

MINUTES

HEALTH REFORM LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE

December 17, 2015

The Health Reform Legislative Task Force met Thursday, December 17, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in Committee Room A of the Big MAC Building, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Senate Health Reform Task Force Members Attending: Senators Jim Hendren, Chair; Cecile Bledsoe, Vice Chair; Linda Chesterfield, John Cooper, Keith Ingram, and Terry Rice.

House Health Reform Task Force Members Attending: Representatives Charlie Collins, Chair; Justin Boyd, Deborah Ferguson, Michelle Gray, and David Meeks.

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

Other Legislators Attending: Senators Scott Flippo, Missy Irvin, Uvalde Lindsey, and Eddie Joe Williams. Representatives Charles Armstrong, Scott Baltz, Mary Bentley, Charles Blake, Ken Bragg, Jim Dotson, Kenneth Ferguson, Ken Henderson, Mary “Prissy” Hickerson, David Hillman, Monte Hodges, Sheilla Lampkin, Fredrick Love, Stephen Meeks, Josh Miller, Micah Neal, Betty Overbey, John Payton, Mathew Pitsch, Laurie Rushing, Sue Scott, James Sorvillo, Dan Sullivan, Dwight Tosh, and DeAnn Vaught.

Call to Order & Comments by the Chairs

Senator Jim Hendren called the meeting to order, and stated the only action the task force will take today is to adopt the preliminary report (included in the task force members’ packets). Senator Hendren advised the members to look over sections of the report in general. The task force recommendations are listed on page 19 of this report.

Review of the Gartner Report (*Handout #1-Exhibit C*)

John Stephen, Managing Partner, and Martha Tuthill, Senior Consultant, both with The Stephen Group (TSG), presented this review. Mr. Stephen introduced Ms. Tuthill, who reviewed the Gartner Report on Arkansas’s Eligibility and Enrollment Framework (EEF) Program as follows:

- ◆ Summarized the key components of the Gartner Report recommendations (Slide #2)
- ◆ Listed the 7 recommended Department of Human Services (DHS) projects (Slide #3)
- ◆ Listed Gartner’s scoring of the following, as to the risk assessment (Slide #4)
 - Governance & Management *current approach is not clearly defined or consistently executed--presents serious risks to the program & needs immediate attention from the state*
 - Solution Fit *current approach is not clearly defined or consistently executed*
 - Vendor Management *current approach presents serious risks to the program & needs immediate attention from the state*
 - Solution Development Practices *current approach is not clearly defined or consistently executed*
 - Technical Environment *current approach is not clearly defined or consistently executed*
- ◆ Listed 4 alternative Cúram Solution Analysis (Slide #5)
 - Ms. Tuthill stated The Gartner Group prefers Alternative A (slide 5 of TSG Report, December 17, 2015)

Mark White, Deputy Director, Division of Medical Services, Department of Human Services, stated The Gartner Group has been retained to assist Arkansas in developing an RFP, a primary objective of DHS. This RFP should be completed by the end of 2015.

Review of the Final Report (*Handout #2—Exhibit D*)

John Stephen, Managing Partner, Richard Kellogg, Senior Consultant, Stephen Palmer, Senior Consultant, Martha Tuthill, Senior Consultant, and Rory Rickert, Senior Consultant, all with The Stephen Group (TSG), answered questions from the members regarding the preliminary report.

TSG recommended that the task force continue monitoring the progress of DHS in developing the Eligibility and Enrollment Framework (EEF) Program for Arkansas. The legislature especially needs to consider if the timing for implementation of any recommended changes to the Health Care Independence Program and the traditional Medicaid program will be impacted by the ability of the DHS computer systems to support changes in direction.

Discussion and Action by the Task Force

Senator Hendren presented a brief overview of the preliminary report. He then made a motion to accept this preliminary report, providing the task force chairs will be authorized by the task force members to make necessary minor changes, if any are needed, after the task force members review this report, find something inaccurate or feel that something is missing that should be added. The motion passed without objection.

Other Business

Max Greenwood, Representative with Arkansas BlueCross/BlueShield Insurance Company, presented further clarification in detail on the amount of premium taxes that insurance companies pay to the state and the amount of off-sets that insurance companies receive.

Senator Hendren announced the task force will meet January 20, 2016 and potentially on January 21, 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.