

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

Wednesday, May 20, 2009 – 10:45 a.m. – Room 250 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Sheldon L. Killpack, Senate Chair
Speaker David Clark, House Chair
Sen. Gregory S. Bell
Sen. Gene Davis
Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Rep. Jackie Biskupski
Rep. Bradley M. Daw
Rep. Bradley G. Last
Rep. David Litvack

Rep. Ronda Rudd Menlove
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold

Staff Present:

Mr. Mark D. Andrews, Policy Analyst
Ms. Catherine J. Dupont, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Chelsea Barrett, Legislative Secretary
Mr. Benjamin Beutler, Research Assistant

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. Task Force Business

Speaker Clark called the meeting to order at 10:56 a.m.

MOTION: Chair Killpack moved to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2008 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Davis and Rep. Biskupski absent for the vote.

2. Introduction of Committee and Staff

Speaker Clark introduced and welcomed Rep. Menlove and Rep. Last as new members of the Task Force. He introduced the Task Force's staff, Mr. Andrews, Ms. Dupont, Ms. Barrett, and Mr. Beutler.

3. Past Accomplishments, Future Work

Speaker Clark noted the importance of the Task Force receiving feedback, both on what has already been done to reform health care and on efforts to chart a forward course. He briefly reviewed 2009 legislation pertaining to health care reform, including 2009 General Session H.B. 188, "Health System Reform," H.B. 331, "Health Reform - Health Insurance Coverage in State Contracts," H.B. 165, "Health Reform - Administrative Simplification," and S.B. 79, "Health System Reform - Medication Malpractice Amendments."

Chair Killpack commented on efforts to create a national single-payer system. He indicated that Utah can demonstrate that a system can be created that has lower costs and high quality, but that Utah does not have 10 years to find a solution.

Speaker Clark talked about his appearance before the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on April 28, 2009, along with representatives of California, Massachusetts, and Vermont to speak about state health care reform efforts. He compared and contrasted the objectives and approaches of the three states.

Speaker Clark distributed and discussed "2009 Health System Reform Task Force Community Working Groups: Membership, Issues, Functions, and Reports." The document outlines a structure of three workgroups and various technical advisory groups to assist the Task Force in its work this year. He noted

that the three workgroups are not limited to the issues outlined in the document. He identified the legislators who will chair the workgroups and indicated that the workgroups are responsible for creating the technical advisory groups. He said that he hopes the five workgroups created last year will continue to meet as they have in the past.

In response to a question by Mr. Bill Lee, the Speaker explained that members of the public unaffiliated with a formal interest group may provide input to the Task Force through the community workgroups created last year by the Task Force and facilitated by the United Way, and through any of the new workgroups created this year.

Ms. Judi Hilman, Director, Utah Health Policy Project, thanked the Task Force for creating a workgroup structure this year built around issues rather than stakeholders.

Ms. Korey Capozza, Health Policy Analyst, Voices for Utah Children, noted her concern with the absence of patient and consumer representation on the Oversight and Implementation Workgroup. Ms. Dupont said that membership of the workgroups has not been finalized.

Ms. Dupont explained that the website of the Office of Consumer Health Services within the Governor's Office of Economic Development will be used to publish the meeting times and locations of the meetings of the workgroups and technical advisory groups.

Mr. Andrews noted that a revised copy of the workgroups document will be posted to the Task Force's website following the meeting with a couple of technical adjustments to the workgroups' duties.

4. Implementation Reports

Dr. Norman Thurston, Health Policy and Reform Initiatives Coordinator, Department of Health, distributed and explained "Status Update on Executive Branch Activities Related to Health System Reform." He reported that:

- contracts are being finalized for vendors to develop the Utah Health Exchange (the insurance portal);
- employees should be able to select plans from the Exchange by November;
- it is expected a convener for the development of payment and delivery reform demonstration projects will be selected by the first of June;
- the Utah Health Information Network is ready to begin implementation of the electronic exchange of clinical health information in Box Elder County, Cache County, and Moab;
- the first major submission of data to the all payers database will occur by September; and
- the Utah Department of Health has organized the Utah HIT Governance Consortium to prioritize proposals for use of funding from the America Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the federal stimulus bill).

Ms. Tanji Northrup, Director, Health Insurance Division, Utah Insurance Department, reported that:

- standardized application forms for individual and small employer insurance will be implemented July 1;
- disclosure of producer compensation has been included on the individual form;
- the Department will work with insurers and providers to resolve the coordination of benefits issue; and

- appointments of six individuals to the Utah Defined Contribution Risk Adjuster Board will be considered by the Senate May 20 and the Board will hold its first meeting May 21.

Dr. Thurston said that the Office of Consumer Health Services website will include a comprehensive calendar of all meetings related to health system reform, including those of the Task Force and its subgroups and those of the executive branch. He encouraged for-profit and not-for-profit entities to also list their meeting information on the website.

Rep. Daw encouraged the Task Force to read an article mailed to them prior to the meeting, "A Prescription for American Health Care," by John Goodman, and said that the article includes some examples of how services can be provided at a much lower cost. He said doctors and hospitals need to be given the opportunity to repackage and reprice their services.

Sen. Bell and Speaker Clark both indicated it would be worth looking at North Carolina's use of medical homes. Ms. Kim Wirthlin, Vice President, University of Utah, said that Dr. Michael Magill, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, University of Utah School of Medicine, could speak to the Task Force about the use of medical homes in other states, including North Carolina.

Sen. Bell said that he is intrigued by Kaiser Permanente and would like to explore that model.

5. Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Knudson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Speaker Clark adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m.