

**Intercounty Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 21, 2008
Green Lake Courthouse
Green Lake, Wisconsin**

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Russel Kotke at 9:30 a.m. (Chairman Steve Nass arrived 9:45)

Attendance:

Russell Kotke (Dodge), Jason Kauffeld (Green Lake), Bob Westby (Columbia), Jess Rains (Dodge), Judy Ashford (Sauk), Orrin Helmer (Green Lake), Dan Priske (Green Lake), Leany Schultz (Dodge), Jeff Hoffman (Dodge), John H Lumby (Columbia), Joshn Bindl (WCA), Kim Hurtz (Aegis Corporation), Marge Bostelmann (Green Lake), Steve Nass.

The requirements of the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law were met.

The agenda was approved (motion 1st GL - 2nd Columbia)

The minutes were approved (motion 1st GL - 2nd Sauk)

Legislative Report

Senator Luther Olsen

Things are quiet in Madison. Budget was planned on 3 percent growth, but WI only has 0.8 percent growth so far this year, contributing to a \$650 million shortfall. Senator Olsen believes we are at a stage where we are going to have to start cutting programs. Schools want \$1 billion more a year from the State, but that will not happen. Reviewed top-20 employers in WI: #1 is Wal-Mart, then UW, then US Postal Service, then Milwaukee Schools, then Department of Corrections, then Menards..... The trend is retail and government, which is the trend Senator Olsen believes will continue. Few are high-paying jobs. Orrin Helmer raised the need to retain WI jobs. Dan Priske raised the governor's veto of liquor licenses for small businesses. Senator Olsen then spoke about the coming statewide smoking ban- we have 14,000 bars and taverns. Spoke about ageing populations not wanting to use property taxes to pay for local services. The way we educate our children is not cost effective was discussed. 77% of families do not have children in school and don't want to pay.

It was decided to move the Programs ahead of the WCA Report due to the speakers having other commitments.

Program: HEALTH: STRUCTURE OF SERVICES

Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf introduced the speakers

Speaker Kim Hurtz, VP of Sales for Aegis Corporation, gave a Power Point presentation and discussed the need to educate employees about their plans and make sure they understand the bills they receive and look for errors in order to keep costs down. Most costs are for people ages 40 to 59. Prescription drug utilization was reviewed- shoot for at least 50% generic use to keep costs down. Discuss need to educate employees about looking up where providers are. Also,

wellness is needed- push for annual exams. Every \$1 spent on wellness saves \$8-\$10 down the road. Discussed differences between HRAs (Health Reimbursement Accounts) and HSAs (Health Savings Accounts). Universal Health Coverage was discussed: it will never be free, you will pay for it in some way.

Speaker Josh Bindel covered Healthy Wisconsin, a proposal for coverage for all. 12-month residency requirement. Benefits equal to state health plan. Employers pay 9-12% of wages, employees pay 2-4%. 2007 estimate was that local governments would save \$1.3 billion, half of the savings must go to property tax reduction. Pros: portability, 100% coverage, savings. Cons: will it really decrease costs, and it will hit small businesses hard. Discussion followed with people sharing personal stories.

Next, reps from all counties spoke about their plans:

Dodge County discussed their insurance program. Roughly 4% rate increase lately, due to being tied to the State rate. Will pay 105% of lowest cost plan.

Sauk County discussed Dean- their only provider. 8% increase this year in rates.

Green Lake County is with Group Health Trust. Implemented an HRA, has provided cost savings. The county provides \$1,000 per year per plan that rolls over. Is educating employees about PPOs versus HMOs.

Columbia County with Group Health Trust. 15% increase. Costing \$700 per month.

Jefferson County is self insured. Have deductibles. Probably going to the State Health Plan soon.

Wisconsin Counties Association, WCA Report by Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf.

Discussed legislature status: as it is a split assembly, things often deadlock, and they have been inactive since last summer. This year, only around 200 bills passed, previously around double that. Legislature adjourned 13th of March. Great Lakes Compact is still on the table in a special session, and Budget adjustment bill may also be discussed. Three Budget adjustment bills out there to cover the \$655 million deficit. Governor's version projects \$200 million from Indian casinos and \$200 million from State Medical fund. Neither are guarantees, so the hole in the budget could be larger. Assembly version calls for \$250 million in cuts, non specific. Senate version increases hospital assessments and tobacco settlement money and closes tax loopholes. These three versions are up for debate and negotiation. Sounds like the State will settle on refinancing debt. Talking about the next budget, we are looking at deficits in the \$1.5 billion range. The state is spending almost \$100,000 per year per adolescent in the juvenile system. Students with mental disturbances are increasing, could impact school safety issues. Then discussed the Wisconsin Way effort, saying that it is not about raising taxes, but to look at issues and data and trends to make decisions to improve the economy and the budget. Mentioned district meetings coming up: May 1 in Barneveld. UWEX holds county official workshops that are important to attend for county officials both new and old.

Open Discussion on County Issues:

Steve Nass mentioned that the next agenda should include election of officers for the ICC meeting.

Next meeting is the 19th of May in Sauk County.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 (motion 1st GL 2nd Dodge)

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Kauffeld

UW-Extension, Green Lake County