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Health Care Experts Discuss Wisconsin's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

Community partners meet with DSPS Secretary and Opioid Task Force

Wisconsin's Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) partnered with WHA to set up roundtables across the state to foster discussion about Wisconsin's enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (ePDMP).



L to R: Laura Gutierrez, DSPS Secretary; Lisa Schnedler, President/CEO, Upland Hills Health, Dodgeville; Ann Zenk, WHA Vice President, Workforce and Clinical Practice; Sarah Bradley, PDMP Deputy Director

On May 22, 16 members of Iowa County's Opioid Task Force met with DSPS Secretary Laura Gutierrez and PDMP Deputy Director Sarah Bradley at Upland Hills Health in

The number of opioid overdose visits to Wisconsin hospitals has tripled since 2010.

Dodgeville. Upland Hills leaders and clinicians, law enforcement officers and county service providers discussed the state's effort to combat the opioid abuse epidemic which has tripled the number of overdose visits to Wisconsin hospitals since 2010. There has been a 10 percent reduction in opioid prescriptions dispensed in the last 12 months, but there is more work to be done. *(continued on page 3)*

Political Action Spotlight

Your Donations Help Wisconsin Hospitals State PAC & Conduit Near Halfway Mark

Donate now to make future contributor lists

Thanks to your donations, the Wisconsin Hospitals State PAC and Conduit has almost reached the halfway mark of its \$312,500 fundraising goal for 2018. As of May 25, a total of \$139,307 has been contributed by 128 individuals.

The 2018 fundraising campaign is based on the calendar year. On average, members have contributed more than \$6,500 each week—with an average contribution of \$1,088 per person!

To make sure your name is on future contributor lists, go to www.whconduit.com or contact WHA's [Kari Hofer](mailto:kari.hofer@wha.org) at 608-268-1816 or [Nora Statsick](mailto:nora.statsick@wha.org) at 608-239-4535.

See the full contributor list [here](#).

Register Now for 2018 Wisconsin Rural Health Conference

Join us June 27-29 in Elkhart Lake

Register for the 2018 Wisconsin Rural Health Conference: June 27-29 at The Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake. This annual event is *the* statewide forum to examine issues that impact small and rural hospitals, network and collaborate with colleagues, and bond with your team of senior staff and members of your hospital board of trustees.

Make attendance at this year's conference a priority by registering today. The full conference agenda and online registration are available [online](#).

Sen. Schachtner Discusses Virtual Autopsy Imaging, Drug Abuse and Health Care Workforce Issues

Senator joins WHA's West Central Region meeting in Menomonie



Sen. Patty Schachtner speaking at WHA's West Central Region Meeting May 22, 2018

WHA's West Central Region welcomed special guest State Senator Patty Schachtner at its recent meeting in Menomonie.

Alison Paige, CEO of Western Wisconsin Health in Baldwin, introduced the western Wisconsin native who currently serves as the chief medical examiner for St. Croix County. Senator Schachtner noted she joined the Legislature to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves.

As a legislator and medical examiner, Schachtner serves as a resource for her community. She said the 10th Senate district is fortunate to have several hospitals within the district, and believes it is crucial to maintain access to health care and insurance.

Schachtner and members of the West Central Region discussed several key items:

- **Virtual autopsy imaging:** Schachtner noted an initiative she is working on within the medical examiner's office that can be beneficial to hospitals: introduction of a Lodox system. Lodox is a virtual autopsy imaging machine. Among other uses, it can speed up full body x-ray imaging in autopsies and can help identify accident and murder victims.

- **Drug abuse deaths:** This is an increasing problem in St. Croix County. Schachtner noted there were 300 drug overdoses in St. Croix County in 2017, nearly double the 2016 rate. More children are being placed in the foster care system due to parent methamphetamine abuse, and while more people are able to get the emergency opioid overdose treatment of Narcan, there is a lack of information about where the Narcan is coming from. Schachtner said these trends point to a need for more drug abuse education and prevention efforts.
- **Health care workforce legislation:** Members noted the Legislature could continue addressing challenges in all areas of the health care workforce, especially in key shortage areas of nursing, psychiatrists and dentists. Kyle O'Brien, WHA senior vice president, government relations, spent time talking about the WHA-led graduate medical education grant program, which was increased in the last state budget. This program has created 134 new residency training slots in Wisconsin and funded two new family medicine residency programs in the West Central Region—one at Health Partners and the other at Mayo.

Schachtner shared a positive example of addressing workforce shortages by local high schools who are starting health care academies. She said this provides health care career ladders for students who are thinking about entering the health care profession.

Schachtner was elected to represent the 10th State Senate district, which encompasses much of the West Central Region, in a special election January 16, 2018. In addition to her legislative responsibilities, she serves on the Board of Directors for Turning Point Wisconsin, a center for victims of sexual and domestic violence, and is also involved with mental health awareness advocacy and is a co-founder of the Suicide Prevention Task Force of St. Croix County. Schachtner previously served as a school board member, an EMT, and an EMT instructor at the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College.

WHA thanks Steve Lindberg of Mayo Health System-Red Cedar for hosting the meeting and Sen. Schachtner for spending time with our West Central Region members.

Member News: Dr. Jonathan Jaffery Appointed to MedPAC

The U.S. Government Accountability Office announced Jonathan Jaffery, MD, MS, MMM, and Professor of Medicine at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, has been appointed to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC). His term will expire in April 2021.

Congress established MedPAC in 1997 to analyze and advise the Legislature on a variety of issues including access to care, cost and quality of care, and other key issues affecting Medicare, including provider payments for Medicare's traditional fee-for-service program. The Comptroller General is responsible for naming new commission members.

Continued from page 1 . . . Health Care Experts Discuss Wisconsin's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

WHA President/CEO Eric Borgerding said, "We welcome the opportunity to support and facilitate these roundtables recognizing the role hospitals and health systems play in delivering care to those suffering from substance abuse. Important work is being done to identify community needs and recommend proactive solutions to address Wisconsin's opioid abuse epidemic."

At the Upland Hills roundtable, Gutierrez praised the community partnerships in Oshkosh, Green Bay, Oconomowoc and Dodgeville, noting "The PDMP is the tool to uncover the issues so groups like yours can work on solutions." Bradley provided an overview of the system and said, "In Wisconsin, we chose to build our own system so that the PDMP can be improved based on user feedback." Participant feedback will be used to continue to improve the program, and will also be shared with the Governor's Opioid Task Force.

The team at Upland Hills agreed with Gutierrez that the ePDMP can be a useful tool, noting, "The data should guide our state efforts and resources." The group also concurred with Gutierrez when she characterized the program as supportive not prescriptive, saying "We don't want to build a system that mandates care, such as a restriction on the number or amount of pain medications prescribed after a major surgery."

DSPS will complete several more roundtables throughout the summer and into early fall.

The original Wisconsin PDMP was launched in 2013 and was enhanced to become the ePDMP in 2017. Physicians and advanced practice clinicians, pharmacies, and law enforcement officers who become aware of incidents associated with the possession or use of controlled substances electronically report information to the ePDMP.

There are 46,000 health care users and 2,000 dispensing providers who create more than 9 million records each year in the ePDMP.