

**MINUTES OF THE
HEALTH SYSTEM REFORM TASK FORCE**
Wednesday, May 18, 2011 – 2:00 p.m. – Room 450 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Wayne L. Niederhauser, Senate Chair
Rep. James A. Dunnigan, House Chair
Sen. Gene Davis
Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck
Rep. Francis D. Gibson
Rep. Ronda Rudd Menlove
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold
Rep. Dean Sanpei

Members Absent:

Rep. Jackie Biskupski

Staff Present:

Mr. Mark D. Andrews, Policy Analyst
Ms. Catherine J. Dupont, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Wendy Bangerter, 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. Task Force Business

Chair Dunnigan called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. Newbold moved to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2010 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Davis and Sen. Knudson were absent for the vote.

Mr. Andrews explained that the Task Force's web page includes most materials mailed to the Task Force and other background materials of interest not directly related to agenda items. He invited task force members to let the chairs or staff know whether they think the right amount of background materials are being provided to the Task Force.

2. Uninsured

Mr. Barry Nangle, Director, Center for Health Data, Utah Department of Health, gave a presentation, "Estimates of Utahns Who Lacked Health Insurance in 2010." He distributed a spreadsheet, "Estimated Number and Percentage of Utahns Who Lacked Health Insurance Coverage," showing trends in uninsured rates by age group. He said that over the past decade (2001–10) the rate of uninsureds has gone up slightly for the total population but declined somewhat for children.

3. Utah Health Exchange Update

Ms. Patti Conner, Director, Office of Consumer Health Services, briefed the Task Force on the progress of the Utah Health Exchange. She gave a presentation showing statistics about enrollment. She said that the office is hoping that by January 1, 2012, the Exchange will include 1,000 employer groups, 9,000–10,000 covered employees, and perhaps 25,000 covered lives.

Ms. Conner said that the Exchange's current focus is scalability, condensing the enrollment timeline, outreach, and marketing. She explained that the office is considering replacement of the call center with a phone tree that routes callers to the appropriate entity associated with the Exchange. She updated the Task Force on the \$1,000,000 federal planning grant.

Dr. Norman Thurston, Governor's Health Reform Advisor, gave a presentation illustrating a vision of Exchange 2.0, a more consumer-centric version of the Exchange, which integrates and makes available data from many sources. The vision will be worked on this summer to determine what technology is needed to implement it. He said that nothing in the vision is either required or prohibited by the federal Affordable Care Act. Dr. Thurston also reported on a recent meeting where the state hosted 30 states to discuss issues related to developing a health insurance exchange.

Mr. Dave Jackson, Chair, Utah Defined Contribution Risk Adjuster Board, explained issues the Board has been working on and plans for future efforts.

Mr. Mark Brown, Immediate Past Chair, Utah Defined Contribution Risk Adjuster Board, presented "Risk Adjuster Overview" and explained how the Exchange risk adjuster works.

4. Update on Other Health Care Reform

Ms. Cathy Dupont distributed and reviewed an issue brief "Consumer Directed Health Plans and Dependent Coverage to Age 26" explaining how the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) created a disincentive for people with certain children not yet 26 years of age to choose a high deductible health plan paired with a health savings account as an insurance coverage option. She reviewed a possible solution.

5. Legal Challenges to Federal Health Reform

Ms. Dupont discussed the status of state legal challenges to implementation of federal health reform. She distributed and reviewed "Major Court Cases Challenging Federal Health Care Reform." She also distributed a list of legislation amending or repealing the federal PPACA.

6. Cost Containment

Chair Dunnigan announced that a major focus of the Task Force will be to address cost containment.

Mr. Andrews distributed "Health Cost Containment and Efficiencies," a packet of 15 policy briefing papers by the National Conference of State Legislatures. He also distributed "Potential Cost Containment Topics and Utah Health Reform: 2011 Legislative Update."

Ms. Judy Hillman, Utah Health Policy Project, said that she thinks cost containment is an appropriate focus for the Task Force, but recommended that the Task Force look at premium assistance for persons below a certain income level in order to contain their out of pocket costs.

Mr. Paul Mench, President, Molina Healthcare, recommended that the Task Force focus on quality at the same time it is focusing on cost containment.

Mr. David Gessel, Utah Hospitals and Health Systems Association, noted that most studies show that 1/3 of health care spending occurs during the last few weeks of patients' lives. He indicated in response to a question that he could have someone from his organization make a presentation on the issue.

Mr. Kelly Atkinson, Director, Educators Mutual Insurance Association, suggested that the Task Force look at emergency room utilization patterns and technology.

Dr. Tom Metcalf, pediatrician, suggested that the Task Force may want to invite Dr. Brent James from Intermountain Healthcare to address the Task Force.

Dr. David Patton, Executive Director, Utah Department of Health, recommended that the Task Force consider greater investment in prevention as an approach to cost containment.

7. Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Gibson moved to adjourn the meeting.

Chair Dunnigan adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.