

Adequate Health Care Task Force  
Steering Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 14, 2005  
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

DePaul Egan Urban Center  
1 East Jackson, Room C-100 (Concourse Level)  
Chicago, Illinois

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*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.*

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

**Steering Committee Members Absent:** Robyn Gabel

**Illinois Department of Public Health Staff:** David Carvalho; Mike Jones; Danielle Powers; Ashley Walter

**Guests:** Elena Butkus; Scott Garven; Teresa Hursey; Megan Meagher; Mike Murphy

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## **I. Welcome and Call to Order**

Chair Dr. Wayne Lerner called the Adequate Health Care Task Force Steering Committee meeting to order at approximately 2:05PM.

## 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 August 18, 2005 and August 24, 2005. Dr. Lerner noted that the times listed in the heading of the August 24<sup>th</sup> were not accurate. Joe Roberts motioned to approve the minutes pending correction. Ruth Rothstein seconded the motion. All members (4) were in favor.

## IV. Discussion of the Outcomes of the Adequate Health Care Task Force Meeting

Dr. Lerner asked the Steering Committee members how they thought the earlier Adequate Health Care Task Force meeting went. Joe Roberts thought that the meeting went well – the role of the Steering Committee was clarified and the Task Force did not bog itself down with statistics too early in the process. Ruth Rothstein also felt that the meeting went well, adding that Task Force members were able to get a better idea of where other members are coming from. David Koehler agreed and stressed that Kenneth Smithmier's comment stressing the importance of relationships was right on target. Mr. Koehler proposed that good communication and relationship building will be the two key ingredients it will take to make this effort a success. As such, he believes that the Task Force still needs to undergo a "socialization process" and that the SCI (State Coverage Initiative) meeting will be a good forum for kicking off such a process.

Dr. Lerner then asked the Steering Committee to comment on the draft Task Force calendar that outlined dates, times, and locations for public hearings, as well as dates and times for Task Force and Steering Committee meetings. Dr. Lerner said that he had some concerns about some dates in November. He asked David Carvalho what the "special" Task Force meeting scheduled for November 4<sup>th</sup> was about. Mr. Carvalho replied that this was a presentation for the Task Force courtesy of the Michael Reese Health Trust. The Michael Reese Health Trust is bringing two health care research leaders, Drs. Len Nichols and Cindy Mann, to Chicago for its own event and asked the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) if it would be interested in having the researchers present to the Task Force. The IDPH accepted its offer. Given the nature of the offer, the date and time of the presentation is firm. Joe Roberts thought that this was a good idea. David Koehler reiterated that the Task Force needs to take advantage of such opportunities.

Dr. Lerner was also concerned that November 9<sup>th</sup> was not a good date for the SCI Health Forum. He suggested that, if possible, the Forum be held on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. The rest of the Steering Committee agreed on this change. Dr. Lerner suggested that the Steering Committee change as little as possible, with respect to the calendar, so that Task Force members could plan appropriately. Dr. Lerner suggested that Task Force, Steering Committee, and most public hearings continue to take place on Wednesdays. The Steering Committee agreed with this suggestion. Dr. Lerner asked that notice of the Michael Reese Health Trust and SCI presentations be sent as soon as possible.

Dr. Lerner then asked the Steering Committee to consider the suggestions that had been made regarding the location of public hearings during the Task Force meeting. David Carvalho noted that Springfield is very peculiar in that it is divided amongst three congressional districts. He added that he believed that most people would attend a public hearing based on its proximity to their homes, not based on which congressional district they reside in. Regarding the timing of the public hearing to be held in Springfield, Mr. Carvalho mentioned that he had spoken with Rep. Elizabeth Coulson, Task Force member, and they agreed that elected officials are very busy while in session

and that it would not be a good idea to hold a hearing in Springfield, and expect elected officials to attend, during that time. Discussion ensued regarding a public hearing in Springfield, as well as ensuring that at least one public hearing was held in a more rural area in order to be able to address concerns unique to those residing outside of urban areas. The Steering Committee elected to:

- change the location of the public hearing to be held in Congressional District 17 from Galesburg to Rock Island or Moline (the Quad Cities);
- change the location of the public hearing to be held in Congressional District 19 from Springfield to Mount Vernon; and
- Add two additional hearings – one in Collinsville and one in Springfield.

