

**MINUTES OF THE  
ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND COVERAGE TASK FORCE**  
Friday, September 14, 2001 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 403 State Capitol

**Members Present:**

Rep. Rebecca Lockhart, House Chair  
Sen. D. Chris Butters  
Sen. Paula Julander  
Rep. Trisha Beck  
Rep. Jim Ferrin  
Rep. David Litvack  
Rep. J. Morgan Philpot  
Mr. Merwin U. Stewart

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Peter Knudson, Senate Chair  
Mr. Rod L. Betit

**Staff Present:**

Ms. Jami Momberger,  
Research Analyst  
Ms. Catherine Dupont,  
Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Jennifer Markham,  
Legislative Secretary

**Note:** A list of others present and a copy of materials distributed in the meeting are on file in the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Lockhart called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m.

**MOTION:** Mr. Stewart moved to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2001 meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Knudson, Rep. Ferrin, and Mr. Betit absent for the vote.

**2. Utah Department of Health - 1115 Waiver: Primary Care Network**

Mr. Michael Deily, Division Director, DOH Division of Health Care Financing, provided an overview of the Department of Health's proposed 1115 waiver, and he distributed a copy of his presentation "Outline of the Primary Care Network Proposal."

Task force discussion followed.

**3. Response and Proposed Revisions from the Advocacy Community**

Ms. Judi Hilman, Health Policy Analyst, Utah Issues, discussed the benefits of a Section 1931 expansion which provides a combined approach for health coverage expansion. She discussed the success other states have had with a Section 1931 expansion. She distributed "Utah Issues Position Paper" to task force members. She emphasized the need for the task force to be renewed next year.

Mr. Bill Crim, Executive Director, Utah Issues, discussed possible finance options for funding a Section 1931 expansion. He distributed "Possible Revenue Sources for a 1931 Expansion" to task force members.

Task force discussion followed.

#### **4. Public Comment on Waiver**

Mr. Dave Gessell, Utah Hospital and Health Systems, discussed the history of the UMAPS and outlined the concerns that the Utah Hospital and Health Systems have with the DOH 1115 waiver. He discussed the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) which requires hospitals to provide emergency care and stabilize patients without regard to reimbursement.

Mr. Chris Viavant, Director of Development, Wasatch Homeless Health Care, expressed support for the DOH 1115 waiver as outlined today. This waiver would allow Wasatch Homeless Health Care to direct its grant funding to other areas of need.

Ms. Joyce Dolcourt, Information Officer, Governor's Council for People with Disabilities, expressed concern that the reduced coverage of the DOH 1115 waiver would not meet the needs of people with chronic and catastrophic illness.

Ms. Sheila Walsh-McDonald, Health Care Advocate, Salt Lake Community Action Program, indicated the proposed DOH 1115 waiver is a good first step for uninsured. She suggested waiving the cost-sharing for individuals under 100% of the poverty. She discussed the need for wrap-around services for families in CHIP-like programs. She expressed support of a Section 1931 expansion.

Mr. Kelly Atkinson, Executive Director, Utah Health Insurance Association, discussed the insurance carriers need to be proactive and possible solutions to the problems of those individuals that cannot legitimately afford insurance. He stated that mandates are not the primary reason for increased health care costs. He emphasized the need for insurance companies to be able to offer different products in order for smaller insurance companies to remain competitive.

Mr. Rick Martin, Legislative Chair, Utah Association of Health Underwriters, emphasized the need for affordable benefits for everyone. He discussed the need to support the basic benefit plan discussions between the Department of Insurance and the health insurance carriers and the development of plans that employers can offer employees.

Ms. Tina Johnson, Chair, Leadership Committee of the Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities, expressed concern about cutting back services and increasing co-payments for medically needy and the UMAP population.

## **5. Task Force Discussion of Access and Coverage Initiatives and Options**

Ms. Catherine Dupont, Associate General Counsel, discussed options mentioned in previous meetings and distributed a copy of "Access to Health Care and Coverage Task Force Duties and Mission Statement" and "Summary of Insurance Market Perspective."

Rep. Ferrin expressed a desire to review the Arkansas plan allowing private insurance carriers to offer a more basic needs program at a lower cost.

Sen. Butters suggested the task force develop a threshold philosophy in the area that the task force would like to target.

Mr. Stewart suggested co-pays and cost sharing for individuals in the 100-200% poverty level. He discussed problems with the federal government subsidizing the health care market rather than helping the private market to work. He discussed the state's inability to change the role of the federal government. He discussed the need to study the discounts providers give to insurance carriers and available options. He stated he thought it would be a good idea to explore the Arkansas plan to see if it would benefit our state.

Rep. Litvak expressed concerns that the task force cannot finish its study by next month and the need to extend the task force next year. He expressed the desire to review the Arkansas plan, the effect of mandates, the DOH 1115 waiver, and wrap around options.

**MOTION:** Sen. Butters moved to support legislation for the task force to be extended another year.

Rep. Philpot expressed concern with extending the task force if new members are added next year and the task force needs education again.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Sen. Julander moved to request an extra meeting this year.

Sen. Julander withdrew the motion.

The task force returned to the main motion.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Rep. Litvack moved to use all ten meetings if necessary to discuss options and focus on solutions. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Knudson and Mr. Betit absent for the vote.

Chair Lockhart suggested the task force members and the public call her or Sen. Knudson with any comments or items for the next meeting on October 5 in Room 131.

**6. Other Items / Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Sen. Julander moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:52 a.m. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Knudson and Mr. Betit absent for the vote.