

10/9/2017

Secretary Linda Seemeyer
Secretary of the Department of Health Services
Wisconsin Department of Health Services
1 West Wilson St. Madison, WI 53703

cc:

Gale Johnson: Wisconsin Well Woman Program
Camille Rodriguez: Director, Bureau of Health Promotion
Karen McKeown: State Health Officer

Secretary Seemeyer:

We are writing to you to express our continued concerns regarding the restructuring and current gaps in program implementation of the Wisconsin Well Woman Program. Our organization's aim is to make sure that women throughout our state have access to the potentially lifesaving screenings that the Wisconsin Well Woman Program is tasked with providing. We hope that, by bringing the following information to your attention, we are able to begin a much-needed conversation about how to best serve people impacted by the burden of breast cancer in Wisconsin.

Our organization has reached out to all fourteen Wisconsin Well Woman Coordinators throughout Wisconsin in order to hear their concerns first hand. We conducted this survey from August of 2017 through October of 2017, and began reaching out to partner organizations in September of 2017. In our conversations with WWWP coordinators, we heard the following:

- 64% of coordinators mentioned issues with billing. This included women receiving bills when they shouldn't, and bills going into collection
- 54% of coordinators are serving a county that has zero providers
- 71% of coordinators would support increasing the provider network to serve more women
- 64% of coordinators believe the women they serve have been negatively impacted by the program changes
- 71% of coordinators want more statewide outreach, or more resources to do outreach
- 36% of coordinators have observed women dropping out of the program for reasons other than BadgerCare and ACA expansion
- And finally, 36% of coordinators observed women re-enrolling in the program due to an increase in ACA premiums

The Wisconsin Breast Cancer Coalition and partner organizations tackling the alarming incidence of breast cancer in our state are writing to you today to ask the Department of Health Services to assure us that it will address these clear and persistent gaps in the Wisconsin Well Woman Program. We want to make sure that women in underserved areas have access to this vital program without undue burden. In particular, we would like to see a resolution to the gap in providers in underserved geographical areas. We also want increased statewide outreach to make sure women know they have access to the care they need through this program. The undersigned organizations work on a variety of different issues, but all share concerns regarding the women who rely on this vital program.

Sincerely,

The Wisconsin Breast Cancer Coalition
Sandra Gines, Executive Director
Hayley Young, Capitol Advocate

Patricia Téllez-Girón, M.D.

Chair, Latino Health Council of Dane County

Ellen Schupper

Executive Director, After Breast Cancer Diagnosis

Megan Purtell

Executive Director, Breast Cancer Recovery

Nikki Panico

Executive Director, Susan G. Komen Wisconsin

Devrey Smith

Director of Finance, Susan G. Komen Wisconsin

Diana Love

Public Health Nurse

Kathy Groshek

Portage County Health and Human Services (PCHHS)