Dr. Lerner asked the Steering Committee to consider suggestions from Task Force members to begin the Task Force meetings later in the morning and to start Steering Committee meetings immediately following Task Force meetings. David Carvalho suggested that the Task Force meetings begin at 10:30am and end at 1:30pm. Steering Committee meetings would immediately follow. The IDPH would make arrangements for lunch. He reminded Steering Committee members that the Steering Committee meeting could be called to order and then recess for lunch in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. It was requested that a consistent meeting location be found. Ashley Walter responded that she would inquire about IDPH space, as it is free and now meetings are scheduled far enough in advance (increasing the likelihood that space may be available).

Ruth Rothstein asked that the Steering Committee revisit the issue of distributing Steering Committee materials to all Task Force members prior to approving final documents. She questioned the purpose of the Steering Committee should all drafts of Steering Committee documents be distributed to all Task Force members. She added that if all documents were disseminated, the Steering Committee will have a million voices to respond to. David Koehler argued that the Steering Committee needs to make all of its work accessible. He added that the other issue was allowing other members of the Task Force, non-Steering Committee members, to call into the conference call. He added that he felt that it was important for Task Force members to be able to call in and that Task Force members did not interfere during the previous conference call. He also reminded the Steering Committee that its job was to do just that – steer. He argued that disseminating materials to the entire Task Force would not be communicating to the Task Force that the Steering Committee wants its input. Ruth Rothstein agreed that transparency is important, but felt that the Steering Committee could be transparent without disseminating each and every document. David Carvalho interjected that there were non-Steering Committee members who participated on the last Steering Committee conference call. He added that eventually everyone will be participating unless guidelines regarding non-Steering Committee Task Force member participation are developed now. David Koehler argued that as chair, Dr. Lerner is already controlling participation of non-Steering Committee Task Force member participation, especially when he sets aside time for comments from non-Steering Committee members. Joe Roberts agreed. Ruth Rothstein said that she personally felt that if a non-Steering Committee member has a comment regarding a topic to be covered at a Steering Committee meeting, that he/she should submit it to a Steering Committee member prior to the meeting. Dr. Lerner asked that the item “Comments from Non-Steering Committee Members” be added to future Steering Committee agendas. He also stated that he tended to agree with Ms. Rothstein, but, that as Mr. Koehler stated, nothing the Steering Committee does should be a secret.

The Steering Committee then addressed concerns regarding public hearings. David Koehler asked that the venue for the first public hearing be confirmed and that notice be sent to Task Force members. There was much discussion about the role of organizations at public hearings. The Steering Committee determined that organizations would be given a three-minute time limit just like individual speakers. Should an organization’s comments be particularly compelling, the Task Force will have the option of inviting the group to a subsequent Task Force meeting to give a presentation. While some members wanted organizations to have a longer time to present, there were fears that canned presentations would be presented by the same organizations at all of the hearings. It was also recognized that eventually all different industries would want to present at the public hearings, which would limit the time for individuals to testify – the true purpose of the hearings. The Steering Committee would also like to encourage

organizations to submit written or electronic testimonies for consideration by the Task Force. David Carvalho also mentioned that IDPH may be able to webcast the public hearings so that those unable to attend the public hearing could watch it in real time or view it at a later date. David Koehler wants to make sure that the efforts of grassroots campaigns are recognized. He argued that the decisions of the Steering Committee need to be explained to the rest of the Task Force.

David Carvalho told Steering Committee members that he met with communications people at IDPH. These communications people, Public Information Officers (PIOs), will work with staff to draft media advisories. David Koehler posed the question of how the Task Force will ensure that members of the public will find out about the public hearings ahead of time, not after the hearing has taken place. Dr. Lerner suggested that local newspapers will be better vehicles for distributing information in smaller communities. It was suggested that a one-page document be created for those planning on attending the public hearing to outline what one should expect at a public hearing, as well as a one-page summary document to distribute at the public hearings (emphasizing the Health Care Justice Act web address). It was also asked that staff create a one-page document for Task Force members outlining their responsibilities at the public hearings. It was also asked when specific venues for public hearings would be determined. Dave Carvalho told the Steering Committee that IDPH is looking to hire a contractor to take care of the logistics of the public hearings – securing venues, ensuring ADA compliance, etc. As soon as venues have been confirmed, information will be sent to the Task Force and posted on the Health Care Justice Act web site.

