

Board of Health for Madison and Dane County

Resolution #2018 – 06

Authorization to Become a Member of the Dane County Health Council and to Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Dane County Health Council and the Foundation for Black Women’s Wellness, Inc.

Public Health-Madison and Dane County has been a member of the Dane County Health Council for a number of years. The Health Council is a self-organized group of healthcare providers, government entities, and non-profit organizations that works to eliminate gaps and barriers to optimal health and reduce disparities in health outcomes. In the last 18 months, the Health Council has undergone a strategic planning process that has resulted in a new structure and a recommendation to align the priorities of the Health Council with the community health needs assessment and community health assessment mandates of the health care and public health partners.

Membership organizations include:

- University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Association
- SSM Health St. Mary’s Hospital - Madison
- Group Health Cooperative of South Central Wisconsin
- UnityPoint Health Meriter
- Access Community Health Centers
- Madison Metropolitan School District
- United Way of Dane County
- Public Health Madison & Dane County

Membership for public entities under this new structure now requires a financial commitment to specific Health Council initiatives, executive leadership participation, and a staff resource commitment to the work and initiatives of the Health Council through operational infrastructure support. The financial commitment is based on the relative annual budget of the membership organizations and will be used to support the pursuit of the priority area of focus. In early 2018, the Health Council adopted a focus on decreasing the incidence of low-birth weight babies born to African American mothers in Dane County, in alignment with Goal 1 of the Public Health-Madison and Dane County 2016-2020 Strategic Plan. To further this focus, the Health Council issued a request for proposals for a series of community engagement sessions to bring the voice of the community to the table as an active partner in achieving this goal.

The Health Council selected the Foundation for Black Women’s Wellness, Inc. for this work, and over the course of 2018, this foundation will meaningfully engage African American women as experts and partners in defining

concerns and implementing strategies that will improve health outcomes for African American babies. As a member of the Health Council, Public Health-Madison and Dane County seeks authority to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Foundation for Black Women's Wellness, Inc. and the other membership organizations of the Health Council and in April 2018 will contribute \$2,500 of the Prevention Health and Human Services Block Grant to support this work.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Health for Madison and Dane County, authorizes Public Health-Madison and Dane County to participate as a member organization of the Dane County Health Council and authorizes the Director to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the members of the Dane County Health Council listed above and with the Foundation for Black Women's Wellness, Inc., on behalf of Public Health-Madison and Dane County for the purposes of the work described above.

Drafted by: Kate Austin
Introduced: April 12, 2018
Action: