

Adequate Health Care Task Force
Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 30, 2005
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 (telephone); Dr. Wayne Lerner, Chair; Joseph Roberts; Ruth Rothstein, Dr. Quentin Young

Steering Committee Members Absent: None

Illinois Department of Public Health Staff: David Carvalho; Randy Hall; Mike Jones; Ashley Walter

Guests: Catherine Bresler; Elena Butkus; Rep. Elizabeth Coulson; Jim Duffett; Megan Meagher; Mike Murphy; Margaret Stapleton

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 October 26, 2005. Ruth Rothstein motioned to approve the minutes. Dr. Quentin Young seconded the motion. All members (5) were in favor.

IV. Public Hearings

The Steering Committee discussed several issues concerning the Adequate Health Care Task Force Public Hearings.

- The Steering Committee elected to hold an additional public hearing in the 4th Congressional District in a Latino community in the southern part of the district. The Steering Committee asked IDPH staff to determine the date and location of this hearing given venue availability and previously scheduled Task Force commitments.
- Given the shortening of the legislative session, the previously scheduled public hearing for Springfield (April 19th) will take place after the legislative session has ended. The Steering Committee asked IDPH staff to determine a new date for this hearing (while the legislature is in session) given venue availability and previously scheduled Task Force commitments.
- The Steering Committee discussed the length of the public hearings as many public hearings have been ending earlier than the posted 7:00PM end time. The Steering Committee decided to change the posted end time of the hearings from 7:00PM to 6:00PM. However, should there be individuals present at 6:00PM who still wish to testify, the hearing may be extended to 7:00PM.
- The Steering Committee next considered holding additional hearings in the 1st and 7th Congressional Districts. Members of the Task Force asked the Steering Committee to consider doing so given the short public notice that was given regarding these hearings. The Steering Committee elected not to hold additional public hearings in the 1st and 7th Congressional Districts.
- Dr. Quentin Young brought to the attention of the IDPH staff letters that members of the Steering Committee had received from a resident of the 6th Congressional District asking that the hearing location be changed from Elk Grove Village to Elmhurst. The Steering Committee decided not to change the location of this hearing.

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

Dr. Lerner asked Steering Committee members how they thought the earlier Adequate Health Care Task Force meeting went. Joe Roberts inquired about the funds available to bring in speakers to present to the Task Force. David Carvalho responded that a speaker's travel expenses could be reimbursed, but that the Steering Committee needed to discuss the possibility of paying speaker fees to bring in some speakers. Mr. Carvalho noted that thus far all speakers have been sponsored. The Steering Committee agreed that it was acceptable to have speakers sponsored by outside organizations as long as it was transparent which organization was sponsoring the speaker. The Steering Committee also agreed to give IDPH the flexibility to spend funds to bring in speakers as long as the Department is prudent in its spending. Mr. Carvalho asked that Task Force members continue to submit suggestions for upcoming speakers.

Dr. Quentin Young asked the Steering Committee to revisit its discussion regarding publicity. Dr. Young stressed that members of the Task Force have connections to media outlets that are not being utilized. David Carvalho suggested that there are two aspects of the process that must be approached differently – the public hearings and the implementation of the Act overall. Mr. Carvalho noted that there is nothing for individuals to advocate for or against at this point in time so the hearings and implementation are unlikely to garner much media attention. Mr. Carvalho added that press releases were distributed regarding the process at the onset of the Act's implementation and that press releases are distributed prior to each public hearing. Dr. Wayne Lerner offered to contact a journalist he knows at Chicago Tribune Magazine regarding the implementation of the Act. Mr. David Koehler also offered to invite Jim Moore, Task Force member, to assist him in conducting an interview regarding the Peoria public hearing. Mr. Koehler also suggested that the media may be more likely to demonstrate interest outside of the Chicago-land area.

Dr. Lerner then opened a discussion regarding having a call-in line for Task Force members available for Task Force meetings given that upcoming meetings are scheduled while the legislature is in session and several Task Force members are also members of the legislature. David Carvalho suggested that having such a call-in line may encourage non-attendance. Mr. Carvalho also pointed out that the Steering Committee opposed having a call-in line at its August meeting and that it is difficult to control traffic should many members utilize the call-in line. Ms. Ruth Rothstein suggested that if the Steering Committee were to reverse its earlier decision stipulations would need to be made. Dr. Quentin Young suggested that the call-in line only be made available to legislators while in session. The Steering Committee agreed to make a call-in line available for Task Force members who are also legislators while in session. The Steering Committee also reserved the right to make the call-in line available to other members of the Task Force in the event of extreme weather conditions.

V. Other Issues/New Business

Dr. Lerner requested that IDPH staff begin work on a meta-analysis that synthesizes themes from public hearings and presentations to the Task Force.

VI. Comments from Non-Steering Committee Task Force Members

Mike Murphy asked David Carvalho about the issues regarding the RFP for a research entity. Mr. Carvalho responded that there has been a conflict of attention within the Department and that too much work was getting pushed down the same pipeline. Dr. Lerner told Mr. Carvalho to let the Steering Committee know if the Department needs help getting the RFP out.

VII. Adjournment

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

Action:

- IDPH staff will schedule the public hearings as directed.
- IDPH staff will begin work on a meta-analysis to present to the Task Force.
- 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, January 25th. This meeting will take place in room N-502 of the Michael A. Bilandic Building located at 160 North LaSalle Street in Chicago, IL.