

MINUTES

HEALTH REFORM LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE

March 23, 2015

The Health Reform Legislative Task Force met Monday, March 23, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. 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, Jason Rapert, Terry Rice, and David Sanders.

House Health Reform Task Force members attending were: Representatives Charlie Collins, Chair; Reginald Murdock, Vice Chair; Justin Boyd, Joe Farrer, Deborah Ferguson, Michelle Gray, Kim Hammer, 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, and outlined the issues to be discussed during today's meeting. Senator Hendren stated that finding the right consultant to guide the task force is one of the most crucial decisions presently at hand.

Representative Charlie Collins stated that today Jill Thayer will lead the task force over the scope of the Request for Proposal (RFP), and briefly listed some of the input that has already been received from task force members.

- ◆ There is a lot of existing data from previous research/audits
- ◆ Members would like the consultant to frame up different recommendations

Request for Proposal (RFP) Schedule & Timeline—Discussion & Finalize

Senator Hendren updated the timeline to reflect new target dates for the task force. He stated that the week of May 4, 2015 will require multiple task force meetings, in order to allow the selected RFPs to be fully presented; with sufficient time for the task force to recommend the RFP of their choice. The new timeline was adopted without objection.

Scope of Work for the Request for Proposal (RFP)—Discussion & Finalize

Senator Hendren encouraged the members to give their input on the framework and content requirements of this RFP, thus providing a guideline to compare with the RFPs that are submitted to the task force. Senator John Cooper made a motion authorize the task force chairs to work with the Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR) in the finalizing of this RFP. The motion carried without objection.

Live Streaming of Meetings of the Task Force

A motion to authorize Senator Hendren and Representative Collins to send a letter to the House of Representatives requesting live-streaming availability for the task force meetings carried without objection.

Future Meetings of the Task Force—Topics of Discussion

Senator Hendren has requested BLR to organize a presentation on uncompensated care, and another presentation on the cost of the Medicaid Program. Each presentation will be in a separate meeting:

- ◆ Private option
- ◆ Aspects of the Medicaid Program
- ◆ Payment Improvement Initiative
- ◆ Cost Reduction & Cost Control Measures

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.