

**Adequate Health Care Task Force
Meeting Summary
Wednesday, October 26, 2005
10:30 AM – 1:30 PM**

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.

Task Force Members in Attendance: Dr. Anthony Barbato; Kenneth Boyd; Catherine Bresler; Jan Daker; Margaret Davis; Jim Duffett; Dr. Arthur G. Jones; David Koehler; Dr. Wayne Lerner (Chair); Dr. Niva Lubin-Johnson; Pamela Mitroff; James Moore; Tracey Printen; Joseph Roberts; Ruth Rothstein; Kenneth Smithmier; Dr. Quentin Young

Task Force Member Proxies: Elena Butkus (Kenneth Robbins); Dr. Peter Eupierre (Dr. Craig Backs); John Garven (Gregory Smith)

Regrets (Task Force Members): Timothy Carrigan; Rep. Elizabeth Coulson; Colleen Kannaday; Sen. Iris T. Martinez; Michael Murphy; Dr. Joseph Orthoefer; Gregory Smith; Sen. Donne E. Trotter

State Agency Representatives: None

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

Guests: Stephanie Altman; Jan Kirby; Megan Meagher; Margaret Stapleton; Susan Vega; Bob Wagner

- The meeting was called to order at 10:40am by Dr. Wayne Lerner, Chair. Task Force members and guests then introduced themselves.
- Dr. Lerner announced that Robyn Gable resigned from the Task Force. Her vacancy will be filled by her appointing authority and Dr. Quentin Young will assume her position on the Steering Committee.
- The Task Force discussed the first three public hearings of the Task Force, which were all held in October 2005. These hearings took place in the 1st, 4th, and 7th Congressional Districts.
 - Task Force members were struck by the sincerity of the testimony.
 - Task Force members recognized the enormity of their charge.
 - Several Task Force members found it frustrating that they were unable to link people with programs that may help them but were unaware of.
 - It was suggested that the Health Care Justice Act website be used to increase awareness of such programs by utilizing a question-and-answer format posting regarding such programs.
 - Task Force members identified several themes that emerged from the first three hearings:
 - The need for oral health care;
 - The need for better and more comprehensive breast health services;
 - Issues regarding physical access to physician offices, clinics, and hospitals;
 - The impact of employment status, health catastrophes, and the stability of pensions/retirement benefits on access to health care via insurance status;
 - Prescription drugs and formularies;
 - Lengthy waiting times at Stroger Hospital; and
 - The role of, need for, and capacity of Federally Qualified Health Centers, community health clinics, and free clinics.
 - Task Force members recommended that a short introduction to the Health Care Justice Act and the Adequate Health Care Task Force be given by the hearing chair at the onset of each hearing.
 - Some Task Force members felt that the public hearings need to better utilized to educate the public on health policy-related issues.
 - Task Force members are interested in doing more to engage local elected officials at the public hearings.
- When quorum was reached, the Task Force approved the September 14, 2005 meeting minutes.
- Jan Kirby, of the Illinois Comprehensive Health Insurance Plan, presented to the Task Force.
- Bob Wagner, of the Illinois Department of Professional and Financial Regulation – Division of Insurance, presented to the Task Force.
- IDPH staff reminded Task Force members about special technical assistance meetings taking place on Thursday, November 3rd and Friday, November 4th.
- IDPH staff also reminded Task Force members of the upcoming Illinois Health Forum.
- IDPH staff announced that the Health Care Justice Act website is live.
- IDPH staff updated Task Force members on the status of the Health Care Justice Act online community. After encountering some difficulties in creating user accounts, the process is now underway. Another update will be given at the next Task Force meeting.
- IDPH staff distributed a hypothetical travel voucher to aid Task Force members in completing their own travel vouchers.
- IDPH staff reminded Task Force members to submit their first quarter timesheets.
- Task Force members inquired as to when the transcripts from the public hearings will be posted to the Health Care Justice Act website. IDPH staff informed Task Force members that they were working through some legalities concerning posting the transcripts and would post them as soon as possible.

- Task Force members discussed the AllKids program and its impact on the work of the Task Force. It was pointed out that this program should be treated just like Medicaid, KidCare, and FamilyCare in deliberations of the Task Force.
- Task Force members stressed the importance of identifying and learning about all current programs in Illinois that facilitate access to health care so that they can identify gaps in the current structure.
- Task Force members voiced concerns over the timing of the public hearings and the amount of public notice given for each hearing. It was suggested that, at a minimum, 30 days notice be given for each hearing.
 - Dr. Lerner told the Task Force that the Steering Committee would discuss this matter at the Steering Committee meeting to immediately follow this meeting.
 - Several Task Force members questioned the purpose(s) of the public hearings.
- The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:40pm.

Next Meeting:

The next Adequate Health Care Task Force meeting will be held from 10:30am to 1:30pm on Wednesday, November 30th. This meeting will be held at the Bilandic Building (MABB), 160 North LaSalle Street, Room 5-N502, Chicago, Illinois.

The following Adequate Health Care Task Force meeting will be held from 10:30am to 1:30pm on Wednesday, January 25th. This meeting will be held at the Michael A. Bilandic Building (MABB), 160 North LaSalle Street, Room N502, Chicago, Illinois.