

## Maui Health Care Initiative Task Force

April 1, 2008

Maui Community College, Videoconference Room, Ka`aiki Building  
Minutes

**Task Force members present:** Chair Rita Barreras, Vice Chair Tony Krieg, Norman Bezane, May Fujiwara, Herman Harman, Mark Hyde, Alan Lee, Leonard Oka, Phyllis McOmber, Richard Weiland

**Task Force members excused:** Dr. Emmet Aluli, Dr. Guy Hirayama, Jeanne Skog, John Smith

Call to Order. Chair Barreras called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. She welcomed Mayor Charmaine Tavares to the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves, representatives from the Maui News, Dr. Al Arensdorf, County of Maui, Executive Assistant to the Mayor, and Joe Pluta, West Maui Taxpayers Association.

Approval of Agenda. The members approved the agenda (motion by Lee, second by Fujiwara; adopted unanimously).

Approval of Minutes. The members approved the February 15, 2008 minutes (motion by Krieg, second by Dr. Weiland, approved unanimously).

Public Testimony. Joe Pluta, West Maui Taxpayers Association, expressed thanks to the task force members for the hard work done to review health care issues for Maui County and to prepare a report of recommendations. Pluta emailed a communication to Chair Barreras regarding testimony provided by Dr. Joseph Zajchowski and the certificate of need and West Maui proposed hospital (see attached, which was provided as a handout to the members).. Pluta's email recommends sharing the information with Mayor Tavares urging her to officially notify the State of Hawaii, via the Governor's office, that she is very concerned with the invitation to liability created by ignoring the implementation of the legislative recommendations of the Health Care Task Force.

Discussion with Mayor Charmaine Tavares. Chair Barreras noted that Dr. Al Arensdorf and she had met with Mayor Tavares to give Mayor Tavares an overview briefing about the task force's report. Mayor Tavares was invited to meet with the members to share her thoughts about the report and next steps. Mayor Tavares felt it is unfortunate that the report did not get the attention it needed and we should begin now to start a legislative package for the next session. She noted that monies did go in her budget request for the Maui Community Care Corps grant line item to support the home and community based services goal. Her budget request also provided more monies for transportation for MEO to increase services for people with disabilities. There is an opportunity to apply for grants through Department of Housing and Human Concerns. It is a start. She intends to work with our task force and legislators regarding task force recommendations. We need to keep reminding folks that we are part of the state. She believes the county council feels the same that she does. We need to move fast on the issues. Health care is a big concern. This Council budget session ends in late May.

We should meet with Riki Hokama and Joe Pontanilla to plan for the next budget process.

Norm Bezane: People need to be called in to account on the health care issue. We need to take in to account what people have done or not done. The Lingle Administration did not fund our task force. The Legislature failed to take our findings seriously. Powerful interests were not interested in moving our 12 points forward. He is concerned that there are 7 task force members who voted against a marketing campaign. We would have had a press conference. We need some leadership in the county. Someone has to go to bat for the task force findings. An idea he has is that the Mayor's Administration could educate the legislators in what they need to do.

Chair Barreras clarified that while the majority of the bills that were introduced in support of the task force's report have not made it through the legislative decision making process, she did have an opportunity to share task force report recommendations with some legislative committees. The executive summary and proposed legislation sections of the final report were shared with members of the Joint Senate Health and Housing and Human Services Committees in March. Chair Barreras gave a presentation to the Committees about the task force purpose and the findings and recommendations. A question was posed by Senator Fred Hemmings (Kailua) to Senate Health Committee Chair, David Ige, about why the Committees did not spend more time reviewing the findings and recommendations of the task force. He praised the task force for its work and felt that the report reflects some fine work and solid recommendations. Senator Ige replied that the Committees did take the recommendations into consideration. Chair Barreras stated to Senator Ige that in retrospect it would have been best if the task force had the opportunity to give a presentation to the Legislature on all the recommendations.

Harman noted that Senator Ige would not hear the Certificate of Need bills. She attended a hearing when Representative Bertram's and Representative McKelvey's bills were going through the system.

Krieg noted that we cannot assume that we will get things passed. He has worked in this climate for years and sometimes it takes years before something is passed.

Bezane noted that we needed to be given some respect for our findings. Perhaps it is unfair to give a blanket criticism since Chair Barreras pointed out that Senator Fred Hemmings was complimentary of the task force's report.

Mayor Tavares reported on the initiative that she is moving forward with regarding emergency preparedness. The County is looking at a proposal to move the Office of Civic Defense from the basement of the County building to another location. The coordinator recommendation made by the task force was already under way.

Oka asked what can we do to create a neighbor island coalition like the task force? Can the county initiate this and go in force. Perhaps the neighbor islands need to unite.

Mayor Tavares said that last year the 4 mayors got together and for the first time a Hawaii Council of Mayors exists. They have discussed topics of interest to the counties. Mayor Kim has volunteered to take the lead on the health care issue. This is another avenue that can be used. They meet quarterly. There are legislative packages prepared by the Mayor's Office and County Council. The Hawaii Association of Counties also puts in a legislative package. If we can get some health care legislation in the packets then there will be a multi-prong approach.

The State has a biennium budget. The even year is a supplemental and the Legislature tends not to look at the bigger issues. We should try different approaches. If we need to revive the bills that went forward this year then we should review for next year. There are many ways to get a cohesive front on this set of issues.

Hyde stated that some of the bills were controversial. It may be that there may be a couple of priorities that could be introduced. The West Maui hospital priority went forward. We should celebrate the work that we did. We can work harder in the future.

