2010 Resolution

Increased Public Health Funding for Wisconsin

WHEREAS the economic downturn, which began in 2008, has had a direct impact on
governments’ ability to fund public health efforts, and;

WHEREAS decreasing tax revenue due to loss of personal income, corporate income, sales
taxes, and property taxes have forced many state and local public health agencies to scale back
services and staffing, and;

WHEREAS Wisconsin ranks 43rd among the states, at $14.97 per person, in federal support for
disease prevention in fiscal year 2008\(^1\), and;

WHEREAS Wisconsin ranked 49\(^{th}\) of 51 states and territories assessed in 2008 regarding per
capita state budget expenditures on public health, with $10.51 spent for every resident\(^1\), and;

WHEREAS Wisconsin ranked second from last in state budget dollars allocated to local public
health departments in 2008\(^2\), and;

WHEREAS Wisconsin ranked 3\(^{rd}\) highest in terms of reliance on local tax dollars as a revenue
source for local public health departments (LHDs) in 2008\(^2\), and;

WHEREAS Federal agencies have increased their spending on public health between 2001 and
2006\(^3\) but the vast majority of such increases were spent on the Strategic National Stockpile of
pharmaceuticals (735\% increase) and terrorism preparedness (634\%) rather than on other key
public health programs and infrastructure (e.g., Federal infectious disease spending decreased by
2\%, and Federal HIV funding decreased 21\%\(^3\));

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that WPHA supports an increased proportion of State
General Purpose Revenues be allocated to state, local and tribal public health agencies serving
and protecting the people of Wisconsin.

- Request an increase in State funds per capita from $10.51 to between $16.27 to $27.20
  per person in the 2011-2013 State budget. This range reflect the low end, and average,
  per capita rate between Maryland ($38.13) and Minnesota ($16.27), the two states closest
to Wisconsin in terms of population.

- Request that more State and Federal funds be invested in environmental health,
socioeconomic health determinants, and the prevention of chronic and infectious disease.

- Continue to encourage and support collaboration between public-private partners to
  increase the focus on disease prevention.
NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that WPHA supports the following recommendations from the Trust for America’s Health report¹:

- Establish a pilot program where state and local health departments would be allowed greater flexibility for how they use Federal funds in exchange for greater accountability for improving health outcomes and measures in communities.

- Provide Federal financial support through either a dedicated funding stream or a set-aside from existing grants to assist LHDs in preparation for accreditation.

- Increased Federal investment in public health research including best practices, data collection pertaining to health outcomes and workforce issues, address complex problems like social determinants of health, focus on prevention, and assist in the development of accountability measures.

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