

Adequate Health Care Task Force
Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 24, 2005
10:45 AM – 11:45 AM

Illinois Department of Public Health
Office of Policy, Planning and Statistics - Deputy
Director's Office (host site)
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois

and

Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (listening
location)
446 East Ontario, Room 837
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: Robyn Gabel; David Koehler; Dr. Wayne Lerner, Chair; Joseph Roberts; Ruth Rothstein

Steering Committee Member Regrets: None

Illinois Department of Public Health Staff: David Carvalho; Mike Jones; Patti Kimmel; Tracy Morgan

Guests: Rubina Baig; Margaret Davis; Jim Duffett; Imran Hasanuddin; Pam Mitroff; Mike Murphy; Tracey Printen; Jay Shattuck; Greg Smith; Sudhir Vyakaranam

I. Call to Order

Dr. Wayne Lerner, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:50 a.m.

II. Discussion of Meeting and Public Hearing Schedule

The Steering Committee (SC) discussed the draft meeting and hearing schedule that incorporates its recommendation to revise the request for proposals (RFP) to reflect an October 1, 2006, deadline for delivery of the final Task Force report. Participants expressed concerns about the locations and dates for the public hearings. Dave Carvalho explained how the draft schedule was created and directed members to send their locations/dates suggestions to Ashley Walter by August 31, 2005. There was some discussion about today's meeting materials being sent only to Steering Committee members and whether the role of the Steering Committee would be preserved if the entire Task Force received Steering Committee materials. The Steering Committee tentatively decided that future materials will be sent to all Task Force members in order to facilitate communication and improve efficiency.

III. Discussion of Draft RFP Elements

The Chair expressed his desire to find ways to minimize the time involved in the process to achieve the Task Force charge. There was a brief discussion of time lines for the RFP. It was suggested that the RFP use time frames for deliverable due dates (e.g., June 15-July 15) rather than specific dates (e.g., July 15).

Steering Committee members had questions about the definition of a "model", the criteria for evaluation, and the differences between objectives. Regarding objectives, IDPH staff explained that they were drawn directly from lists of requirements in the Health Care Justice Act (20 ILCS 4045/). The RFP should be as specific as possible for bidders, so Steering Committee members were asked to look at objectives 1.1 and 1.2 and send their comments and vendor specifications to Dave Carvalho or Ashley Walter by August 31, 2005.

IV. New/Other Business

The next Adequate Health Care Task Force meeting will be on September 14 at a location to be determined in Chicago; the Steering Committee will meet on September 14 following the Task Force meeting. The Steering Committee will continue to have conference calls as needed.

V. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.