

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

Wednesday, July 20, 2011 – 10:00 p.m. – Room 450 State Capitol

**Members Present:**

Sen. Wayne L. Niederhauser, Senate Chair  
Rep. James A. Dunnigan, House Chair  
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:**

Sen. Gene Davis  
Rep. Brian Doughty

**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](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Task Force Business**

Chair Dunnigan called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

**MOTION:** Sen. Niederhauser moved to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2011 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Davis, Rep. Doughty, Rep. Newbold, and Rep. Menlove were absent for the vote.

**2. Federal Health Reform**

Ms. Dupont gave a presentation, "Utah and Federal Health Care Reform," explaining the Task Force's relevance in light of federal health reform. She reviewed what Utah has accomplished to date with its health insurance exchange and issues that would need to be addressed to comply with the federal Affordable Care Act (*see* "Talking Points for Power Point Presentation: Utah and Federal Health Care Reform" on the legislative website).

Dr. Norman Thurston, Governor Herbert's Health Reform Advisor, indicated the federal government will allow states to go as far as they can by January 1, 2013, to meet its requirements for health insurance exchanges and then supply the balance of required functions itself. The states will continue to work and progress and, when they are ready, the federal government will step back and let the states take over. He responded to questions from the Task Force. He said that because the federal government is responsible for the cost of exchange development on both the federal and state levels, it is interested in states developing exchanges quickly so that it doesn't have to do that a second time. He expressed his desire to have Utah's efforts certified by the federal government. He emphasized the need for states to speak with a unified voice to the federal government.

**3. Cost Containment Strategies**

Mr. Chet Loftis, Group Insurance Director, Public Employees Health Program (PEHP), and Dr. Cynthia Jones-Praather, MD, Medical Director, PEHP, provided an overview of PEHP's Wellness and Waist Aweigh programs (*see* "PEHP Wellness Program" slides on the website).

A panel consisting of Mr. Vaughn Holbrook, Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Utah; Mr. Jason Eckersley, SelectHealth; and Mr. Ben Slaugh, Educators Mutual Insurance Association, responded to questions from the Task Force. The questions focused on wellness program design, impact, and use of

premium incentives. Mr. Holbrook distributed information to the Task Force about Regence's wellness programs.

#### **4. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Rep. Newbold moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.  
Sen. Niederhauser was absent for the vote.

Chair Dunnigan adjourned the meeting at 11:53 a.m.