Milwaukee residents. We can provide further information on any of these grants at your request. In addition, we are including a copy of the WPP's 2009 Annual Report to provide context on the program's goals and activities.

Please let us know if you have further questions. We, along with Dean Robert Golden, would be most willing to meet with you to provide additional information. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Susan L. Goelzer, MD  
Chair, Oversight and Advisory Committee  
Professor of Anesthesiology, Internal Medicine and Population Health Sciences



Richard L. Moss, PhD  
Chair, Medical Education and Research Committee  
Professor of Physiology  
Senior Associate Dean



Eileen M. Smith  
Assistant Dean and Director  
Wisconsin Partnership Program

Cc: Alderman Willie L Hines, Council President  
Alderman Robert J. Bauman  
Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs  
Alderman Joe Dudzik  
Alderman Nik Kovac  
Tobie Black, Staff Assistant  
Robert N. Golden, MD, Dean, UW School of Medicine and Public Affairs

**UW SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH  
OVERSIGHT AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MILWAUKEE FUNDED PROJECTS 2004-2009**

<b>COLLABORATION IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS</b>	<b>\$4,591,031</b>
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<b>2009/2008 Implementation Grant</b>	<b>\$403,750</b>
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**Implementing Strategies to Increase Breastfeeding Rates in Milwaukee County**

Community Partner: Milwaukee County Breastfeeding Coalition  
Academic Partner: Teresa Johnson, PhD, UW-Milwaukee College of Nursing

Improve the health and nutrition of infants by implementing evidence-based and culturally relevant strategies to increase breastfeeding rates in Milwaukee County.

<b>2007 Implementation Grants</b>	<b>\$2,071,470</b>
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**Expanding & Sustaining the 'Safe Mom, Safe Baby' Project**

Community Partner: Aurora Sinai Medical Center  
Academic Partner: Tina Mason MD, MPH, FACOG - Obstetrics & Gynecology

Improve perinatal health and safety outcomes for pregnant women and new mothers at risk for intimate partner violence through abuse responsive services, education, prenatal care and advocacy.

**Ecocultural Family Interview Project**

Community Partner: City of Milwaukee Health Department  
Academic Partner: Katherine Magnuson PhD - Social Work

Improve birth outcomes in high risk mothers by adapting and piloting the Ecocultural Family Interview, a tool to address family strengths, challenges and gaps in services.

**Reducing Tobacco Use among LGBT Populations in Wisconsin**

Community Partner: Diverse and Resilient, Inc.  
Academic Partner: Kathleen Oriel MD, MS - Family Medicine

Reduce tobacco use through prevention and smoking cessation strategies for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender adults in four regions in Wisconsin.

**Expanded Community Role in the Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission**

Community Partner: Milwaukee Police Department  
Academic Partner: Ron Cisler PhD - Population Health Sciences

Reduce fatal and non-fatal violent injuries and promote healthy and safe neighborhoods through the expansion of violence-prevention activities in partnership with community-based organizations in Milwaukee.

### **It Takes a Community to Help a Smoker**

Community Partner: The Salvation Army Wisconsin & Upper Michigan  
Academic Partner: Bruce Christiansen PhD - Internal Medicine

Reduce tobacco use through prevention and smoking cessation strategies for residents in the 53212 Milwaukee zip code area.

**2006 Implementation Grants** \$852,805

### **Milwaukee Nurse-Family Partnership Program**

Community Partner: City of Milwaukee Health Department (City of Milwaukee)  
Academic Partner: Geoffrey Swain MD, MPH, Departments of Family Medicine and Population Health Sciences

Implement the highly effective home visitation model program that aims to improve health outcomes for children and families of at-risk mothers.

### **Latino Geriatric Center**

Community Partner: United Community Center, Inc.  
Academic Partner: Mark Sager MD, Departments of Medicine and Population Health Sciences

Aims to reduce barriers to access for primary and preventive health services and provide early detection and treatment of Alzheimer's disease among Latinos in Milwaukee.

