

Health Care Task Force
Office of the Insurance Commissioner
September 8, 2005
State Capitol, Room 329
4:30 to 6:00 PM

Minutes

In Attendance: Gary Allen, Patricia Blanchette, Susan Forbes, Beth Geisting, Josh Green, Roseanne Harrigan, David Heywood, Rich Meiers, John Radcliffe, J.P. Schmidt, Calvin Wong

Staff Support: Laurel Johnston, Carol Taniguchi and Gladys Quinto, Hawaii Uninsured Project, Miki Lee, Leeway Enterprise, James Nagle, Department of Attorney General, Lloyd Lim, Office of the Insurance Commissioner

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Josh Green called the meeting to order at 4:33 PM with 10 of the 13 members present.

II. Review and Approval of August 24, 2005 Minutes

The Task Force voted unanimously to approve the August 24, 2005 Minutes with corrections to votes taken on

Susan Forbes made a motion to approve the minutes. This motion was seconded by Rich Meiers.

The motion was unanimously passed.

III. Distribution of Sunshine Law Guide

A copy of the Sunshine Law Guide, published by the Office of Information Practices, was distributed to the Task Force. The Task Force was advised to contact James Nagle at the Department of Attorney General if they have any questions about how the Sunshine Law applies to the Task Force or they can contact the Office of Information Practices.

IV. Review Act 223, SLH 2005: Revise and Review Scope of Work, Phases and Tasks

The Task Force discussed the likelihood that a complete, comprehensive set of recommendations could not be developed by the middle of December. The Task

Force proposed working in two phases. The first phase will take place from now through the end of the year and will include as much information, data collection and analysis on the issue as possible in a written summary to the Legislature in 2006. The second phase will begin after the report is written through June 2006 and will include further data collection and analysis on especially complex issues.

Subcommittees reported basic strategies and approaches as offered by the respective subcommittee chairpersons and task force members:

Delivery of Health Care Subcommittee – (Patricia Blanchette) Reported an interest in developing a “health care provider map” that includes an analysis of existing data on the availability of physician and non-physician providers by specialty, identification of barriers to recruiting and retaining health care professionals, input by major providers, include HHSC and Kaiser Permanente, community health centers, the Department of Health and SHPDA. As much information as is available will be included in the December report, with the remaining findings to be included in the final report, produced by June 2006.

Health Insurance Coverage Subcommittee – (Susan Forbes and JP Schmidt) Proposes developing a list of solutions and options based upon the Hawai`i Uninsured Project and exploring where the uninsured populations are, what the problems of the uninsured are, along with identifying what it is that prevents provider coverage. The subcommittee suggested engaging the Department of Human Services in its work. Other related issues mentioned include the viability of a basic health care plan that provides the minimum amount of coverage for the uninsured, consumer-driven health care (health care savings account), and the need for policy changes (alter QUEST enrollment criteria). A suggestion was made to include information about Hawaii’s “19-hour employee culture” and analyzing how this contributes to the problem.

Efficiency of Delivery System/Business Model Subcommittee – (Gary Allen and Calvin Wong) The subcommittee noted that there is a wealth of existing information about efficiencies and health care business models. However, there appears to be a lack of data from the patient and individual physician perspective. The subcommittee proposes developing a list of immediate patient care needs along with known barriers and inefficiencies, and creating a list of short-term solutions by December. A suggestion was made to consider how to change the focus of the business model to be focused on prevention and improving health status. Additionally, it was suggested that some analysis be done to quantify the administrative cost to providers of complying with various delivery requirements that ultimately increase the cost of delivery across the system.

Single-Payer System – (John Radcliffe and Josh Green) It was noted that the single-payer issue has legislative ramifications. The subcommittee proposes presenting Federal, national (by state) and international findings on single-payer systems. The subcommittee also offered to retain experts to inform the Task

Force. It was noted that the Department of Health and Human Services has a study on the issue that includes data collected from 50 countries. A request was made to obtain expert opinion to answer the question of whether specific proposals are good for Hawaii and to objectively analyze the pros and cons of various single-payer models.

V. Review and Select Experts for Cost Analysis

The Task Force reviewed the list of consultants that Hawai'i Uninsured Project presented and agreed that it was too early in the process to definitively select a consultant. The Task Force agreed to continue to add to the list and to revisit it throughout the process.

VI. Review and Select Other Resources

The Task Force reviewed the list of consultants that Hawai'i Uninsured Project presented and agreed that it was too early in the process to definitively select a consultant. The Task Force agreed to continue to add to the list and to revisit it throughout the process.

VII. Approaches to Community Input

The Task Force discussed the benefit of developing a website that would contain the work of the Task Force and be a place for community members to participate. The cost to develop a website was estimated at \$1,000 and it was recommended that the Hawai'i Uninsured Project be responsible for the site. John Radcliffe moved to have Hawaii Uninsured Project create and maintain a website on behalf of the Task Force. The motion was seconded by Gary Allen and unanimously passed.

VIII. Ratification of Contract with Hawaii Uninsured Project

The Task Force reviewed the contract with the Hawai'i Uninsured Project of the Hawaii Institute for Public Affairs. Susan Forbes moved ratify the contract with the Hawai'i Uninsured Project. The motion was seconded by John Radcliffe and unanimously passed.

IX. Public Testimony

Ms. Jean Aoki representing the League of Women Voters; Mr. Jim Brewer; Ms. Renee Ing, representing Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP); Ms. A.Q. McElrath, retired ILWU Local 142 social worker; Mr. Jory Watland, former Executive Director of Kokua Kalihi Valley; Ms. Beatrice Becker, former Secretary and VP of Americans for a Democratic Action-Hawaii; Mr. Stephen Shaw, and Mr. Bill Woods offered testimony.

X. Future Meetings

The Task Force agreed to meet on September 20 and October 12, 2005. Both meetings will be from 4:30 to 6:00 PM at the State Capitol, Room 329.

XI. Adjournment

Chairperson Josh Green adjourned the Task Force meeting at 6:05 PM.