

Madison – On Wednesday, January 30, the Wisconsin Women’s Health Foundation released a white paper summarizing conversation regarding economic impact, prevention opportunities and health effects of obesity on Wisconsin women and families.

The white paper reveals the complex obesity issue and the innovative solutions and strategies that can improve healthcare outcomes for Wisconsin communities. Employers learn about the economic impact of obesity in the work place. Physicians can consider their responsibility in creating dialogue, prevention, and treatment opportunities. Professionals and community members gain insight into the environmental and sociological patterns & structures that impact obesity. Parents experience personal accounts and statistics regarding the child-care and education styles & skills that lead to healthier children, one of the most concerning over-weight demographics.

The white paper was developed after Sue Ann Thompson and WWHF hosted a panel of nationally-known and local researchers, clinicians, and public health care professionals and a full room of Dane County residents & business owners to discuss the issues regarding obesity prevention and treatment, and identify the action steps that must be taken to improve healthcare outcomes for Wisconsin communities.

It was part of the Wisconsin Women’s Health Foundation (WWHF)’s interactive 6th Annual Dialogue, “Obesity in Women: The Generational Impact” on September 12, 2012 at the Madison Concourse Hotel. “The Dialogue program is a grassroots effort to bring together nationally known health care specialists, legislators, business owners, and the public to discuss the impact of a specific health issue on individuals, businesses and communities in our state,” says Sue Ann Thompson, Founder and President of the Wisconsin Women’s Health Foundation.

Madison’s Dr. Laurel Rice, Chair of UW School of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health moderated the program. Panelists included:

- **Susan Lattton** – Obesity Prevention Program Coordinator, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Nutrition & Physical Activity Program in Madison, WI
- **Michael O’Grady** – President, West Health Policy Center in Washington DC
- **Michelle Rimer, MS, MPH, RD, LDN** – Inaugural Director, The Solmaz Institute of Obesity at Lenoir Rhyne University in Hickory, NC
- **Catherine Spong, MD** – Branch Chief, National Institute of Child Health & Human Development in Bethesda, MD
- **Chanel Tyler, MD** – Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health in Madison, WI

The white paper can be found on the Wisconsin Women’s Health Foundation’s Website, www.wwhf.org.

The Wisconsin Women’s Health Foundation (WWHF) is a statewide non-profit organization whose mission is to help Wisconsin women and their families reach their healthiest potential. WWHF provides programs and conducts forums that focus on education, prevention, and early detection of diseases that affect women the most; connects individuals to health resources; produces and distributes the most up-to-date health education and resource materials; and, awards grants and scholarships to women health researchers and related community non-profits. To learn more, visit wwhf.org or call 1-800-448-5148.

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