**2004 Implementation Grants** \$1,263,006

### **Milwaukee Birthing Project: Improving Birth Outcomes for Mothers and Children**

Community Partner: Milwaukee Birthing Project  
Academic Partner: Gloria Johnson-Powell, MD, Professor, Departments of Psychiatry and Pediatrics, Associate Dean for Cultural Diversity, Director, Center for the Study of Cultural Diversity in Health Care, UW School of Medicine and Public Health  
Fiscal Agent: InHealth Wisconsin (Milwaukee)

Improve birth outcomes for African American and Latina women. Match 150 pregnant women of color with 150 voluntary sister friends over a three-year period to enhance social support, reduce levels of stress, and improve maternal and child health outcomes.

### **Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission**

Community Partner: Milwaukee Police Department  
Academic Partner: Ron Cisler, PhD, Associate Professor, UW-Milwaukee, Associate Professor, Population Health Sciences, Director, Center for Urban Population Health, UW School of Medicine and Public Health

Promote healthy and safe neighborhoods, develop innovative responses to homicide and strategically focus enforcement and intervention activities in high-risk areas.

## **Safe Mom, Safe Baby: A Collaborative Model of Care for Pregnant Women Experiencing Intimate Partner Violence**

Community Partner: Aurora Sinai Medical Center, Aurora Health Care

Academic Partner: Adanna Amanze, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, UW School of Medicine and Public Health

Improve health outcomes and safety for pregnant women and new mothers at risk for intimate partner violence. Identify pregnant women and new mothers at risk, and provide assessments, case management, mentoring services, education, prenatal care, and advocacy.

**COLLABORATION DEVELOPMENT GRANTS** **\$742,186**

**2009/2008 Development Grants** **\$112,231**

### **Collaborative AODA Service - Identifying Cost Effective Models**

Community Partner: Jewish Family Services, Inc.

Academic Partner: Randall Brown, MD - Family Medicine

Explore best practice or evidence-based models for the development of multi-agency shared services and training in outpatient treatment of substance abuse and dependence.

### **Piloting the SHOW Project Community Advisory Board: Partners in Dissemination**

Community Partner: Social Development Commission

Academic Partner: Loren Galvao, MD, MPH – Population Health Sciences

Create a community advisory board from the African American community to participate in the implementation of the Survey of the Health of Wisconsin (SHOW), which is also funded by the Wisconsin Partnership Program.

**2007 Development Grants** **\$184,749**

### **Reducing Youth Substance Abuse through Brief Motivational Interviewing in Schools**

Community Partner: Aurora Psychiatric Hospital

Academic Partner: Patricia Kokotailo MD, MPH - Pediatrics

Reduce substance abuse and dependence among Milwaukee area at-risk youth ages 13 to 17 in partnership with five local school districts.

### **Group Prenatal Care for Vulnerable Pregnant Teens: Building Self-Efficacy and Social Support**

Community Partner: Aurora Sinai Medical Center Midwifery and Wellness Center

Academic Partner: Jacquelynn Tillett CNM, ND, FACNM - Obstetrics & Gynecology

Improve birth outcomes in vulnerable pregnant teens through improved access to prenatal healthcare services in Milwaukee-based school settings.

**(Kev Noj Qab Haus Huv Ntawm Pojniam Hmoob Lub Neej) Staying Healthy as a Hmong Woman: Building Capacity to Address Cancer Disparities**

Community Partner: House of Peace Community Center

Academic Partner: Sarah Esmond MS - Center for the Study of Cultural Diversity in Healthcare

Improve the health of Hmong women through the development of prevention strategies that reduce barriers to cancer screening.

**2006 Development Grants**

**\$297,723**

**Family Teaming to Improve Health Outcomes for Youth**

Community Partner: Aurora Family Service

Academic Partner: Paul Moberg PhD, Department of Population Health Science

A pilot program to improve family management of chronic and acute health problems for at-risk youth using the Family Teaming Meeting model.

**Health Care Task Force on Pre- and Inter-Conception Care: Optimizing Women's Health and Increasing Access to Primary and Preventive Health Services**

Community Partner: Aurora Women's Health Services - West Allis Memorial Hospital

Academic Partner: Tina Mason, MD, MPH, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology

To develop culturally appropriate strategies for enhancing access to preconception and prenatal care and improving birth outcomes among at-risk women.

