

Health Care Task Force
Office of the Insurance Commissioner
December 13, 2005
State Capitol, Room 329

Minutes

In Attendance: Gary Allen, Patricia Blanchette, Josh Green, Roseanne Harrigan, David Heywood, Virginia Pressler, 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, Insurance Division

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Josh Green called the meeting to order at 4:12 PM with 8 of the 13 members present.

II. Review and Approval of November 16, 2005 Minutes

John Radcliffe made a motion to approve the minutes. Gary Allen seconded and the Task Force voted unanimously to approve the November 16, 2005 Minutes.

III. Public Testimony

Hal Kahikina, Rene Ing, Larry Geller and Jim Brewer offered testimony.

IV. Report from the Hawaii Uninsured Project

Discussion and Approval of the Interim Report to the Legislature

The Task Force reviewed and discussed the revised draft interim report to the Legislature. Task Force members made various suggestions regarding changes to the draft. The Task Force identified and directed the Hawai'i Uninsured Project to make final revisions to the draft, including but not limited to: using the term "health professionals" instead of "physicians and non physicians"; noting that QUEST program placed an enrollment cap on those who could be covered; clarifying that uncompensated care is being subsidized by private health care facilities; including references to aging health care facilities and health care work force; clarifying the role of private health care facilities as part of the safety net; and inserting data on uninsured children.

John Radcliffe made a motion to approve the draft with the suggestions as discussed. Patricia Blanchette seconded the motion. Chair Green further suggested that a

recommendation be added that the Legislature ensure that all children have health care coverage. After discussion of this recommendation, Dave Heywood offered an alternative recommendation that the Legislature consider increasing access to health care and coverage for all Hawaii's children. Mr. Radcliffe's motion was not voted upon. Instead, Virginia Pressler amended Mr. Radcliffe's motion to add Mr. Heywood's recommendation. John Radcliffe seconded the motion and the Task Force voted unanimously to approve the draft with the added recommendation as amended, along with Mr. Heywood's recommendation.

Roseanne Harrigan made a motion and Patricia Blanchette seconded it, to approve the interim draft with the suggested revisions and the additional recommendation to increase access to health care and coverage for children. The motion was unanimously approved.

Status of the Single-Payer Cost Analysis

The Hawaii Uninsured Project noted that a contract was in place with Lewin Group. The process of requesting and providing data has begun. It's estimated that once all data has been provided, it will take eight weeks to complete the analysis.

In an effort to understand the pros and cons of a single-payer system, a suggestion was made to consider purchasing a copy of *Lives at Risk* (lead author John Goodman). In addition, it was recommended that the Task Force website have a link to related publications/websites.

Patricia Blanchette made a motion to purchase copies of *Lives at Risk* for Task Force members and to create web links on the Task Force website for the same. John Radcliffe seconded the motion and the Task Force voted unanimously to approve the motion.

V. Act 223, SLH 2005 Scope of Work and Tasks: Discussion and Selection of Other Consultants

The Task Force discussed the need to hear from other experts on the issues in order to gain an informed and balanced opinion. Experts and advocates able to present information to the Task Force without a cost will be encouraged to do so. Once the report from Lewin Group is complete, the Task Force will decide if additional information or data (at a cost) will be needed. The Task Force requested the Hawai'i Uninsured Project to develop a list of known experts to present at the next meeting.

VI. Discussion and Approval of Recommendations to the Legislature for the 2006 Session

This was covered as part of the discussion on the draft interim report to the legislature (above).

VII. Discussion of Project Access Healthcare System

At a previous meeting, it was suggested that more time be spent on the Project Access Healthcare System. However, no additional data was available and no further discussion was required.

VIII. Future Meetings

The Task Force discussed the need to develop plans to complete the work that is laid out in the interim report. The Task Force agreed to come to the next meeting prepared to prioritize all the activities and action that need to be completed and to assign members to work on items.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2006. The location will be confirmed. (Note: During the Legislative session, reserving meeting space at the Capitol may be difficult. Alternative meeting locations included the Insurance Division's offices, the UH Medical School's Kakaako Campus and Queen's Medical Center.)

IX. Adjournment

Chairperson Josh Green adjourned the Task Force meeting at 6:00 PM.