

Adequate Health Care Task Force
Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 25, 2006
1:50 PM – 2:30 PM

Michael A. Bilandic Building
160 North LaSalle Street, Room N-502
Chicago, Illinois

Illinois Public Act 93-0973, formerly House Bill 2268, creates the Health Care Justice Act and encourages the State of Illinois to implement a health care plan that provides access to a full range of preventive, acute, and long-term health care services; maintains and improves the quality of health care services offered to Illinois residents, and meets other criteria. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is required, subject to an appropriation or availability of other funds, to enter into a contract with an "independent research entity" experienced in assessing health care reforms, financing, and care delivery models. The provisions of this legislation establish an "Adequate Health Care Task Force" with 29 voting members: five to be appointed by the Governor, and six appointments made by each of the four leaders of the General assembly (the Speaker of the House and the House Minority Leader, and the President of the Senate and the Senate Minority Leader). The Directors of the Departments of Public Health, Public Aid, Aging, and Insurance, along with the Secretary of the Department of Human Services, are to be invited to meetings of the "Adequate Health Care Task Force," but are not included in the Task Force's membership. The Department of Public Health is required to be "the primary agency in providing administrative support" to the Task Force.

This legislation provides for public hearings in each Illinois Congressional District, and a website detailing the work of the Task Force, accessible through the Governor's internet home page, is to be established and maintained. Printed copies of Task Force information are to be made available for persons who lack access to the Internet website. A Task Force report, detailing recommendations for a health care access plan as specified within the legislation, is to be submitted to the General Assembly by March 15, 2006. The bill encourages the General Assembly to consider legislation enacting the Task Force recommendations by December 31, 2006. The Act took effect July 1, 2004.

Steering Committee Members in Attendance: David Koehler; Dr. Wayne Lerner, Chair; Joseph Roberts; Ruth Rothstein; Dr. Quentin Young

Steering Committee Members Absent: None

Illinois Department of Public Health Staff: David Carvalho; Ashley Walter

Guests: Catherine Bresler; Jim Duffett; John Garven; Dr. Niva Lubin-Johnson; Mike Murphy; Greg Smith

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Dr. Wayne Lerner, Chair, called the Adequate Health Care Task Force Steering Committee meeting to order at approximately 1:50PM.

II. Introduction of Members

After calling the meeting to order, Dr. Lerner asked Steering Committee members and IDPH staff members introduce themselves.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Dr. Lerner asked the Steering Committee to consider approving the Steering Committee meeting minutes from November 30, 2005. Joe Roberts motioned to approve the minutes. Ruth Rothstein seconded the motion. All members (5) were in favor.

IV. Public Hearings

The Steering Committee discussed Task Force member attendance at Adequate Health Care Task Force Public Hearings. Illinois Department of Public Health staff were concerned that many Task Force members were failing to attend public hearings for which they had signed up to attend. The Steering Committee decided to ask Task Force members to let Ashley Walter know by noon on the day prior to the hearing if they will not be able to attend. Should a Task Force member who has confirmed his/her attendance at a hearing become unable to attend the hearing and he/she does not let Ms. Walter know by noon on the day prior that he/she will be unable to attend, the Task Force member will be responsible for identifying another Task Force member to take his/her place at the hearing.

The Steering Committee also discussed the role of Task Force member surrogates at Adequate Health Care Task Force Public Hearings. Illinois Department of Public Health staff were concerned that seating surrogates with Task Force members at the hearings caused confusion amongst attendees. The Steering Committee decided that although Task Force members are welcome to send surrogates to the hearings, the surrogates will not be seated with the Task Force. However, if such surrogates introduce themselves to Ms. Walter upon arriving at the hearing, Ms. Walter will be sure to have the hearing chair introduce the surrogate so that the audience knows that the Task Force member is represented.

Dr. Quentin Young also mentioned that the Task Force needs to keep working on getting the word out about the Act, Task Force, and hearings. David Koehler agreed.

V. Discussion of Task Force Members and the Media

As the implementation of the Health Care Justice Act proceeds, it is likely that the media will give more attention to the Task Force. IDPH staff reminded Task Force members to be sure to make it very clear when speaking to the media that they are representing their own beliefs and opinions, not those of the Task Force or the Department.

VI. Discussion of the Outcomes of the Adequate Health Care Task Force Meeting

Dr. Lerner told the Steering Committee that he was very concerned about the RFP and meeting the deadline set forth in the RFP. David Carvalho responded that the Task Force is not yet ready to work with the research entity in that they are not ready to present specific policy options to the research entity to be modeled. Mr. Carvalho added that the research entity should have many resources at its disposal and should be able to model the proposals rather quickly. Dr. Lerner reminded the Steering Committee that the Task Force can request to have up to 6 proposals modeled. Dr. Lerner asked the Steering Committee to consider how to integrate work with the research entity into the

agendas for future meetings. David Carvalho told the Steering Committee that IDPH should be able to announce the identity of the research entity at the March 29th Task Force meeting. The Steering Committee determined that it would meet with IDPH staff and the research entity during its April 26th Steering Committee meeting. At this meeting, the Steering Committee will start to vet issues regarding different proposals with the research entity. At the May 23rd Task Force meeting, the Steering Committee will present proposals to the Task Force to begin the discussion of which proposals the Task Force should ask the research entity to model.

VII. Other Issues/New Business

Dr. Young asked that presentations be made to the Task Force regarding single-payer options. Ashley Walter will work with Dr. Young to coordinate this.

VIII. Comments from Non-Steering Committee Task Force Members

Dr. Niva Lubin-Johnson asked for clarification regarding the work of the research entity; i.e. would the Task Force suggest proposals to model or would the research entity model various proposals and present a comparative analysis to the Task Force. Dr. Lerner and David Carvalho responded that it is up to the Task Force to select the proposals and parameters and then the research entity will analyze the proposals using Illinois-specific data.

Catherine Bresler asked if "hybrid" proposals would be considered, not just proposals that have been put forth in other states. Dr. Lerner stated that hybrids would most definitely be considered.

IX. Adjournment

Dr. Lerner adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:30 PM.

Action:

- IDPH staff will inform Task Force members of the decisions made by Steering Committee by end of day tomorrow.
- IDPH staff will prepare meeting minutes prior to the next Steering Committee meeting.

Next Meeting:

The Steering Committee will meet immediately after the Task Force meeting (approximately 1:30PM) on Wednesday, February 22nd. This meeting will take place in room N-502 of the Michael A. Bilandic Building located at 160 North LaSalle Street in Chicago, IL.