



## State and Partner Report 2006\*

**State:** Wisconsin

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### Projects/Issues Addressed This Year:

1. Proposed a statewide anthrax policy and procedure for all 94 local health departments.
2. Finalized and published a statewide Home Birth Corroboration Policy and Procedure for all 94 local health departments.
3. Adopted a model framework to write policies and procedures in public health nursing – Author: Rebecca Hovarter RN, PHN-C, Regional PHN Consultant, Wisconsin Division of Public Health.
4. Maintained public health nursing consultant positions in each of the five regional offices of the Wisconsin Division of Public Health. These consultants provide outstanding public health and public health nursing leadership to the local health departments and the regional systems they serve. These nurses are a critical foundation to our governmental public health infrastructure.
5. Building state-regional infrastructure capacity in the Wisconsin Division of Public Health to assist local health departments in carrying out their statutory mandates to assess need and respond to current and emerging threats to health using community health improvement plans.
6. Collaborated and participated in the formal review (certification) of all 94 Wisconsin local health departments.
7. Contributed to the update of Wisconsin's public health statutes – signed 4/7/06.
8. Provided resources and support for Wisconsin's State Health Plan that resulted in (1) publication of evidence-based public health practices, (2) design of methodology and instrumentation for a midcourse evaluation of Wisconsin's public health system transformation; and (3) published the 2005 Annual Status Report which represents a detailed report of state level activities and accomplishments in furtherance of the statewide goals and priorities.
9. Building a stronger relationship between school nurses and public health nurses at the state-level and local level. This includes working with the state education agency to develop a three-staged orientation program for new school nurses.
10. Held the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide PHN Conference in August 2005 concerning the Public Health Nurse and Social Justice.
11. Planning the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide PHN Conference scheduled for August 2006. This year's conference is entitled: Completing the Circle: Advocacy in Action.
12. Awarded a RWJF Transition Grant to host two statewide conferences entitled "Public Health and Policy Horizons Conference" as a strategy to showcase public health data and information infrastructure concerning *Healthiest Wisconsin 2010*.
13. Served as ASTDN's 2006 Annual Program Chair in collaboration with Debbie Lee and Justina Novak from The Washington State Department of Health, the conference hosts. The five-day conference is entitled "Health Equity: From Knowledge to Action."



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### **Projects/Issues Pending:**

1. Collaborating with the Department's Immunization Program to update the Immunization Policy and Procedure Manual.
2. Providing public health nursing expertise in planning for pandemic influenza particularly as it pertains to policies and procedures for the administration and delegation of vaccines, antivirals, and other treatments that are considered dependent nursing functions.
3. Working with the Wisconsin Nurses Association in its strategic document entitled *Wisconsin Nursing Community's Agenda for Healthcare Reform*. The four chief foci include: (1) prevention and health promotion, (2) health literacy, (3) patient safety, and (4) coordinated disease management.
4. Increasing leadership attention to the social determinants of health. This includes literacy as a public health issue. We are exploring the use of technology and collaborative partnerships as a means to educate the public health system partners and how we ought to be working together to address improvements. We are also in the early stages of identifying the role of the state health agency when it comes to elimination of poverty and improvement of household income.
5. Working much more closely with public health preparedness director and his staff in the Wisconsin Division of Public Health.
6. Facilitated, as a mentor to a public health leadership team in the MidAmerica Public Health Leadership Institute (University of Illinois, School of Public Health) an assessment of epidemiology capacity in Wisconsin. The Division of Public Health will now use this report to prepare and activate an internal work plan.

### **Issues and Special Concerns for Public Health Nursing:**

1. How to set priorities in an environment of decreasing resources (money, time, positions, talent) and co-mingling of the determinants of public health.
2. PHN to population ratios needs to be recommended at a national level.
3. Balancing public health nursing expertise spent on public health system needs as compared to public health programmatic needs.
4. Information overload.