

**Adequate Health Care Task Force
Meeting Summary
Friday, April 21, 2006
9:30 AM – 3:00 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; Catherine Besler; Elizabeth Coulson; Jan Daker; Margaret Davis; J. Terry Dooling; Jim Duffet; Dr. Arthur Jones; David Koehler; Dr. Wayne Lerner; Dr. Niva Lubin-Johnson; Pamela Mitroff; James Moore; Mike Murphy; Tracey Printen; Ken Robbins; Joe Roberts; Ruth Rothstein; Gregory Smith; Kenneth Smithmier

Regrets (Task Force Members): Anthony Barbato; Kenneth Boyd; Timothy Carrigan; Rep. Colleen Kannaday; Senator Iris Martinez; Joseph Orthoefer; Senator Donna Trotter; Dr. Quentin Young

State Agency Representatives: Ralph Schubert, Department of Human Services; Joseph Hylack-Reinholtz, Department of Healthcare and Family Services

Illinois Department of Public Health Staff: David Carvalho; Mike Jones; Sherry Sherman; Sarah Duggan

Research Entity: Gwyn Davidson, Navigant Consulting

Guests: Phil O'Connor, Michael McRaith, Tarren Bragdon, Ron Bachman, Eileen Ellis, JP Wieske, Brad Buxton, Martin Mitchell

- The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by Dr. Wayne Lerner, Chair. Task Force

members, IDPH staff and guests then introduced themselves.

- Phil O'Connor, Former Illinois Insurance Commissioner, presented a historical background of the health insurance market in Illinois to the Task Force.
- Michael McRaith, Director of the Illinois Division of Insurance, presented to the Task Force on health insurance issues in Illinois.
- Tarren Bragdon, Director of Health Reform Initiatives for the Maine Heritage Policy Center, presented to the Task Force on the Maine Dirigo Health Plan and its effects on the private health insurance market in Maine.
- Ron Bachman, Center for Health Transformation, presented to the Task Force on consumerism in health care.
- Eileen Ellis, Former Director of Medicaid for the state of Michigan, presented to the Task Force on Three Share Plans.
- Brad Buxton, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, presented to the Task Force on Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois' initiatives for increasing access to care in Illinois.
- Martin Mitchell, American Health Insurance Plans, presented to the Task Force on the administrative costs in the private insurance industry.
- Meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 pm.