

**MINUTES OF THE  
HEALTH SYSTEM REFORM TASK FORCE**

Thursday, April 17, 2008 – 8:00 a.m. – Room W020 House Building  
Revised 5/21/08

**Members Present:**

Sen. Sheldon L. Killpack, Senate Chair  
Rep. David Clark, House Chair  
Sen. Gregory S. Bell  
Sen. Gene Davis  
Sen. Peter C. Knudson  
Rep. Roger E. Barrus  
Rep. Jackie Biskupski  
Rep. Bradley M. Daw  
Rep. David Litvack  
Rep. Patrick Painter

**Members Absent:**

Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Mark D. Andrews, Policy Analyst  
Ms. Catherine J. Dupont, Associate General Counsel  
Mr. John T. Nielsen, Advisor to the Governor on  
Health System Reform  
Ms. Phalin L. Flowers, 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](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Killpack called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

Committee members introduced themselves and shared thoughts about health care reform.

Chair Killpack noted that the Task Force will meet on Thursdays after interim day, with no meeting held in July. He excused Rep. Newbold from the meeting.

**2. Review of 2008 Passed Legislation Related to Health Care Reform**

Ms. Dupont discussed "Bills Passed Related to Health Care Reform, 2008 Annual General Session," which was included in the mailing packet. She gave a brief overview of several pieces of legislation that passed during the 2008 General Session that affect health care reform. Ms. Dupont also discussed "Health and Human Services Appropriation Summary and Budget Highlights," which was included in the mailing packet.

**3. Task Force Objectives**

Rep. Clark distributed and discussed "Health System Reform Task Force: the Importance of Stakeholder Participation." He explained the duties and expectations of the Task Force. Rep. Clark also explained that Rep. Jim Dunnigan and Sen. Wayne Niederhauser will contribute to the work of the Task Force, although they will not be voting members of the Task Force.

Mr. Nielsen discussed "Summary of State Government Actions Required by H.B. 133," which was included in the mailing packet. He discussed state actions required by 2008 H.B. 133, Health System Reform, and Governor Huntsman's priorities for health care reform.

**4. Report from the Governor's Office of Economic Development**

Mr. Nielsen gave a presentation titled "Office of Consumer Health Services." He gave a report on the accomplishments GOED (Governor's Office of Economic Development) has made in implementing the requirements of H.B. 133. He discussed a preliminary organizational chart for the creation of the Office of Consumer Health Services.

Mr. Norman Thurston, Strategic Plan Policy Advisor and Consultant, Office of Consumer Health Services, GOED, added to Mr. Nielsen's comments and answered task force members' questions.

Dr. David Sundwall, Executive Director, DOH (Department of Health), introduced staff members of DOH that will be working to implement the requirements of H.B. 133.

Mr. Barry Nangle, Director, Center for Health Data, DOH, discussed the DOH implementation of Rep. Morley's 2007 episodes of care legislation. He discussed the "all payer database" which is being developed for use by consumers to compare the costs of an episode of care at different facilities. Mr. Nangle also discussed DOH's implementation of 2008 H.B. 47, "Standards for the Electronic Exchange of Clinical Health Data." The standards will provide a uniform method for health care providers to electronically share clinical health data. DOH is developing those standards with the Utah Health Information Network, which currently administers the electronic exchange of claims data. Standards will build upon national standards.

Ms. Jan Root, Executive Director, Utah Health Information Network, said that many companies that participate with the Utah Health Information Network exist in more than one state. Ms. Root also said that five standards for the exchange of clinical data have already been approved.

Mr. Michael Stapley, Chairman, Board of Directors, Utah Health Information Network, and President, Deseret Mutual, said that the Utah Health Information Network recognized from the beginning that the foundation for its ability to share information between providers and payers was in creating standards.

Mr. Nate Checketts, Director, Bureau of Access, DOH, explained how the Utah Premium Partnership program works and how individuals become eligible for that program. He discussed DOH's progress on preparing applications for the Medicaid waivers required by H.B. 133.

Mr. Kent Michie, Commissioner, Utah Insurance Department, distributed and discussed an article titled "The Cost-Coverage Trade-off," and introduced staff that have been working to implement provisions of H.B. 133.

Mr. Jeffrey Hawley, Research Analyst, Health Insurance Division, Utah Insurance Department, distributed and discussed "2007 Health Insurance Market Report."

Ms. Suzette Green-Wright, Director, Health Insurance Division, Utah Insurance Department, distributed and discussed "Utah Universal Individual Application," which H.B. 133 requires the Department to develop.

## **5. Procurement Code Preference**

Ms. Dupont distributed and discussed 2009 General Session draft legislation, "Procurement Code Preference for Health Benefits."

Mr. Douglas Richins, Director, Purchasing and General Services, Department of Administrative Services, explained what public procurement units are.

Mr. Nielsen said the purpose of the draft legislation is to encourage more businesses to offer insurance to their employees.

#### **6. Request for Proposals**

Ms. Dupont discussed "Request for Proposals - Actuarial Consultant to Health System Reform Task Force," which was included in the mailing packet. Senator Killpack indicated that at the request of Senator Davis any plans considered by the actuary should not create barriers to access.

#### **7. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Sen. Knudson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Bell and Rep. Biskupski absent for the vote.

Chair Killpack adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.