

**MINUTES OF THE
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, September 20, 2006 – 2:00 p.m. – Room W020 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Allen M. Christensen, Senate Chair
Rep. Bradley G. Last, House Chair
Sen. Sheldon L. Killpack
Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Sen. Scott D. McCoy
Rep. D. Gregg Buxton
Rep. Wayne A. Harper
Rep. Patricia W. Jones
Rep. David Litvack
Rep. Rebecca D. Lockhart
Rep. Ronda Rudd Menlove
Rep. Paul Ray

Members Absent:

Rep. Steven R. Mascaro

Staff Present:

Mr. Mark D. Andrews, Policy Analyst
Ms. Catherine J. Dupont, Associate General Counsel
Mr. Thomas R. Vaughn, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Joy L. Miller, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Christensen called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. Buxton moved to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2006 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Knudson, Rep. Jones, Rep. Lockhart, and Rep. Ray were absent for the vote.

2. Health Care Cost Containment—Availability of Health Care Data

A. Reporting of Quality, Charges, and Safety by Facility

Mr. Bob Huefner, Vice Chair, UHDC (Utah Health Data Committee), distributed a copy of his presentation, "Implementing the SB 132 Health Care Consumer's Report." He reviewed what UHDC has accomplished since the enactment of S.B. 132 and its goals for the future.

Mr. Greg Poulsen, member, UHDC, demonstrated how to access the many reports published by the UHDC on the Internet.

B. Collection and Use of Cost Measures and Reimbursement for Risk Adjusted Episodes of Care

Rep. Mike Morley stated that the health care industry lacks transparency and common market driven competition. He discussed 2007 General Session draft legislation, "Health Care Cost and Quality Data," and explained that the bill authorizes the UHDC to develop and adopt a plan for the collection and use of health care data related to cost of episodes of health care.

Mr. Lynn Baker, PEHP (Public Employees Health Program), distributed a copy of his presentation "Transparency in the Health Care Industry." Mr. Baker indicated that cost and quality information are not available to consumers to foster a competitive marketplace. He explained that proposed legislation would require insurance producers to disclose their compensation for services provided to their clients and require others to provide cost and quality information to consumers.

MOTION: Rep. Last moved to adopt 2007 General Session draft legislation, "Health Care Cost and Quality Data" as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Jones, Rep. Lockhart, and Rep. Ray were absent for the vote.

Chair Christensen pointed out that Regence BlueCross BlueShield was unable to attend the meeting but had distributed written comments to the Committee.

C. Disclosure of Compensation for the Placement of Insurance

Sen. Michael Waddoups discussed 2007 General Session draft legislation, "Producer and Affiliate Disclosure Amendments." He requested suggestions and recommendations from the Committee.

Mr. Marcus Johnson, President, Utah Association of Health Underwriters, suggested that self-policing within associations be considered prior to legislative action.

Rep. Todd Kiser stated he was not opposed to disclosure but felt the legislation was not the best approach. He stressed the need for fair and equal treatment and stated that consistency is an important issue to be considered.

Rep. Curtis Oda pointed out that the Insurance Code already includes requirements for disclosure by consultants and brokers. He urged addressing those areas where there is a specific problem.

MOTION: Rep. Last moved to go to the next item on the agenda to allow Sen. Waddoups time to obtain additional input and recommendations on the legislation. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Killpack and Rep. Lockhart were absent for the vote.

D. Disclosure of Provider Charges and Available Discounts

Rep. Eric Hutchings discussed 2007 General Session draft legislation, "Consumer Access to Health Care Charges." He said he is pleased with the progress and efforts that have been made on this issue. He commented that medical expenses can no longer continue to be written off.

Mr. Scott Horn, UHA (Utah Hospitals and Health Systems), demonstrated the type of comparison information the public will soon be able to access on two websites.

Mr. David Gessel, UHA, pointed out that charity guidelines will also be outlined online. He noted that the public's top four concerns are cost, quality, access, and medical malpractice.

Rep. Litvack asked whether there have been discussions of how to make the information available to those that do not have access to the Internet. He suggested implementing an 800 number for the public to call to receive help in navigating the website. Mr. Gessel indicated he would alert every social service organization to make them aware of the website.

MOTION: Sen. McCoy moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Christensen adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.