

**MINUTES OF THE
ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND COVERAGE TASK FORCE**
Tuesday, November 13, 2001 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 403 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Peter Knudson, Co-Chair
Rep. Rebecca Lockhart, Co-Chair
Sen. D. Chris Buttars
Sen. Paula Julander
Rep. Trisha Beck
Rep. Jim Ferrin
Rep. David Litvack
Mr. Rod L. Betit
Mr. Merwin U. Stewart

Members Absent:

Rep. J. Morgan Philpot

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 can be found at <http://www.image.le.state.ut.us/imaging/history.asp> or contact the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

1. Call to Order

Chair Knudson called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

MOTION: Mr. Stewart moved to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2001 meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Julander absent for the vote.

2. Task Force Continued Discussion of Access and Coverage Options and Initiatives

Ms. Catherine Dupont, Associate General Counsel, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, compared programs to increase access to health insurance available in Michigan, Wisconsin, Virginia, and Connecticut and distributed a copy of the comparison. She discussed options for changing state insurance mandates.

3. Utah's Basic Health Care Plan and Mandates

Ms. Suzette Green-Wright, Director, Health Insurance, provided an overview of the Health Benefit Plan Committee and their accomplishments. She emphasized that the current plan was developed as a result of federal and state mandates. She stated that, while the basic health plan was offered in Utah, most employers select a different plan. She provided a description of the basic health plan and distributed a copy of the plan which explains the three versions. She emphasized that every insurance carrier must have a basic health care plan on file with the State, but most insurance companies use it as a conversion policy. She cautioned that any changes in the basic health plan must meet federal mandates.

Mr. John "Mickey" Braun, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Insurance, emphasized that the state basic benefit package is established through the administrative rules process which is subject to review by the Legislature's Administrative Rules Committee. He stated that the Health Benefit Plan Committee which currently reviews the basic benefit plan prior to the administrative rule making process does not add any value to the process.

MOTION: Rep. Ferrin moved to support draft legislation "Repeal of Health Benefit Plan Committee."
The motion passed unanimously.

4. Review Draft of Final Report

Ms. Dupont reviewed the draft report "Access to Health Care and Coverage Task Force Report to the Health and Human Services Interim Committee." A copy of the report was distributed prior to the meeting.

Task Force discussion followed.

MOTION: Sen. Buttars moved to go to the next item on agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Other Items/Adjourn

Sen. Buttars proposed raising the cigarette tax to fund a 1931 Medicaid expansion.

Chair Knudson suggested including Sen. Buttars as a presenter in the Task Force report to Health and Human Services Interim Committee.

MOTION: Rep. Beck moved to include Sen. Buttars in the task force report to the Health and Human Services Interim Committee to present his concept. The motion passed, with Rep. Ferrin voting in opposition.

MOTION: Sen. Julander moved to accept the draft "Access to Health Care and Coverage Task Force Report to the Health and Human Services Interim Committee."

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. Beck moved to (1) modify the draft report to direct the Task Force to review options for addressing Health Care and Coverage being developed through community strategies, HRSA grant process, design and implementation of 1931 and 1115 Medicaid Waivers, strategies to involve private and public sectors, review cost and potential savings of each option; and (2) draft legislation to reauthorize the Task Force and recommend maintaining the same Task Force members. The motion passed, with Rep. Ferrin and Rep. Lockhart voting in opposition and Mr. Stewart abstaining.

MOTION: Sen. Julander moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:46 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.