

STATE INNOVATION WAIVER TASK FORCE
MINUTES

Date Wednesday, December 10, 2015
Time 2:00 p.m.
Place State Office Building, Room 1403

Attendance

Task Force Members - Present

Andrew Garrett, Hawai'i Health Connector
Jennifer Diesman, HMSA
Bryan FitzGerald, Office of Enterprise
Technology Services
Beth Giesting, Chair, Governor's Office
David Hong, House Small Business Appointee
Gordon Ito, Insurance Division
Daniel Jacob, Office of the Attorney General
Royden Koito, DLIR
Christine Sakuda, Hawai'i HIE
Leslie Tawata, Med-QUEST
Paul Young, HAH

Task Force Members - Absent

Pono Chong, Chamber of Commerce of Hawai'i
Robert Hirokawa, HPCA
Lorrin Kim, DOH
Derek Mizuno, EUTF
Paula Yoshioka, the Queen's Health System

Call to order

The meeting was called to order and roll taken by Chair Giesting at 2:02 p.m.

Public Comment

There was no opening public comment.

Review of minutes of November 19, 2015

Members Sakuda moved and Koito seconded a motion to approve the minutes of December 2, 2015 as circulated. There was no public comment and the motion was unanimously approved.

Creation of "Next Steps" Permitted Interaction Groups

Members FitzGerald moved and Young seconded a motion to authorize a PIG to identify and contribute information and materials needed to develop a waiver and to report back to the task force. Members are Chong, Diesman, FitzGerald, Giesting, Ito, Jacob, Koito, and Young. There was no public comment and the motion was unanimously approved.

Decision-Making: Small Business Tax Credit

Chair Giesting briefly reviewed the "Next Steps" Permitted Interaction Group recommendation discussed at the last meeting that would rescind the Task Force's earlier decision to include a request for funds and in-state administration of the small business tax credit as part of the waiver proposal. Instead, the PIG recommends continuing the current process wherein small businesses purchase insurance directly and apply to the IRS for a tax credit. Members made the following points:

- The process of having the Insurance Division qualify and Dept. of Labor and Industrial Relations certify qualified health plans may not signal to DHHS that the State wants to waive SHOP. The waiver proposal must be very clear that employers will be purchasing directly and that there will be no SHOP.

- Certifying QHPs is most consistent with ACA requirements and fits with Hawai'i's proposal to waive SHOP in favor of the "Prepaid Marketplace," which maintains insurance standards, transparency, and employer responsibility but without the technology and rules environment required for SHOP.

Members Koito moved and Tawata seconded a motion to rescind the task force's earlier decision to waive the small business tax credit process and endorse continuing the process as it is. There was no public comment and the motion passed with members Diesman and Ito abstaining.

ACA Waiver Federal and Legislative Updates

Member of the public Laurel Johnston provided an update on the transition of the Hawai'i Health Connector including that its office closed on December 4, 2015 and its functions have been assumed by the State. The State is grateful to be able to maintain some of the Connector staff who support the enrollment assistance processes, which are of utmost importance now in the midst of open enrollment. The Connector board has also been invaluable in managing the transition. There have been difficulties for some people in enrolling on the federal platform, especially for those needing language assistance or who have limited technology skills and email accounts. The Governor's Office continues to wait for opportunities to work on the waiver proposal with officials from DHHS. Looking ahead to the 2016 legislative session, it is expected that the Legislature will host a briefing on the Connector transition and the waiver proposal.

Decision-Making: Legislation. Members Diesman moved and Sakuda seconded a motion to approve the draft legislation as circulated. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously.

Decision-Making: Report to Legislature

Chair Giesting noted that the final report will be updated to reflect decisions made in today's meeting. Members Diesman moved and Tawata seconded a motion to approve the draft report to the legislature with appropriate updates. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously.

Creation of Long Term Vision Permitted Interaction Group

Members expressed interest in identifying additional innovation opportunities for future waiver proposals. Members FitzGerald moved and Young seconded a motion to create a "Long Term Vision" PIG whose members are Diesman, FitzGerald, Giesting, Ito, Jacob, Sakuda, and Young. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Members of the public Meredith Nichols and Puanani Crabbe Parker shared with the task force the work they are doing to support individuals during open enrollment. Former employees of the Connector, the two are now working for the Department of Human Services and manage and support the assistance and kōkua teams. The December 15th deadline is looming for enrollment by January 1, 2016. Additional deadlines will be coming up through January 31, 2016 when open enrollment ends. Healthcare.gov works well for people who don't experience language and technology barriers but not for Hawai'i's vulnerable residents from Pacific nations. The assistance teams are planning a number of enrollment events and expect to support much of the enrollment by phone. Federally Qualified Health Centers and Queen Emma Clinics have been very actively engaged and health plans HMSA and Kaiser Permanente have worked side-by-side in enrollment events. They shared a flyer about scheduled outreach events.

Next Meeting

Chair Giesting announced that future task force meetings will be on as-needed basis.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.