David Koehler asked the Steering Committee to revisit the issue of the SCI meeting. He believes that this will be a pivotal point for the Task Force as it will be one of the first opportunities for the Task Force to spend an entire day together and to discuss more substantive issues. He added that this would increase the level of intensity for the Task Force. There was discussion as to when the substantive debate should begin – the Steering Committee agreed that the SCI Health Forum would kickoff this process. Dave Carvalho stressed that the Task Force needs to go in all directions (that is, take everything in) initially and then narrow ideas from there. David Koehler suggested that the SCI meeting be coined a “forum” as opposed to a “summit”. The Steering Committee agreed that the term “summit” implied a conclusion rather than a beginning. Mr. Koehler added that quality time needs to be planned for every meeting because Task Force members need to find out who each other are and where each other are coming from. Dr. Lerner stated that one of the Task Force’s tasks is to vet the criteria upon which to judge different models. He suggested creating different groups, with each group consisting of one representative from each group of Task Force members appointed by the same authority, to break out for deliberation. He argued that there is not enough money to do everything and that the Task Force needs to address the trade-offs that scarce resources will necessitate. He added that some social time should be added at the end of the agenda for the SCI Health Forum. He further mentioned that the Task Force may need dedicated, intense time to go through the issues – possibly on nights or weekends. David Koehler added that the Steering Committee also needs to further discuss and explore its role as a facilitator.

## **V. Other Issues/New Business**

Dr. Lerner asked the Steering Committee and staff if there was any new business. Ashley Walter inquired about the presentation that is to be given at the beginning of each public hearing. Dr. Lerner and David Carvalho suggested that the presentation include an overview of the Health Care Justice Act, the Task Force, and the process. The current situation in Illinois with respect to access, insurance, demographics, etc. should also be addressed. It was asked that the presentation also include general statistics regarding health care in Illinois (how many hospitals are in the state, how many doctors, etc.). The presentation will be in PowerPoint format and have an accompanying script. Once the presentation is drafted, it will be sent to the Steering Committee for feedback.

Dr. Lerner also asked the Steering Committee to comment on Robyn Gabel’s role in the Task Force and on the Steering Committee. It was learned that Ms. Gabel will be out of the country for the better part of the next year. Dave Carvalho said that presumably Ms. Gabel should withdraw from the Task Force and that her appointing authority (the

President of the Senate) should fill the vacancy she would leave. Mr. Carvalho offered to contact Ms. Gabel to discuss the situation. Should Ms. Gabel withdraw from the Task Force, IDPH will send a letter to the President of the Senate informing him that he has a vacancy on the Task Force to fill. Filling the vacancy left on the Steering Committee will be addressed at a later date. In the meantime, Dr. Quentin Young (also appointed by the President of the Senate) will attend Steering Committee meetings as an observer.

## **VI. Adjournment**

Dr. Lerner adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:20 PM.

### **Action:**

- IDPH staff will prepare meeting minutes.
- IDPH staff will update the calendar outlining dates, times, and locations for public hearings. This calendar will also include the dates and times of Task Force meetings and Steering Committee meetings. The calendar will be sent to Task Force members who, upon receipt of the calendars, are to email Ashley Walter, IDPH, a list of the public hearings (at least 3) they commit to attending.
- IDPH staff will secure venues for upcoming public hearings.
- IDPH staff will create a one-page document outlining what to expect at a public hearing (targeted to those who may wish to testify).
- IDPH staff will create a one-page document outlining the responsibilities of Task Force members when attending public hearings.
- IDPH staff will create a one-page summary document to distribute to those who attend the public hearings.
- IDPH staff will create a presentation to be delivered at the beginning of each public hearing. This presentation will be sent to Steering Committee members for feedback.
- IDPH staff will notify Task Force members of upcoming special Task Force meetings.
- IDPH staff will create a hypothetical travel voucher to aid Task Force members in completing their own travel vouchers.

### **Next Meeting:**

The Steering Committee will meet immediately after the Task Force meeting (approximately 1:30PM) on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. Information regarding the location of this meeting is forthcoming.