



Health Care Cost Analysis Task Force Minutes 6/5/2020

Location: Virtual Meeting

Convened at 2:30 pm; adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Secretary: Mitzi Moran

Task Force Member		Present / Absent
Representative Emily Sirota	Colorado General Assembly	P
Representative – TBD	Colorado General Assembly	
Senator Jim Smallwood	Colorado General Assembly	P
Senator Joann Ginal, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	Colorado General Assembly	P
Carrie Cortiglio, <i>Secretary</i>	Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment	A
Karla Gonzales	Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights	P
Kate Harris	Colorado Division of Insurance	P
Mitzi Moran, <i>Chair</i>	Sunrise Community Health	P
Monica VanBuskirk, <i>Treasurer</i>	Connect for Health Colorado	P
Dr. Renee Marquardt	Colorado Department of Human Services	P
Thomas (TR) Reid	Author	P
Michelle Miller	Department of Health Care Policy & Financing	A
TBD	Consumer representative	
January Montano– Coordinator	Department of Health Care Policy & Financing	P
Guests: Colorado Foundation for Universal Health Care – Bill Semple Colorado School of Public Health – Gregory Tung, Beth McManus		

Topic	Discussion	Action / Next Steps
Call to Order		None.
Introductions	Committee & guests introduced themselves.	None.
Conflicts of Interest	Task Force members given the opportunity to declare conflicts of interest.	None declared.
Agenda	Mitzi presented agenda for approval.	Motion: Monica Second: Renee Vote: Approve Next Steps: None.
	Mitzi presented minutes for approval.	Motion: Tom Second: Monica Vote: Approve Next Steps: None.
Public Comment		
	No comments.	Next Steps: None.
Task Force		
New Members	Per January, no updates.	Next Steps: None.



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Meetings in Community linked to Stakeholder meetings	Planning impacted by COVID; will consider meetings in summer and fall.	Next Steps: Discuss at next meeting.
Projects		
State Budget Crisis Impact to 1176	<p>Many members commented on the dire state of the budget crisis, noting it was unclear if unobligated funding for the 1176 work will be removed. Representative Sirota described the financial crisis facing the State and how every dollar is needed to continue funding education, health care services, etc.</p> <p>Karla commented on the stress people are feeling, particularly low-income and minority populations due to the pandemic and financial crisis.</p> <p>Mitzi asked the group: is it legislatively possible to postpone our work to a time that is more favorable to fundraising and/or state funding?</p> <p>Representative Smallwood suggested we stay the course, planning to use the funds we have available and informing the legislature if that funding is short and what would be needed. Lawmakers could then decide to take up the cause to allocate more funds. If they do not, in this time when the light is shown so brightly on how important it is for our health care system funding to change, then that delivers a powerful message.</p> <p>Representative Smallwood, Senator Ginal, and Representative Sirota discussed the legislative approaches to extending the work such as a legislator running a new bill to extend dates. They indicated that due to the pandemic and the budget crisis, it will be very difficult to pass new legislation this year.</p>	<p>Next Steps: After much discussion, the group decided to take the following strategy:</p> <p>Use the next three weeks to speak with private funders regarding funding this project.</p> <p>If there is support, we continue on our mandated path, timelines, etc.</p> <p>If there is no support, we discuss possible strategies such as...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issuing an RFP / DQ with the funds we have left to see if a useful product can be purchased for that amount. • Inquiring if the CSPH could expand upon their work to date for the remaining funding to help us achieve our goals. • Informing the legislature that the scope of the project requires more funding than originally allocated, seeking additional legislation and allocation of funds. • Seeking new legislation that would extend the deadlines frame for this work, allowing more time for fundraising from private sources. • Other options yet to be presented, discussed.
Fundraising for our work	<p>Mitzi contacted Caring for Colorado, describing the goals of our work and the potential costs between \$200,000 - \$500,000 and asking if there was potentially an appetite for collaborative funding from some of Colorado's foundations. While CFC noted the importance of our work, they indicated the timing was very difficult given the economic conditions in the state due to the pandemic. Mitzi has not reached out to The Colorado Health Foundation yet.</p> <p>Monica reached out to the Common Wealth Fund and Robert Wood Foundation; no response yet from the Common Wealth and a meeting is set for next week with RWJ. She has not reached out to the Arnold Foundation yet. Tom indicated he has a relationship with the Common Wealth and would be happy to participate in contacting / discussing this with them.</p> <p>TR indicated a leader in the 2017 Oregon effort (very similar to our work) felt like the product they received was too expensive for what was produced (cost reportedly was \$300,000).</p>	



	<p>Kate shared that the recent CO Public Option work was more focused than the 1176 Task Force's charge and cost more than the approximate \$60,000 we have left this year.</p> <p>TR asked how long an RFP / DQ would take? Kate and others suggested over a month. Kate noted the stresses on state agencies due to the budget crisis – furloughs, potential layoffs – which could impact the timing of our work.</p> <p>TR expressed frustration with the product from the CSPH to date as it proposed solutions that are much more costly than expected or funded by the legislature.</p>	
Adjourn		Next Meeting: June 19, 2020 2:30pm. Virtual meeting expected.