

P R O G R E S S R E P O R T
HEALTH CARE EXPANSION TASK FORCE

January 1990

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Health Care Expansion Task Force was established by the Legislative Council pursuant to 1989 Iowa Acts, chapter 304, section 407. The Task Force was directed to develop a charge and time line for a private, comprehensive study of the health insurance needs of Iowans in accordance with S.F. 538 (chapter 304). An initial report on the charge and time line was submitted to the Legislative Council by August 15, 1989; a preliminary report from the consultant is to be submitted by February 1, 1990; and a final report from the consultant is to be submitted by November 15, 1990. The Task Force was initially granted three meeting days which were held on August 31, September 20, and September 28. Approval was requested and granted for the Task Force to hold four additional meetings and to hold an unlimited number of subcommittee meetings during the course of the consultant study.

Members of the Task Force are:

Senator Charles Bruner, Co-chairperson
Representative Thomas Fey, Co-Chairperson
Senator Joy C. Corning
Senator William W. Dieleman
Senator Jean Lloyd-Jones
Senator Maggie Tinsman
Representative Patricia M. Harper
Representative Dolores M. Mertz
Representative Lee J. Plasier
Representative Bill Trent
Ms. Mary Bergstrom, Des Moines
Ms. Vivian Bovenmyer, Garner
Ms. Janet Burch, Des Moines
Dr. Steve Gleason, M.D., Des Moines
Mr. Myron Linn, Pella
Mr. Dave Neil, Waterloo
Ms. Mary Noland, Adair
Mr. Robert Richard, Independence

INITIAL REPORT

A draft Request for Proposals was prepared by the Co-chairpersons, mailed to the Task Force, and approved in early

August through a telephone survey of the members. The approved Request for Proposals, containing a time line for selection and employment of the consultant, was submitted to the Legislative Council at the August meeting.

AUGUST 31 MEETING

At its first formal meeting, the Task Force elected Senator Charles Bruner and Representative Thomas Fey as permanent Co-chairpersons and received written and oral questions from potential consultants who had filed an intention to bid letter. A written response to these questions was approved and mailed to each person who had filed an intention to bid letter. The Task Force appointed a Selection Subcommittee to review and score proposals, authorizing the Subcommittee to select between two and four bidders as finalists to be interviewed by the full Task Force. All Task Force members were invited to attend the Subcommittee meeting and the Co-chairpersons stated their intention to invite additional persons to assist in reviewing and scoring the proposals.

SEPTEMBER 20 SELECTION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

In addition to Co-chairpersons Bruner and Fey, the following members were in attendance at the Selection Subcommittee meeting on September 20: Senator William Dieleman (nonvoting), Senator Maggie Tinsman, Representative Lee Plasier, Ms. Mary Bergstrom, Mr. Myron Linn, Mr. Dave Neil (nonvoting), and Mr. Robert Richard. In addition the following persons were in attendance at the invitation of the Co-chairpersons to provide technical assistance to the Subcommittee: Ms. Mary Roberts and Mr. Chuck Palmer, Department of Human Services; Ms. Marva McCarty, Health Policy Corporation of Iowa; and Ms. Marilyn Musser, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Iowa.

After engaging in a scoring process and extensive discussion, the Subcommittee selected the following two bidders as finalists who would be personally interviewed by the full Task Force: Lewin/ICF, Washington, D.C., and Health Systems Research, Inc., Washington, D.C.

SEPTEMBER 28 MEETING

On September 28, 1990, the Task Force interviewed the two consultants selected by the Subcommittee. Lewin/ICF was represented by Mr. Lawrence Lewin and Mr. Jack Needleman. Health Systems Research, Inc., was represented by Mr. Larry Bartlett and Ms. Patricia Butler. Health Systems Research, Inc., was selected as the consultant and its proposal to perform the required research for a fee of \$178,617 was agreed to by the Task Force.

NOVEMBER 21 MEETING

At the November 21 meeting, the Task Force reviewed a draft report prepared by the Inter-Agency Work Group on Uninsureds for the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Uninsureds, heard a presentation from Health Systems Research, Inc. (HSR), and provided direction to HSR. The Co-chairpersons reiterated a previously expressed desire that the Health Care Expansion Task Force work closely with the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force and requested that members review the draft report. Health Systems Research presented various options that are being implemented in other states for expanding coverage of uninsured groups. After discussion of the options, the Task Force directed HSR to include a wide range of options in its preliminary report and to pay particular attention to developing incentives for employers to provide health care coverage to employees and their dependents.

FUTURE REPORTS

The Task Force noted that its preliminary report is to be submitted to the Legislative Council and the General Assembly in February 1990 and that the final report is to be submitted in November 1990.