

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Wisconsin Women's Council – December 2, 2020**

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Patty Cadorin, Chair

Present: Patty Cadorin (Chair), Dr. Lisa Armaganian, Cindy Block, Denise Gaumer Hutchison, Alderwoman Chantia Lewis, Nerissa Nelson, Carrie Richard, Shelby Schmudlach, and Ze Yang. A quorum was present. Also Attending: Christine Lidbury (Executive Director) and Gale Johnson, Director, Wisconsin Well Woman Program.

1. Welcome by Chair

2. Approval of the Minutes of March 4 and June 3, 2020. Motion to Approve by Denise Gaumer Hutchison; seconded by Carrie Richard. Approved unanimously.

3. Update - FY21 (current) budget: \$8,000 reduction

The economic impact of COVID-19 continues to negatively affect state government spending and revenues. This, in turn, has affected the Council's budget. No action is requested or needed.

- In July, Governor Evers mandated \$250M in government spending cuts over the current fiscal year (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021) to offset reduced state revenues.
- WWC was given an initial reduction target of \$16,500; after negotiations, it is \$8,000.
- The budget reduction comes mainly from two places: 1) program funds and 2) board meeting expenses (travel, lunch).
- For all agencies, budget reduction targets and funds are directed to be taken from General Purpose Revenue (GPR) program funds – i.e., tax revenue.
- The Women's Council's annual budget is entirely GPR funded. Our budget falls into three categories: staff/salary, programs, and operations (rent and fixed costs).
 - a. Staffing. It gets more challenging because we were told not to furlough staff. This is problematic for the Council because most agencies can identify funds for a cut from retirements or other position vacancies.
 - b. What's left. This leaves the program and operating budgets to meet the reduction target.

- c. There are natural savings from no in-person meetings, which includes travel reimbursements, lunches, and incidental expenses. This offers about \$2,000 in saving. To that we added \$1000 funds that had been set aside for printing and staff travel, saved because there are no external events to attend or exhibit, and eliminated all organizational memberships.
- d. We also need \$5K to move from program to salary lines because fringe and salary supplements from DOA which have historically been provided will not be available this year.
- e. In total, this brings the Council reduction (officially called a "lapse") to \$8,000.

Discussion ensued:

University employees were told they may have to take furloughs, wouldn't it be the same?

CL: We were told no furloughs at this time. It may be the University System operates differently with budget and staffing. That said, salary is our biggest expense and I believe that is always on the table.

Is this cut for this fiscal year only and does it affect the budget request we worked on for the next FY21-23 budget?

CL: It is for this fiscal year only – that is, through June 2021. That said, we don't know about COVID-19 and we don't know what will happen this summer 2021. For our budget proposal for the upcoming Governor's FY21-23 proposed budget, this reduction is not included. However, we won't know if the proposal has been included all or in part until the release in February, and even if so, the proposed budget goes to legislature for review and changes so we don't know what will happen with that until June.

Should board members attend joint finance committee hearings? CL: Perhaps. I will find out more when information is available.

4. Program Funds Moving Forward: \$7,000

\$3K for MKE pilot project

With our budget stripped down and with the inability to travel and work in communities, I recommend partnering with other organizations more connected to direct impact in communities.

In response to the effects of COVID-19 on the social and economic fabric of communities around the state, there are a wide variety of systems for responding to community needs.

Milwaukee: Greater Milwaukee Foundation and United Ways of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County have developed COVID Crisis Response Teams bringing together philanthropy, business, and non-profit sectors to form a "coordinated approach to identifying

greatest needs and quickly activating funding support and volunteer resources for maximum community impact.”

Patty Cadorin connected the Women's Council to Martina Gollin-Graves, President and CEO. Mental Health America of Wisconsin, who talked about the ever more important role community non-profits are playing in the day-to-day community response. A lot of trusted non-profits, who are trying to gear up to meet need. People want to stay local, near their home, find culturally appropriate care and understanding, and engage with agencies where they may already have personal relationships. Working with churches and community centers to identify resources or pull together with other people in the community to meet needs.

In some cases, organizations are finding non-conventional ways of providing health and wellness. In Madison, a family mental health provider in an underserved community partnered with a church to provide a free, drop-in mental health clinic with social service screening and assistance programs onsite to provide wrap-around services. A community center in one Milwaukee neighborhood has outreach staff going door-to-door to identify families in crisis and, where possible connect them to resources.

But there are barriers. Funding is an issue, with patients and services not connected to a referral system, providers may not have the right credentials for reimbursement, space is not recognized as a treatment or medical facility, Donated funds are limited in amount and duration or may not be the just-in-time funding needed responding to the unplanned events or other crises situations.

One common issue that arose was the need for just-in-time resources for community non-profits to meet new, unanticipated, or expanded needs.

This is a need to some Women's Funds in Wisconsin have started to adopt in recent years to provide smaller grants, outside the annual grantmaking cycle, where a small amount of money at the right time can have a big impact.

Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee (WFGM). In 2017, the WFGM created a Flash Grant program as a vehicle to provide just in time resources to meet an immediate need. Were the Council to partner to create a targeted Flash Grant opportunity, a major advantage would be that Women's Funds as established philanthropic organizations, have existing outreach, grants review, and financial and accountability practices process and framework, along with the expertise and professionalism of the Fund, to create a Flash Grant around women and mental health. In addition, one of the WFGM funding priority areas is health and wellness. , connected to their Flash program started in 2017. She can help distribute opportunity, WF has infrastructure for grant-making, outreach, and accountability,

I propose we partner with the WFCM to create targeted women and mental health flash grants for non-profit organizations working in the field, totaling \$3,000. These would be named Women's Council grants (via WFGM) and the Council would have a seat on the grant making

committee. Target timeline to make grants in the first quarter of 2021. Use as a pilot initiative, with the idea of then going out to other potential partners to expand in other parts of the state.

As this moves forward:

- How can we improve messaging and be more intentional in seeking potential grant recipients?
- What does an effective partnership look like?
- Can we connect with local organizations to identify needs and gaps in the community response to COVID?

Discussion ensued. Questions:

How is this different from what WF already do around the state?

CL: Flash or Rapid Response grants are not part of a typically annual grant cycle, with a condensed application and review process to be more time sensitive. Typically limited to \$500 - \$1500. Turnover time from application to check in hand can be as little as a few weeks.

What other funds have these kinds of grants?

CL: I am investigating that – different funds appear to categorize or use them differently, if at all.

Denise asked that we look at the YWCA for this purpose.

A quorum as not present at this time, so no vote was taken. Those present agreed to move forward as proposed. The next step is to explore how to create in other cities. Patty asked members to contact Christine if they have connections or specific suggestions.

5. Guest Speaker

Gail Johnson, Director, Wisconsin Well Woman Program (WWWP)

WWWP is part of the Centers for Disease Control's national breast and cervical cancer early detection and screening program. Programs exist in all 50 states and US territories, and in Tribal nations across the country.

About WWWP:

- Provides primary breast and cervical cancer screening services for women who are uninsured and underinsured.
- Serves women up to 250% FPL.
- Serves women in their middle years, primarily 45-64.
- Serves women over 64 who don't have Medicare - there is a small percentage who aren't eligible for Medicare for one reason or another.
- Statewide – programs in every county and the 11 tribal nations in Wisconsin.

- Coordinating agencies at the local level are the first point of contact, providing outreach and education.

Patient Navigator

WWWP has three full-time patient navigators who are social workers, located as follows:

1. Milwaukee, with Aurora Advocate (mental health professional as well);
2. Western, Northern, and Central Wisconsin, with Marshfield Clinic with focus on women in rural area; and
3. 16 counties that make up the Southern region, with UW Breast Center.

In addition to the services noted above, patient navigators work with women who may have insurance, such as BadgerCare Plus and Medicare, but may have barriers to the services they need. Navigators work with women who may not need screening services but need to eliminate barriers to get the services they need.

Wisconsin also has a WISE WOMAN program, but it is only in Milwaukee. The name is an acronym for: Well Integrated Screening and Evaluation for Women Across the Nation. A smaller CDC program, there are only 24 sites across the country.

The focus is on helping women to lessen their risk for heart attack and stroke, but it is a much smaller CDC program, with only 24 programs across the country. In Wisconsin, the partner organization is Aurora Advocate's Walker's Point clinic on the southside of Milwaukee. A woman going to the Walker's Point clinic to be part of Well Women program, will be asked if she wants to also participate in WISE WOMAN program. If so, she will have integrated visit with screenings. An integrated visit also includes screening for depression. When a woman goes for services at Walker's Point, providers have a relationship with her and once she has identified healthy goals and barriers, will work with her. With COVID, on Tuesday and Thursdays there are virtual health education program, including a chef with healthy meals.

Among partnerships, WWWP has long-standing relationships with the

- Foundation for Black Women's Wellness
- Milwaukee Coalition for Hmong Health
- Milwaukee College of Nursing
- UW Carbone Cancer Center's Cancer Health Disparities
- Wisconsin Association of Free and Charitable Clinics
- Wisconsin Inter-Tribal Pink Shawl Initiative

This is the third year working with the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors. Wisconsin is one of only four state learning collaboratives working with them on a breast cancer. In Wisconsin, the focus is on breast cancer and African America women in Milwaukee because of the high morbidity and mortality rates.

An important resource is the Well Badger Resource Center, where staff will take questions and get back to you on a wide range of resources and information. 1-800-642-7837. Give them a call. www.wellbadger.org.

6. Public comment – none

7. Move to Adjourn by Patty Cadorin; seconded by Nerissa Nelson. Approved Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Lidbury
Executive Director