**Preventing Substance Abuse Among LGBTQ Youth in Wisconsin**

Community Partner: Diverse and Resilient, Inc.

Academic Partner: Kathleen Oriel MD, MS, Department of Family Medicine

To develop a pilot program to increase knowledge, awareness, resources, and capacity to prevent and reduce alcohol and other drug use among lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and questioning youth in Wisconsin.

**Green City, Active People**

Community Partner: Greater Johnsons Park Health Coalition

Academic Partner: Nemeth Blaise, MD, Departments of Pediatrics and Orthopedics and Rehabilitation

A continuation of an urban planning program that aims to reduce long-standing health disparities in Milwaukee's inner-city, Fond du Lac and North Avenues neighborhoods.

**Noj Zoo, Nyob Zoo (Eat Well, Live Well) - A Hmong Community Health Promoter Project**

Community Partner: Hmong American Women's Association, Inc.

Academic Partner: Kalyani Rai PhD, Center for Community Development, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee

To develop and evaluate an initiative that aims to increase Hmong community access to health education and information using a lay health worker model in Milwaukee.

### **Increasing Breastfeeding Rates in Milwaukee County**

Community Partner: Milwaukee County Breastfeeding Coalition  
Academic Partner: Kristen Reynolds MD, Department of Family Medicine

A community health improvement planning initiative to improve breastfeeding rates among low-income mothers in Milwaukee County.

## **2005 Development Grants** \$97,483

### **Green City, Healthy People Eliminating Health Disparities while Revitalizing Milwaukee's Johnson's Park**

Community Partner: Urban Open Space Foundation, Inc. (Inner City Milwaukee)  
Academic Partner: Nemeth Blaise, MD, Department of Pediatrics, UW School of Medicine and Public Health

Create the Greater Johnson Park Healthy Living Sustainable Action Plan, which will blend a revitalization strategy for neighborhood green space with strategies that strengthen the social network and foster positive impacts on community health. Through these efforts, increase social interaction, stimulate active lifestyles, enhance the physical environment, provide life- and health-altering educational experiences, and decrease crime.

### **Planning Grant to Reduce Health Disparities within the LGBT Populations in Wisconsin**

Community Partner: Diverse and Resilient Inc. (Milwaukee)  
Academic Partner: Kathleen Oriel, MD, Department of Family Medicine, UW School of Medicine and Public Health

Advance the knowledge on health disparities among lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) adults in Wisconsin. Disseminate research findings, develop regional coalitions to address significant health disparities, research evidence-based program designed to modify programming, and develop an implementation plan to address priority health issues identified in the 2005 research.

## **2004 Development Grants** \$50,000

### **Planning Grant to Reduce Health Disparities within LGBT Populations in Wisconsin**

Community Partner: Diverse and Resilient, Inc. (Milwaukee)

Through increased commitment and collaboration, improve the integration of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) health issues into community health goals. Create a comprehensive three-year plan with identified strategies to address health disparities among LGBT populations throughout Wisconsin.



### **Community Mental Health Training Institute**

Community Partner: New Concept Self Development Center, Inc. (Milwaukee)

Academic Partner: Ron Cisler, PhD, Associate Professor, UW-Milwaukee, Associate Professor, Population Health Sciences, Director, Center for Urban Population Health, UW School of Medicine and Public Health

Increase the number of culturally competent mental health educators and service providers for ethnic minorities in the Milwaukee area.

## **COMMUNITY-BASED PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

**\$717,000**

### **Community-Based Population Health Practice Fellowships**

UW SMPH Partner: Patrick Remington, MD, MPH, Professor, Department of Population Health Sciences; Director, UW Population Health Institute; Faculty Director, MPH Program

An intensive two-year service learning program for MS, MPH or PhD graduates in public health or allied sciences. The goal is to develop future public health practitioners who are skilled in planning, implementing and evaluating public health programs. At least two fellows work each year in the Milwaukee community on local health problems.

