

**Adequate Health Care Task Force
Meeting Summary
Wednesday, February 22, 2006
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. Craig Backs; Dr. Anthony Barbato; Catherine Bresler; Timothy Carrigan; Jan Daker; Margaret Davis; J. Terry Dooling; Jim Duffett; Dr. Arthur G. Jones; David Koehler; Dr. Wayne Lerner (Chair); Dr. Niva Lubin-Johnson; Pamela Mitroff; James Moore; Dr. Joseph Orthofer; Tracey Printen; Kenneth Robbins; Joseph Roberts; Greg Smith; Dr. Quentin Young

Task Force Member Proxies: Sean McManamy (Catherine Bresler); John Garven (Mike Murphy)

Regrets (Task Force Members): Kenneth Boyd; Rep. Elizabeth Coulson; Colleen Kannaday; Sen. Iris T. Martinez; Ruth Rothstein; Kenneth Smithmier; Sen. Donne E. Trotter

State Agency Representatives: Jim Jordan, Division of Insurance; Ralph Schubert, Department of Human Services

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

Guests: Jack Bernardt; James Knutson; Janet Trautwein; Jessica Waltman

- The meeting was called to order at 10:40am by Dr. Wayne Lerner, Chair. Task Force members, IDPH staff, and guests then introduced themselves.
- Dr. Lerner postponed approval of the January 25, 2006 meeting transcript until the next meeting as the transcript had not yet been received from the deposition company.
- The Task Force discussed the three public hearings of the Task Force that had taken place since the last Task Force meeting. These hearings took place in the 18th (Peoria), 19th (Mt. Vernon), and 15th (Champaign) Congressional Districts.
 - Task Force members identified several themes that emerged from these hearings:
 - The need for access to mental health services;
 - The negative impact of depending on volunteer emergency responders;
 - The effects on the community from lack of preventive care – especially with respect to schools and childcare centers;
 - The deleterious effect of non-compete clauses in contracts between providers and hospitals;
 - The effect of reimbursement levels on access to care for Medicaid recipients;
 - The need for certain special populations, such as foster parents, to have access to health benefits;
 - The need to ensure that training opportunities for health professions are available (physicians, nurses, dentists, etc.);
 - The effect of the dispersion (or lack there of) of providers;
 - The importance of dental care; and
 - The impact of geography on access to care.
- Janet Trautwein, Executive Vice President and CEO of the National Association of Health Underwriters, presented to the Task Force.
- Jessica Waltman, Legislative Director of Policy Research of the National Association of Health Underwriters, presented to the Task Force.
- James Knutson, representing the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, presented to the Task Force.
- IDPH staff informed Task Force members that several proposals had been received in response to the Department's RFP. The research entity will be selected by the end of March.
- IDPH staff distributed a tentative agenda for an upcoming special meeting of the Task Force titled "Private Sector Options for Increasing Access to Care" (April 21, 2006) to Task Force members.
- Task Force members were reminded to let Ashley Walter know as soon as possible if they would like to present a specific policy proposal to the Task Force for consideration.
- Task Force members suggested that a representative from organized labor be sought out to present to the Task Force.
- Task Force members discussed the dates and times of future Task Force meetings. The Task Force asked the Steering Committee to resolve the conflicts during its meeting.
- The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:45pm.

Next Meeting:

The next Adequate Health Care Task Force meeting will be held from 10:30am to 2:00pm on Wednesday, March 29th. 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, April 26th. This meeting will be held at the Michael A. Bilandic Building (MABB), 160 North LaSalle Street, Room N502, Chicago, Illinois.