

Adequate Health Care Task Force
Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 26, 2005
1:40 PM – 3:30 PM

James R. Thompson Center
100 West Randolph Street, Room 9-031
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; Mike Jones; Ashley Walter

Guests: Catherine Bresler; Elena Butkus; Jim Duffett; Megan Meagher; 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 1:40PM.

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 September 14, 2005. Ruth Rothstein motioned to approve the minutes. Joe Roberts seconded the motion. All members (5) were in favor.

Dr. Lerner asked that going forward IDPH staff create timed agendas and that when possible copies of presentations made to the Task Force be distributed prior to the presentation. Ruth Rothstein requested that the names of presenters be listed on the agenda when possible as well.

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 responded that the process is working well and that he is encouraged by the work thus far. Ruth Rothstein echoed this sentiment and added that differences in approaches exist between members. David Carvalho pointed out that questions posed throughout and after the presentations were posed to each other, not the presenter. Dr. Wayne Lerner asked that action items on the agenda remain at the beginning of the meeting (before presentations) and that administrative issues remain until the end of the meeting. David Koehler added the demand for conversation and engagement between Task Force members is increasing and that the Steering Committee will need to start planning time for this.

Dr. Lerner then listed three topics for discussion: the scheduling of public hearings (postponing all November hearings in order to give more notice), notice of public hearings (giving at least four weeks notice for each public hearing), and schedules. David Carvalho addressed the issues surrounding the scheduling and notice of public hearings. Mr. Carvalho explained the differences between working with private versus public venues and issues in contracting (payment terms and indemnification clauses) that arise. He explained that IDPH staff is working within the timeframe put forth by the Task Force. Mr. Carvalho asked the Steering Committee to consider the relationship between public testimony, other issues, and the charge of the Task Force. He explained that there are a dozen different agendas and that the Steering Committee cannot bend to them all. He pressed the Steering Committee to consider to what extent it should assist the agendas of others if those agendas differ from that of the Task Force. The conversation then turned to the issue of notifying organizations and individuals about upcoming hearings. Ruth Rothstein posed that even if the Task Force reaches everyone, some people still won't know. She added that public service announcements (PSAs) are free and that IDPH should look to Task Force members for resources. Ms. Rothstein added that although Task Force members should be reaching out to their members, some are not.

Dr. Lerner asked Ashley Walter about current contractual obligations to venues for upcoming hearings. Ms. Walter responded that contracts had been signed for the next two hearings (2nd and 3rd Congressional Districts) and that public notice had already been posted for the 3rd Congressional District public hearing scheduled for November 1, 2005. David Koehler asked if it would be possible to get "rain checks" from the venues, i.e. use the venues as contracted but on a later date. Joe Roberts argued that the Steering Committee should not be put in the position of having to schedule around everyone. Mr. Koehler argued that this issue would affect relationships amongst Task Force members and that the Steering Committee needed to look into postponing the upcoming hearings and explain its decisions. Dr. Lerner asked the Steering Committee to address the purpose of the public hearings. He added that

there is a need to educate people about the issue and the Health Care Justice Act, but that the public hearings aren't necessarily the means to do this. Dr. Quentin Young stated that he had been thinking about this. He sees the public hearings as an opportunity to let the public speak and to publicize the Task Force and its work. Dr. Young asked how the public hearings could be made more visible. Dr. Lerner asked IDPH what is being done regarding the media. David Carvalho responded that staff has not developed a media campaign but that it is sending out press releases. Mr. Carvalho also posed that it is much easier to pitch a proposal than a meeting to media outlets. Dr. Lerner suggested that as the hearings are scheduled, announcements should be written and sent to radio stations and newspapers to request PSAs. Mr. Carvalho suggested that staff meet with the Department's communications staff to develop a media plan. Dr. Lerner added that flyers should be sent to news outlets, as well as to Task Force members for appropriate redistribution. David Koehler stated that it is his responsibility to prep his own area for the hearing and that he is not sure that other Task Force members are assuming the same responsibility for their respective areas. Mr. Koehler believes that the Steering Committee needs to set this expectation. Dr. Lerner suggested that the Steering Committee urge the Governor to give the Task Force more attention.

Dr. Lerner turned the discussion back to the issue of the timing of the public hearings and whether or not the November hearings should be postponed. Dr. Young and Mr. Roberts both motioned that the hearings should go ahead as scheduled. Mr. Koehler argued that if the 2nd Congressional District hearing could be postponed, it ought to be done. He is concerned about relationships on the Task Force. Ms. Rothstein responded that she understands that the issue has to do with relationships – as it did in the beginning when the Steering Committee pushed to start the hearings right away, at the request of some of the same organizations now complaining about short notice. She argued that you can't use the same argument twice. Ms. Rothstein added that Task Force members will always differ on the purpose of the hearings. She suggested that neither of the hearings be postponed. David Koehler suggested that the 2nd Congressional District public hearing be postponed from November 2nd to November 9th if possible. Margaret Stapleton (guest) added that November 2nd is a veto session day and that elected officials would not be able to attend a hearing on that day. Dr. Lerner responded that he would rather have a session just for officials. Ruth Rothstein added that there will be enough officials around to attend if they want to attend. Ruth Rothstein suggested that if it's possible to postpone the hearing one week then it should be done, but that it should never be done again. The rest of the Steering Committee agreed. Ashley Walter stated that she would contact the venue immediately following the meeting to inquire about postponing the 2nd Congressional District public hearing.

David Koehler asked how those wishing to testify could be orchestrated into topical groups. Dr. Lerner asked Mr. Koehler to work with Ms. Walter on this, as well as an opening presentation for all upcoming public hearings.

V. Other Issues/New Business

Dr. Lerner asked the Steering Committee and staff if there was any new business. Ashley Walter asked the Steering Committee to turn its attention to the presentation plan included in the folder of materials distributed at the meeting. Dr. Lerner then asked Steering Committee members to pull out their calendars. The Steering Committee then discussed the draft presentation plan put forth by IDPH staff. Dr. Lerner asked that two topics be added to the plan – "Public Health and Prevention" and "Personal Responsibility".

The Steering Committee also discussed the timing of Task Force and Steering Committee meetings after April 2006. Dr. Lerner suggested that both meet every other week beginning in May 2006. David Koehler suggested monthly back-to-back meetings instead in order to be more efficient with respect to travel time for those who live far from the city.

Before adjourning, Dr. Lerner asked Ashley Walter to not make hard copies for Task Force members for the meetings as paper is being wasted. He asked that if electronic copies are sent out ahead of time to only have a couple of copies on hand at the meeting for those who do not print their own copies and for members of the public.

VI. Comments from Non-Steering Committee Task Force Members

None.

VII. Adjournment

Dr. Lerner adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:26 PM.

Action:

- IDPH staff will prepare meeting minutes.
- IDPH staff will work to postpone the 2nd Congressional District Public Hearing by one week.
- IDPH staff will secure venues for upcoming public hearings.
- IDPH staff will notify Task Force members of upcoming special Task Force meetings.

Next Meeting:

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