## **COMMUNITY-POPULATION HEALTH INITIATIVES**

**\$299,840**

### **Center for Urban Population Health, Multi-level Information Systems and Health Promotion Interventions for Milwaukee's School Children**

Community Partner: Milwaukee Public School System

UW SMPH Partner: Ron Cisler, PhD, Associate Professor, UW-Milwaukee, Associate Professor, Population Health Sciences, Director, Center for Urban Population Health, UW School of Medicine and Public Health

Develop a curricular and preventive health intervention, the "Milwaukee School Health Model," which addresses health disparities among Milwaukee's highest-risk urban children.

**UW School of Medicine and Public Health  
Medical Education and Research Committee  
Milwaukee Projects 2004-2009**

**MILWAUKEE-BASED PROJECTS**

**Effects of Environmental Opportunities and Barriers to Physical Activity, Fitness, and Health in Hispanic Children in Wisconsin**

Aaron Carrel, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, UW School of Medicine and Public Health

One of the most pressing health problems facing all of Wisconsin, childhood obesity is especially prevalent in the Hispanic community where nearly a third of children are overweight. This wide-ranging collaboration will look at individual, social, and environmental barriers to physical activity and good nutrition among Latino students on the South Side of Milwaukee. About 100 students at Milwaukee's Bruce Guadalupe School, a charter school based at UCC, will be measured for health and metabolic risk factors. Using GPS and student-generated digital photography, researchers will then assess how these children make nutritional choices and engage with neighborhood resources like parks and bike paths.

**Center for Urban Population Health Public Health Development Plan**

Ron A Cisler, PhD, Associate Professor, UWM College of Health Sciences, and Director, Center for Urban Population Health; Randall Lambrecht, Ph.D., Dean and Professor, UWM College of Health Sciences

This award aims to support an expanded role for the Center for Urban Population Health (CUPH) in the public health initiatives being implemented in the Milwaukee area.

**Recruitment of Middle-Aged African-Americans for Studies of Preclinical Alzheimer's Disease: Development of a Minority Recruitment Model in Milwaukee**

Mark A. Sager, MD, Professor, Department of Medicine

This project, originally funded in 2008, will continue its work by expanding the Wisconsin Registry for Alzheimer's Prevention (WRAP) recruitment and baseline testing to include adult children of African-Americans with Alzheimer's disease living in Milwaukee County. WRAP is designed to identify neuropsychological, genetic and lifestyle markers of incipient Alzheimer's disease in asymptomatic adult children of parents with Alzheimer's disease.

## STATEWIDE PROJECTS WITH A MILWAUKEE COMPONENT

### **Institute for Clinical and Translational Research**

Marc Drezner, MD, Professor, Department of Medicine; Senior Associate Dean for Clinical and Translational Research, UW SMPH

This award supports the UW Institute for Clinical and Translational Research, which will serve as the foundation to achieve major changes in the clinical and translational research enterprise. The institute's goal is to create an environment to transform health research into a continuum extending from investigation through discovery to translation into clinical practice in communities.

### **Reducing Cancer Disparities through Comprehensive Cancer Control**

James Cleary, MBBS, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine

Through a unique partnership model between the UW Carbone Cancer Center and the Wisconsin Division of Public Health, projects will be implemented to reduce cancer disparities in Wisconsin. Funds will be directed toward development of community-based participatory partnerships with underserved/minority populations

### **Survey of the Health of Wisconsin**

Javier Nieto, MD, MPH, PhD, Professor and Chair, Department of Population Health Sciences

The overall goal of the Survey of the Health of Wisconsin is to create an infrastructure to assess health needs, to understand the major determinants of health, and to study health trends over time. Results from this survey of a representative sample of Wisconsin residents will be used to establish state health priorities.

### **The Wisconsin Smokers Health Studies**

Michael Fiore, MD, MPH, Professor of Medicine and Director of the UW Center for Tobacco Research and Intervention

This project explores three areas that may lead to dramatic improvements in treating tobacco dependence: Developing treatment packages for clinical intervention; improving system-level strategies for translating effective treatments into healthcare settings; and promoting adherence to effective tobacco cessation treatments, especially in underserved populations where tobacco use is increasingly concentrated.