

# MINUTES

## HEALTH REFORM LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE

March 17, 2015  
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The Health Reform Legislative Task Force met Tuesday, March 17, 2015 upon adjournment of both chambers in Room 171, State Capitol, Little Rock, Arkansas.

**Senate Health Reform Task Force members attending were:** Senators Jim Hendren, Chair; Cecile Bledsoe, Vice Chair; John Cooper, Keith Ingram, and Jason Rapert.

**House Health Reform Task Force members attending were:** Representatives Charlie Collins, Chair; Reginald Murdock, Vice Chair; Justin Boyd, Joe Farrer, Deborah Ferguson, Michelle Gray, and David Meeks.

**Non Legislative Members Attending:** Gregory Bledsoe, M.D., Arkansas Surgeon General.

**Other legislators attending were:** Senator Missy Irvin.

### **Call to Order & Comments by the Chairs**

Senator Jim Hendren called the meeting to order. Senator Hendren and Representative Charlie Collins gave a brief overview of the discussion that will surround today's agenda.

### **Overview of Work of the Task Force & Path Toward a Solution**

Senator Hendren presented an overview of the path that the task force will take toward a solution for healthcare reform. With the aid of a Powerpoint presentation (*Handout #1*), he outlined information the task force needs to know, in order to evaluate the Request for Proposals (RFP) that will be submitted to the Task Force for consideration of the consultant position. Objectives of the Arkansas Health Reform Legislative Task Force is to:

- ◆ Improve health of Arkansans
- ◆ Decrease cost of the program
- ◆ Superior care to those in need
- ◆ Incentives for private insurance (jobs)
- ◆ Access for rural areas
- ◆ Protect state budget
- ◆ Attractive market for providers

### **Comments on Where We Are Today with the Private Option & Medicaid**

John Selig, Director, Department of Human Services, described the current operations and the economic impact of the Private Option on Arkansas (*Handout #2*). Jodiane Tritt, Vice President, Government Relations, Arkansas Hospital Association, spoke on behalf of the Private Option and the reduced uncompensated care costs to Arkansas hospitals. Ms. Tritt will provide the task force with the Hospital Association's definition of 'uncompensated care', and complete statistics for uncompensated care of Arkansas hospitals—before and after the Private Option.

Dawn Stehle, Director, Division of Medical Services, Department of Human Services, presented a brief overview of traditional Arkansas Medicaid (*Handout #3*).

Dan Rahn, Chancellor, University of Arkansas Medical Sciences (UAMS), stated that UAMS will be glad to help the task force in any way they can with the healthcare reform.

### **Request for Proposals (RFP) Discussion**

Jill Thayer, Legal Counsel to the Director, Bureau of Legislative Research, presented the scope of work specifications that will be the blueprint and lay the foundation for a successful RFP. Ms. Thayer also updated the timeline to reflect the new meeting times, and presented guidelines on how the members need to proceed. Ms. Thayer encouraged members to email her with any suggestions of material to be included in the RFP.

When the RFP is ready for release, it will be posted on the Office of State Procurement website and will be available for bidding for one month. Ms. Thayer will prepare a summary of each proposal for the task force to review. Approval date of the RFP will be May 15, 2015 at the Legislative Council meeting, and the consultant will contract directly with the Bureau of Legislative Research.

Senator Hendren, without objection, scheduled the next meeting for Monday, March 23, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.