

HEALTH CARE ACCESS COMMISSION

MINUTES

Senator Linda Berglin called the meeting of the Health Care Access Commission to order at 10:12 a.m. on Wednesday, December 5, 2007, in Room 15 of the State Capitol. The clerk noted the roll:

Members Present:

Rep. Huntley, Co-Chair
Sen. Berglin, Co-Chair
Rep. Abeler
Sen. Koering
Rep. Loeffler
Rep. Thissen
Sen. Lourey
Sen. Marty

Members Excused:

Rep. Gottwalt
Sen. Rosen

Other Members Present:

Rep. Liebling
Rep. Murphy, E.
Rep. Norton
Sen. Olson, M.
Sen. Prettner-Solon

A quorum was present.

At 10:13 a.m. Co-chair Huntley assumed the gavel.

Presentation from Cost Containment: Restructure the Health Care System Through Identified Savings Work Group by Senator Linda Berglin and Representative Paul Thissen.

At 10:50 a.m. Senator Berglin resumed the gavel and proposed discussion of recommendations.

Co-chair Huntley moved adoption of recommendations 1-4 of the Restructuring Cost Containment Work Group as follows:

1. Presumptive eligibility for MinnesotaCare. The motion prevailed.
2. Rolling eligibility for public programs. The motion prevailed.
3. No premium first month of enrollment in MinnesotaCare for new enrollees. The motion prevailed.
4. Improve Automation to Enhance Outreach Efforts

Chair Berglin proposes discussion of the New Cost Containment Strategies Work Group, Patient-Centered Decision Making and noted that it should read "...in Public Programs"

Co-chair Huntley moved adoption of this recommendation with the incorporated language and the motion prevailed.

Discussion occurred on the Insurance Market Reform Work Group recommendation, Community-based Standards for HMOs and the following individuals came to the table to testify:

Kathryn Kmit, Minnesota Council of Health Plans
Patricia Coldwell, Association of Minnesota Counties

Co-chair Huntley moved adoption of community-based standards for HMOs and the motion prevailed.

Co-chair Huntley moved adoption of the recommendation to [study] increasing the size of small employer definition. The motion prevailed.

Rep. Thissen moved to reconsider community-based standards for HMOs and add the following language:

"The reporting on community benefit should reflect how community benefit efforts reduce costs to the health care system, including a benefit/cost analysis of community benefit programs."

Following discussion, he withdrew his motion with the understanding that the idea would remain in continuing discussions.

Co-chair Huntley moved adoption of a modified community rating in insurance products based on the results of the Mathematica study, allowing rating differentials for geography, age and risk behavior (i.e., smoking) only. Rep. Loeffler moved to incorporate the words "based on" rather than "pending review of". Co-chair Huntley incorporated this change in his motion which then prevailed. Rep. Abeler abstained.

Co-chair Huntley moved adoption of considering merging the individual and small group market based on information received as a result of the Mathematica study. Rep. Loeffler moved to incorporate the words "based on" rather than "pending review of". Co-chair Huntley incorporated this change in his motion which then prevailed. Rep. Abeler abstained.

Discussion of Health Care for Long Term Care Workers Work Group recommendations. Co-chair Huntley moved adoption of the recommendation "that funding be appropriated for a study to obtain specific data on the number of full time and part time workers, their claim patterns and histories, the current levels of employer investment in health insurance. The motion prevailed with the Commission agreeing to exclude "and a specific identification of which employers would be included without additional funding." which was part of the original recommendation.

Co-chair Huntley moved adoption of the recommendation that in the future, a rate increase be adopted to provide health insurance for long term care workers. This should be modeled after the employee scholarship rate. The motion prevailed.

Chair Berglin adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.