

Report to the Legislature
from: **The Health Care Cost Analysis Task Force,**
Interim Report – Jan. 1, 2021

THE HEALTH CARE COST ANALYSIS TASK FORCE was created by created by HB19-1176, the Health Care Cost Savings Act of 2019. The legislation called on the Task Force to hire a consultant to study three approaches to providing health care for Coloradans. They are:

- The current health care financing system, in which residents receive health care coverage from private and public insurance carriers or are uninsured.
- A multi-payer universal health care system, in which all the residents of Colorado are covered under a plan with a mandated set of benefits that is publicly funded for some and paid for by employer and employee contributions for others.
- A publicly financed and privately delivered universal health care system that directly compensates providers.

THE LEGISLATION DIRECTED the Task Force to make a final report to the legislature, based on the consultant's findings, in September of 2021. And it calls for a preliminary report in January 2021. You are reading the preliminary report.

THE TASK FORCE HAS MET, generally bi-weekly, since the fall of 2019 - initially in person, and virtually since last spring. The Task Force hired consultants, under competitive solicitation, to carry out a review of existing literature of health care systems, to design the scope of the financial analysis, and to conduct the financial analysis of the three models dictated in the legislation. We will report on the findings of all work in the report next September.

THE LEGISLATURE AUTHORIZED \$92,649 for each of two fiscal years with projections that the work would require more funding. The Task Force searched for private funding, but so far this has proved impossible to get because of the COVID-19 crisis. Due to the stages of our work, the Task Force spent \$30,000 and returned the unspent \$62,649 to the general fund in the first year. For the second year, the Task Force will spend the full appropriated amount. The funds have gone to consultants; Task Force members have not been compensated.

ALL TASK FORCE MEETINGS HAVE BEEN open to the public; patients, doctors, insurers, and hospital representatives have joined, and these public members are always invited to comment. In addition, the legislation calls for the Task Force to hold public Stakeholder meetings to address the various models. Because of the pandemic, only one (virtual) Stakeholder meeting has been held so far; it drew participants from all over the state. We will report on what the public has told us in the report next September.

DURING 2021, THE TASK FORCE, working with the consultant, will hold at least two more Stakeholder meetings, one in Spanish, for public input. The consultants will carry out a broad survey of Coloradans via the internet. The consultants' study/analysis will be completed by June of this year,

which will give the Task Force time to review it and to present a final report to the Legislature, as required by statute, in September.

Members of the Task Force:

Carrie Cortiglio, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment

Karla Gonzales Garcia, Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR)

Senator Joann Ginal, Senate District 14

Kate Harris, Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies

Dr. Renée Marquardt, Colorado Department of Human Services

Michelle Miller, Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing

Mitzi Moran, Sunrise Community Health

T. R. Reid, journalist/author

Representative Emily Sirota, House District 9

Senator Jim Smallwood, Senate District 4

Monica VanBuskirk, Connect for Health Colorado

(Note: Since Rep. Susan Beckman resigned from the legislature, the task force has not had a Republican member from the House of Representatives. This vacancy should be filled).

Respectfully submitted,

MITZI MORAN, CHAIR, *for the*
Health Care Cost Analysis Task Force