

Board of Health for Madison and Dane County  
**Well Child Clinics**

Resolution #2009-10

Well Child Clinic services have been offered by the public health departments in Madison and Dane County for more than 20 years. While these services were not state mandated, the program was provided in order to meet the needs of under- and uninsured children for well child health assessment, health education, referrals and follow up services. In 2008, 202 children received services. Almost all had no health insurance coverage. Two-thirds were Latino. Some children are uninsurable. Most clients were seen one time.

Public Health-Madison and Dane County reviewed the program in 2008 and identified a number of issues. First, the capacity of other health care providers in Madison and Dane County for serving uninsured children has increased and insurance programs now cover more children, reducing the gap in services the Well Child Clinic was designed to address. For example, Group Health Cooperative and UW Hospital and Clinics' Adopt-a-School Program serve school-age children who are uninsured and underinsured. This program is in the midst of expansion to include all schools in the Madison Metropolitan School District. Access Community Health Center has added several new providers to increase their capacity to serve the uninsured and underinsured. Second, since PH-MDC Well Child Clinic cannot provide comprehensive well child care, clients must be referred elsewhere for treatment. Current standards of care dictate that every child have a health care "home" that provides consistent, comprehensive care essential for developing healthy behaviors and preventing acute and chronic illnesses. Third, staffing Well Child Clinics required 2.0 FTEs with total 2008 expenses of \$213,000. Non-specific maternal child health grant funding provided about \$84,000. Thus, in terms of cost per client served, the program is relatively inefficient.

While the Well Child Clinics once filled a gap in services in Madison and Dane County, the assets and needs of these communities have changed, making the current service less efficient and needed by fewer families. These factors led PH-MDC to propose in the 2009 budget to end Well Child Clinic services in 2009. The Joint Board of Health for Madison and Dane County approved this budget plan in 2008. In subsequent budget planning, funds were restored to the budget to allow the program to continue in 2009.

PH-MDC has been working with Access Community Health Center to transition clients so that they will have access to comprehensive health services. In 2010, clients seeking well child services will be referred to this and other community health care providers with the goal of ensure that all consumers have a health care home.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Public Health-Madison and Dane County proceed with plans to end Well Child Clinic services in 2009, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the resources previously devoted to this program be r eallocated to related areas of greater need, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Public Health-Madison and Dane County continue to offer referral and advocacy services for children and families in accessing well child care from other providers and continue to monitor the availability of health care resources to assure access to comprehensive health care for all.

Drafted by: David Caes, Susan Zahner, Patricia Frazak  
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Approved: