



MINUTES

Legislative Commission on Affordable Health Care Plans for Small Businesses and Families

August 13, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Jack Hatch, Co-chairperson
Senator Joe Bolkcom
Senator Amanda Ragan
Mr. John Aschenbrenner
Dr. David Carlyle
Ms. Barb Kniff
Dr. Timothy Kresowik
Ms. Julie Kuhle
Ms. Jan Laue
Mr. Joe Teeling
Ms. Sharon Treinen
Mr. Russ Sporer
Ms. Kirsten Running (Alternate for Sarah Swisher)

Representative Ro Foege, Co-chairperson
Representative Clarence Hoffman
Representative David Jacoby
Representative Mark Smith
Representative Linda Upmeyer

Ex Officio members:

Ms. Sally Titus, Acting Director, Department of Human Services
Ms. Lisa Burk, Department of Elder Affairs (for Mr. John McCalley, Director, Department of Elder Affairs)
Mr. Tom Newton, Director of Public Health
Ms. Susan Voss, Commissioner of Insurance

MEETING IN BRIEF

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Organizational staffing provided by: Patty Funaro, Senior Legal Counsel, (515) 281-3040 and Ann Ver Heul, Legal Counsel, (515) 281-3837

Minutes prepared by: Patty Funaro, Senior Legal Counsel, (515) 281-3040

- I. Procedural Business
- II. Review of H.F. 2539
- III. Status Report
- IV. The Lewin Group Final Report Presentation
- V. Materials Filed With the Legislative Services Agency



Legislative Commission on Affordable Health Care Plans for Small Businesses and Families

I. Procedural Business

Welcome by Former Governor Terry Branstad. Former Governor and current President of Des Moines University, Terry Branstad, welcomed the members of the Legislative Commission on Affordable Health Care Plans for Small Businesses and Families to Des Moines University. He provided the Commission with background about Des Moines University including its various degree program offerings as a postgraduate medical school and as a leader in improving health care and the quality of life of Iowans. He invited those attending to return for more in-depth tours of the university.

Call to Order and Adjournment. Co-chairperson Hatch called the tenth meeting of the Legislative Commission on Affordable Health Care Plans for Small Businesses and Families to order at 10:03 a.m. on August 13, 2008, in the Olsen Medical Education Center, Des Moines University, Des Moines, Iowa. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the meetings of December 19, 2007, and January 8, 2008, were approved.

Motions. Representative Smith moved that the Commission urge Governor Culver to release funding appropriated to the Department of Public Health to enable the Department to move forward with the various initiatives under the purview of the Department of Public Health provided for in H.F. 2539. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously on a voice vote.

Representative Upmeyer moved that the Commission urge the Governor to release funding appropriated to the Department of Elder Affairs so that the Department can move forward with the initiatives under the purview of the Department of Elder Affairs provided for in H.F. 2539. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously on a voice vote. Senator Hatch indicated that the motions would be combined for presentation to the Governor.

II. Review of H.F. 2539

Co-chairpersons Foege and Hatch provided an overview of the legislation enacted during the 2008 Session of the General Assembly which followed submission of the Commission's report to the General Assembly. Co-chairperson Foege noted that the legislation will result in the culmination of the initiative that began with the enactment of the Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa (hawk-i) program in 1997 to cover all children in Iowa. The legislation also includes other initiatives to provide better, more accessible health care, including the concept of the medical home. Co-chairperson Foege stated that the floods of 2008 reinforced the need for a medical home and the need to have a connection to a medical provider. Co-chairperson Foege told the Commission members that the legislation was developed and enacted in a bi-partisan fashion and both the process and the content of the legislation are being recognized nationally and internationally.

Co-chairperson Hatch reviewed documents that present an overview of H.F. 2539. He emphasized that the legislation provides for one of the goals of the Commission by providing health care coverage to all children, by building on the Medicaid and hawk-i programs to provide coverage for children in families with incomes up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level and a



commitment of funding over the next three years to do so. The legislation also includes strategies to cover adults and families beyond the coverage provided under public programs through the Iowa Choice program, to provide a medical home for those who receive health care coverage through public programs, to address health information technology, prevention and chronic care management, long-term care, wellness, health care strategic planning, cost containment and transparency, and the health care workforce.

III. Status Reports

Ms. Susan Voss, Commissioner of Insurance; Mr. Tom Newton, Director of Public Health; Ms. Sally Titus, Acting Director, Department of Human Services; and Ms. Lisa Burk, Department of Elder Affairs, provided status reports regarding initiatives under each respective department's purview as required under H.F. 2539. Much of the work of forming governing bodies for the various initiatives has been completed, but due to fiscal concerns as a result of the flood of 2008, the majority of funds appropriated to the departments for these initiatives has been frozen.

IV. The Lewin Group Final Report Presentation

Mr. John Sheils, The Lewin Group, presented a report commissioned by the General Assembly on the cost and coverage impacts of options for expanding health insurance coverage in Iowa. Mr. Sheils reported on the current status of health care coverage in Iowa for children and adults, and potential options for expansion. He discussed the variables utilized in developing the options for expanding health insurance coverage upon which the report is based, such as variations in premiums, the use of premium subsidies, and alternative benefits packages.

The Lewin Group final report is available in its entirety under <Additional Information> at <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/asp/Committees/Committee.aspx?id=208>

V. Materials Filed With the Legislative Services Agency

The following materials listed were distributed at or in connection with the meeting and are filed with the Legislative Services Agency. The materials may be accessed from the <Additional Information> link on the Committee's Internet page:

<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/asp/Committees/Committee.aspx?id=208>

1. [Chart - Covering all Children](#), submitted by Co-chairperson Hatch.
2. [Chart - Summary of H.F. 2539](#), submitted by Co-chairperson Hatch.
3. [Cost and Coverage Impacts of Options for Expanding Health Insurance Coverage in Iowa by the Lewin Group](#) — Final Report
4. [H.F. 2539 Implementation Summary](#) — Department of Human Services
5. [H.F. 2539 Status Report for Commission Meeting](#) — Department of Human Services
6. [Iowa Insurance Division Response to 7-24-08 email](#) — Continuation of Coverage and Pre-



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existing Conditions

7. [The Lewin Group Final Report PowerPoint Presentation](#)

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