

## **Maui Health Care Initiative Task Force**

February 15, 2008

Maui Memorial Medical Center Auditorium (links to Lana`i and Moloka`i)

Minutes

**Task Force members present:** Chair Rita Barreras, Vice Chair Tony Krieg, Alan Lee, Dr. Guy Hirayama, Dr. Richard Weiland, Hermine Harman, Leonard Oka, Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli, Jan Yagi-Buen,

**Task Force members excused:** Jeanne Skog, May Fujiwara, Jan Yagi-Buen, Phyllis McOmber

Call to Order. Chair Barreras called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm.

Approval of Agenda. The agenda was approved as presented (motion by Hermine Harman; second by Dr. Guy Hirayama; adopted unanimously).

Review and approval of minutes of December 15 and 20, 2007. The minutes were approved (motion by Dr. Guy Hirayama, second by Hermine Harman; adopted unanimously).

Legislative and other updates.

Chair Barreras gave a report on activity since the report was submitted to the Legislature, Mayor Charmaine Tavares, and State Health Planning and Development Agency. She met with Mayor Tavares and Dr. Alan Arensdorf, Health Care Liaison, to brief the Mayor about the report. She is supportive of the task force recommendations and would like to meet with the task force at a future meeting. Chair Barreras will also request a presentation before the Maui County Council regarding health care needs and priorities.

Hermine Harmon reported that she testified on the Certificate of Need bill at the legislature. She was asked several questions by House Health Committee Chair Josh Green. She learned that Senator Ige, Senate Health Chair, did not schedule the companion bill. HGEA and Queens Medical Center do not support the CON bill. Jan Yagi-Buen noted that Liberty Dialysis and Hawaii Health Care Association are also not supporting the bill.

Jan Yagi Buen met with Mayor Harry Kim to update him about the report. He congratulates the task force for the tremendous job that the task force did. He wants all the counties to get together to make health care an issue for all the counties and support the legislation that the task force recommended. The Big Island has significant health and long term care issues. He will hire a person to focus on health care issues. He was disappointed that the Governor did not release the funds for the task force and noted that the Governor did not address much about health care in her State of the State address.

Tony Krieg will be speaking on the Don Couch radio program next week. The topic is on the Certificate of Need legislation. Jan Shields, Association to Improve Health Care, may be a panelist as well. He will take the approach of representing the task force's recommendation.

Elaine Slavinsky thanked the group for the wonderful work that the task force did. This made it very easy for the Tri-Isle Subarea Health Planning Council's work for the H2P2. They took most of the task force's categories and provided more broad sweeping bullets under the priority statements. Elaine reviewed the handout called DRAFT #3 Tri-Isle Subarea Health Planning Council. Elaine indicated that next month Dr. Al Arensdorf, Maui County Health Care Liaison, will be on the Tri-Isle SAC meeting agenda next month. The SAC members will continue to meet with people in the community.

#### Prepare for Information Briefings regarding Task Force Report

The task force members had a discussion about the legislative process and monitoring activity involved with tracking legislative bills. There was concern expressed that members, especially those with full time jobs, do not have the time to keep track of legislation on a daily basis. Some organizations have lobbyists that do this full time.

MOTION: The County of Maui's Executive Branch legislative liaison take an active lead and pursue legislation proposed by the task force. (motion by Dr. Guy Hirayama, second by Dr. Richard Weiland; adopted with one abstention (Tony Krieg)).

The group reviewed the bills that were introduced by the Maui legislators in support of specific task force recommendations. Jan Yagi Buen was very helpful in explaining the legislative process. For instance, deferred could mean a bill is dead or could be picked up in another bill. It could also mean "to time uncertain" or it could hold a bill in committee (dead).

The task force members decided that letters of support should be sent to the Chairs of Legislative Committees to reflect the task force recommendations. Such letters should be sent by Chair Barreras.

MOTION: Letters of support to be sent to the Chairs of Legislative Committees that reflect the task force recommendations to be sent by Chair Barreras (motion by Hermine Harman; second by Jeanne Skog; adopted unanimously).

There was disappointment expressed that the task force was not asked to give a presentation. Chair Barreras will still ask for a release of funds though it is getting late to give a task force report to the legislature.

#### 2008 Planning: Calendar Schedule/Agenda Development

The task force members decided to continue to meet through June on a monthly basis.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.