

Health Care Task Force
Office of the Insurance Commissioner
June 20, 2006
Hawaii State Capitol, Room #329

Minutes

In Attendance: Gary Allen, Patricia Blanchette, Lynn Finnegan, Beth Giesting, Josh Green, Rosanne Harrigan, David Heywood, Rich Meiers, J.P. Schmidt.

Staff Support: Laurel Johnston and Carol Taniguchi Hawaii Uninsured Project, Miki Lee, Leeway Enterprise, James Nagle, Department of Attorney General, Lloyd Lim, Insurance Division.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Josh Green called the meeting to order at 2:06 PM with 9 of the 13 members present.

II. Review and Approval of May 16, 2006 Minutes

Roseanne Harrigan made a motion to approve the minutes. Gary Allen seconded and the Task Force voted unanimously to approve the May 16, 2006 minutes.

III. Public Testimony

Nancy Walden and Laura Crites offered testimony to the Task Force.

IV. Discussion of Final Narrative Report on Single Payer Cost Analysis

The Task Force reviewed the latest version of the Lewin Report, noting the need to address minor problems, including typographical and formatting errors. The Task Force also discussed that they did not totally agree with the analysis that was developed by the Lewin Group. The Task Force acknowledged that the analysis cannot be changed at this juncture. However, the Task Force will note in its final report to the legislature that certain aspects of the analysis may require closer examination or further analysis.

The Task Force suggested that the final report should explain that there were two prior iterations of the Lewin Report, the first having been considered an initial draft. That draft was modified significantly, resulting in changes in figures and other items, and become a subsequent working draft. The Task Force noted for the record that neither of the prior two drafts should be considered authoritative, as they do not necessarily reflect the views of all of the members of the Task Force. The Final Report will be the operative document of the Task Force.

Gary Allen made a motion to accept the latest draft of the Lewin Report with minor formatting and typographical changes. Roseanne Harrigan seconded and the Task Force voted unanimously to accept the draft report.

V. Statements from Task Force Chair

Chair Green submitted a draft document with his personal perspectives on the Health Care Task Force process and findings. The Task Force recommended that the document have the word “observation” in its title, denoting that this document consists of the Chair’s individual observations and conclusions and should be included in the final report appendices.

The Task Force meeting was recessed at 3:52 pm for a brief pause in the meeting and reconvened at 4:15 pm.

VI. Discussion and Approval of the Final Report of the Health Care Task Force to the Legislature

The Task Force discussed the fact that there is no single solution to solving the uninsured problem in Hawaii. Instead, it is likely that a number of different initiatives will be needed to address the different needs and conditions of specific groups of uninsured.

The Task Force’s recommendations to the Legislature fall into three categories:

- System Stability
- Insuring the People
- Continued Research on a Single Payer System

Hawaii Uninsured staff was asked to modify the report to include comments about a single payer system, a strong introduction or abstract, and to organize Task Force recommended initiatives and strategies by the three categories listed above.

The Task Force agreed that it needed to meet briefly one more time to review and approve the recommendations and the final draft report.

Roseanne Harrigan made a motion to include the numerous comments, suggestions, and changes made during this meeting into the final report. Beth Giesting seconded and the Task Force voted unanimously to accept the suggested changes.

VII. Next Meeting

The next and final Task Force meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 28, 2006 at Noon. (Location to be confirmed.)

NOTE: Initially it was announced at the end of the meeting that the Task Force meeting was recessed at 5:58 pm and was to resume on June 28, 2006 at Noon. However, due to a perceived lack of quorum for that reconvened date and time, a new agenda was filed, showing that the Task Force would meet on June 28, 2006 at 2 pm.