

**MINUTES OF THE
HEALTH REFORM TASK FORCE**

Thursday, July 14, 2016 – 1:00 p.m. – Room 30 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Allen Christensen, Senate Chair
Rep. James A. Dunnigan, House Chair
Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck
Rep. Francis D. Gibson
Rep. Michael S. Kennedy
Rep. Marie H. Poulson
Rep. Edward H. Redd
Rep. Dean Sanpei

Members Absent:

Sen. J. Stuart Adams
Sen. Gene Davis
Sen. Peter C. Knudson

Staff Present:

Mr. Mark Andrews, Policy Analyst
Ms. Cathy Dupont, Associate General Counsel
Mr. Michael E. Curtis, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Lori Rammell, Legislative Assistant

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Task Force Business

Chair Christensen called the meeting to order at 1:17 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. Dunnigan moved to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2016, meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Gibson and Rep. Redd were absent for the vote.

2. Substance Abuse Treatment — Fraud Prevention

Rep. Sanpei provided background information on H.B. 259, "Substance Abuse Treatment Fraud," which the Legislature passed during the 2016 General Session. He explained that H.B. 259 was a response to allegations of questionable practices by substance abuse treatment providers brought to the attention of the task force last year.

Ms. Diane Moore, Director, Office of Licensing, Utah Department of Human Services, updated the task force on the Office of Licensing's implementation of H.B. 259. She said that as a result of the legislation the office now has what it needs to appropriately regulate treatment providers.

Ms. Tanji Northrup, Assistant Commissioner, Utah Insurance Department, reported that the Insurance Department does not have any specific requests for new language to address coverage of treatment providers by health insurers, but it will continue to monitor the implementation of H.B. 259 and make requests of the task force in the future if necessary. She reported, however, that despite the passage of H.B. 259, abuses by treatment providers still exist in billing for services, patient treatment, and other areas.

Mr. Armand Glick, Director, Fraud Division, Utah Insurance Department, reported on the Fraud Division's investigation of fraud cases involving substance abuse treatment centers.

Mr. Travis Wood, President, Utah Association of Addiction Treatment Providers, reported on the progress made on this issue since passage of H.B. 259 and the importance of the changes that have been made.

Mr. Adam Cohen, Vice President, Utah Association of Addiction Treatment Providers, and Chief Executive Officer, Odyssey House, praised the Office of Licensing for its work engaging with the provider

community in drafting its rules. He said that one continuing concern is the "pay for referral" practice that continues.

Mr. Shawn McMillen, Executive Director, Step House, and Public Policy Liaison, Utah Association of Addiction Treatment Providers and Association of Utah Substance Abuse Professionals, expressed appreciation to the Legislature and reported that the association is currently examining its requirements for provider membership to ensure that only ethical providers join its ranks.

Mr. Brent Kelsey, Assistant Director, Utah Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, reported on the division's work with adolescent treatment programs to assist those programs in getting certified. He suggested that individuals and family members looking for a treatment center should examine the provider's credentials, including certification by the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health. He spoke in favor of making performance information regarding individual treatment centers public in order to create transparency and put market pressure on providers. He reported that as of July 1, lists of certified providers have been distributed to drug courts and, as a result, additional providers have inquired about certification.

3. Telehealth

Dr. Ray Timothy, Executive Director, Utah Education and Telehealth Network, presented a video clip explaining the roles of the Utah Education Network (UEN) and Utah Telehealth Network in education and healthcare, including the provision of network services, application services, and support services. He distributed "Welcome to UETN" and discussed the infrastructure map featured in that brochure.

Ms. Deb Lamarche, Associate Director, Utah Telehealth Network, presented "Utah Telehealth Network" and reviewed some of the ways the Utah Telehealth Network's role has changed since combining with the Utah Education Network. She described the new statewide videoconferencing platform that UEN has implemented and its use in both physical and behavioral healthcare settings. She identified potential issues for consideration by a telehealth workgroup created by the task force and the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee.

Rep. Ken Ivory reviewed some of the discussions on the topic of telehealth that have taken place in the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee.

4. Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Dunnigan moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Christensen adjourned the meeting at 2:39 p.m.