

Health Care Task Force
Office of the Insurance Commissioner
October 12, 2005
State Capitol, Room 329
4:30 to 6:00 PM

Minutes

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

Staff Support: Laurel Johnston, Carol Taniguchi and Gladys Quinto, Hawai'i 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 4:32 PM with 10 of the 13 members present.

II. Review and Approval of September 20, 2005 Minutes

John Radcliffe made a motion to approve the minutes. Gary Allen seconded the motion and the Task Force voted unanimously to approve the September 20, 2005 Minutes.

III. Public Testimony

Stephen Shaw; Renee Ing, Physicians for National Health Care Program; Debbie Shimizu, National Association of Social Workers; and Jim Brewer, Hawaii Employers Today offered testimony.

IV. Report from Hawai'i Uninsured Project

Prepaid Health Care Act. Representatives from the Hawaii Prepaid Health Council were not available to attend today's meeting. Hawai'i Uninsured Project will coordinate a presentation on the matter at a future Task Force meeting.

Status of Research Requests. Hawai'i Uninsured Project reported that only one item was updated on the list of research items, and that is the Attorney General's opinion regarding Prepaid Health Care Act and Medical Savings Accounts, which was included in today's packet.

Health Care Task Force Website. Hawai'i Uninsured Project staff reported that the Health Care Task Force web page has been posted and can be accessed by visiting www.healthcoveragehawaii.com. A press release will be distributed announcing the work of the Task Force along with the availability of the website as a resource.

V. Act 223, SLH 2005 Scope of Work and Tasks

Review of Single Payer Legislation.

The members discussed the consultant selection. Susan Forbes suggested that, before doing so, the members might consider tightening-up the criteria for consultant selection. She also recommended that the members consider using the criteria found in H.B. No. 1617, H.D. 1, 2003 (not passed) at section 14(c)(4)(A) through (F) in the RFP. Susan Forbes made a motion, seconded by Beth Geisting, that the Hawaii Uninsured Project ("HUP") draft an RFP containing the foregoing criteria.

Before there was a vote on the motion, the members engaged in an extended discussion of the contents of the RFP. Matters discussed included but were not limited to the selection of the defined benefits, possibly picking a PPO (preferred provider organization) plan, using the Employee Union Trust Fund (health fund for State employees) as the default for the kinds of benefits, determining what the delivery system would look like, including the factors as to physicians (such as orthopedists, general surgeons, neurosurgeons, anesthesiologists, and OB-Gyns) leaving the State, issues dealing with a residency requirement, what the method of reimbursement would be, and including the demographics of the people insured and uninsured.

Due to the extended discussion and the additional factors considered after the motion, the prior motion was tabled. Susan Forbes then moved, seconded by John Radcliffe, to direct a subcommittee consisting of members Susan Forbes, J.P. Schmidt, and David Heywood to investigate and consider criteria relating to EUTF benefits, a delivery system, the impact of the plan, the departure of doctors, using Medicare as a reimbursement model, and the factor of moderate management of care in assisting the HUP to write a draft RFP for consultants, with the members' findings and recommendations regarding the RFP to be presented for approval at a subsequent task force meeting. The motion unanimously passed.

The subcommittee will have a report at the next Task Force meeting.

Review of Other Coverage Options. Hawai'i Uninsured Project had previously distributed a document listing other health care options for review by the members. Josh Green also distributed a document for review titled "Hawaii Essential Insurance."

Selection of Consultants and Experts. The development of an RFP will be necessary prior to the Task Force being able to select consultants and experts.

VI. Future of the Health Care Task Force

The Task Force discussed the need to meet beyond January 2006 in order to complete its work. Meeting every three to four weeks after January 1 was suggested. It was noted that many Task Force members are impacted by the opening of the legislative session and that this will impact scheduling of dates and locations for meetings beginning in January 2006.

VII. Response from the Office of Information Practices (OIP) and Office of Insurance Commissioner and Other Document Related to an OIP Request

James Nagle pointed out related documents in Task Force member packets and suggested that members call him should they have any questions.

VIII. Future Meetings, Dates and Location

The Task Force agreed to meet again on October 25, November 16, December 5 and December 13. Meetings will start at 4:30 PM. Meeting locations are yet to be confirmed.

IX. Adjournment

Chairperson Josh Green adjourned the Task Force meeting at 5:55 PM.