

MINUTES OF THE

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND COVERAGE TASK FORCE

Friday, October 5, 2001 - 9:00 a.m. - Room 403 State Capitol

<p>Members Present: Sen. Peter Knudson, Senate Chair Rep. Rebecca Lockhart, House Chair Sen. Paula Julander Rep. Trisha Beck Rep. David Litvack Rep. J. Morgan Philpot Mr. Merwin U. Stewart</p>	<p>Members Absent: Sen. D. Chris Buttars Rep. Jim Ferrin Mr. Rod L. Betit</p> <p>Staff Present: Ms. Jami Momberger, Research Analyst Ms. Catherine Dupont, Associate General Counsel Ms. Jennifer Markham, Legislative Secretary</p>
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Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials can be found at <http://www.image.le.state.ut.us/imaging/history.asp> or contact the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

1. Call to Order

Chair Knudson called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and declared a quorum was present.

MOTION: Rep. Litvack moved to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2001 meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Buttars, Rep. Beck, Rep. Ferrin, Rep. Philpot, and Mr. Betit absent for the vote.

2. Utah Department of Health - HRSA Grant Report

Mr. Chad Westover, Project Director, and Mr. Shane Carlson, Project Manager, Department of

Health, provided an update on the HRSA grant and distributed a copy of their presentation, "Covering the Uninsured in 2002 Project Overview."

Task Force discussion followed.

3. Arkansas H.B. 1632

Ms. Catherine Dupont, Associate General Counsel, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, described Arkansas H.B. 1632, Health Insurance Consumer Choice Act, addressed concerns, and suggested alternatives. A copy of Arkansas H.B. 1632 and the Insurance Commission Rule regarding the state's Basic Health Care Plan and the Condition-Specific Exclusion Riders in Individual Health Insurance Policies were mailed to task force members prior to the meeting.

Task Force discussion followed.

4. Task Force Continued Discussion of Access and Coverage Initiatives and Options

Chair Knudson provided a summary of previous Task Force discussions.

Rep. Lockhart expressed a desire to receive more information on Virginia's CHIP expansion program and voucher plan.

Chair Knudson requested more information on the flexibility of Utah's Insurance Commission rules.

Commissioner Stewart stated he would investigate options that may be available without legislation. He noted several problems with the Arkansas bill. He expressed an interest in receiving more information about the Virginia plan.

Rep. Litvak suggested exploring funding options for a Section 1931 expansion including the possibility of using an additional cigarette tax.

The Task Force members continued the discussion of options listed in the outline mailed prior to the

meeting.

Ms. Judi Hilman, Utah Issues, emphasized that a Section 1931 expansion is separate from the 1115 waiver. She suggested using a cigarette tax for funding.

Ms. Tina Johnson, LCPD, MS Society, suggested an alcohol tax as a funding possibility.

5. Other Items/Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Julander moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 a.m. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Buttars, Rep. Ferrin, and Mr. Betit absent for the vote.