Mayor Tavares said that we need to figure out what would apply to the four counties. What can have the best chance of success? This is an opportunity to look at the next legislative session and bring some focus to the issues. We should also meet with the legislators on the committees and meet one on one regarding the report and what it is.

McOmber stated that she likes the idea of having a mini-coalition of rural areas (Lanai, Molokai, Hana). There are unique needs.

Lee indicated that this is a supplemental year – this is significant. We shouldn't be too disappointed that we did not get so much of a priority this year. We should gear up for next session.

Fujiwara said that given the short number of months we had, we should be pleased with what we accomplished. Lahaina-Honolua Senior Citizens' Club representatives attend the opening day of the legislative session at the Capitol each year. This year she asked each legislator she spoke with if they had reviewed the task force report. Only one legislator had a chance to review our report. She is concerned that since funding hasn't been released will be the people be paid for the work that they did.

Chair Barreras indicated she will send a letter to the Governor requesting the release of funds. Her focus has been on monitoring proposed legislation for the task force and responding to requests from legislators.

Dr. Weiland noted that in looking at the process, he took offense to being called a "task force". It was an enormous area to cover. We had to narrow down our work to some manageable terms. Everyone tried their best to do a good job.

Harman reported that one Senator said the task force report was shoddy. She couldn't understand why a legislator would say this. Everyone worked so hard and we produced a great report of recommendations. Harman excused herself from the meeting as she needed to be with her husband who was to have emergency surgery.

Dr. Arensdorf reported that the Maui County Medical Society received a presentation from Chair Barreras about the task force findings and recommendations. Dr. Hirayama was in attendance and supplemented the information presented. The medical society felt that the Hawaii Medical Association forums held last year did not include the average citizen. The Society members decided it might be good to do a broader community forum on health care issues and approved up to \$1,000 to host such a forum.

Mayor Tavares suggested the unions be involved. This is a good alliance to form. We need to look at other groups, e.g., Chamber of Commerce. We need to show it is a unified concern. We need to organize a force.

Bezane asked if the Mayor could convince County Council to appropriate funds for a lobbyist?

Mayor Tavares indicated that the Council does have a lobbyist. This is the first time that the Administration has someone with presence at the legislature regularly to watch our bills. Justin Gruenstien, is her Legislative Executive Assistant.

Hyde asked if there is a section in the General Plan that relates to Health Care?

Mayor Tavares said that she does believe there is a section on health care. Perhaps we could piggyback with this group.

Krieg suggested that perhaps Mayor Tavares she could continue the Maui Health Care Initiative Task Force as part of the county process.

Mayor Tavares said that she spoke with Senator President Colleen Hanabusa about what is going through and not going through the legislature. They will meet following the session. Senator Akaka will be visiting Maui on May. This is an opportunity to bring up the veterans needs of Maui County.

Oka asked if there are things going on to retrofit homes.

Mayor Tavares referenced the Hana Retrofit Project. There are some monies to continue their program. The Department of Housing and Human Concerns also has money to retrofit. She is forming a process on permit review (homes for older people, schools, adult day care centers, etc.). She's trying to get departments to divide up things.

Chair Barreras also noted that the Hana Retrofit Project is one of the initiatives of the Maui Long Term Care Partnership. There is interest in expanding this program islandwide/countywide. She has met with Maui Community College representatives from the Construction Academy and there has been discussion about piloting the project in other areas of the island.

Krieg suggested that the new task force be announced jointly by the Council and the Mayor.

McOmber said that we need to make sure the task force work is kept going.

It was agreed that Chair Barreras, Vice-Chair Krieg, Dr. Arensdorf, Anne Beidel, Maui Medical Society, Elaine Slavinsky would meet with Mayor Tavares to discuss the formation of the County Task Force. There will be an update given at the next meeting.

Legislative Updates. Chair Barreras indicated the majority of the bills introduced by Maui County House and Senate legislators did not make it through. A summary description of measures still alive is outlined below:

- HB-2579 (Relating to Care Home Repair and Renovation Loan Guarantee; Report Title Home and Community Based Services Care Home Facilities; Repair Loan Guarantee). Chair Barreras provided Representative Mele Carroll with amendments to reflect home and community based services emphasis in the title and text of the measure. She and Anne Trygstad, Kula Hospital, provided testimony before the Joint Senate Health and Housing and Human Services Committees about the revisions. Senator Susan Chun Oakland and Senator Ige asked for their advice on language to allow for counties to decide on the use of appropriated funds.
- SCR-33, (Requesting the Executive Office on Aging, the Department of Health, and the Department of Human Services to conduct a collaborative study and make recommendations relating to infrastructure and workforce shortages in the state). Chair Barreras provided Senator Susan Chun-Oakland with revisions to the resolution and gave a presentation to the Joint Senate Health and Housing and Human Services Committees about the revisions.
- SCR-35, (Requesting the Executive Office on Aging, the Department of Health, and the Department of Human Services to conduct a collaborative study and make recommendations relating to infrastructure deficiencies in the accessibility and availability of care services and facilities for seniors, veterans, and persons with disabilities in the state). Chair Barreras provided Senator Chun-Oakland with revisions to the resolution and gave a presentation to the Joint Senate Health and Housing and Human Services Committees about the revisions.
- SCR-93, Urging the State Building Code Council to Adopt Expeditiously Provisions in the International Building Code, 2006 Edition, Relating to Physical Assistance in Evacuation for Residents in Assisted Living Facilities or Similar Facilities. Yagi-Buen contacted Senator Lorraine Inouye to determine the status of this resolution, which was created following deferral of SB-3187, Relating to Aging in Place, State Building Code Council, International Building Code.
- SB-3522, Relating to Long Term Care, Proposed Long Term Care Commission. This bill was introduced by Senator Baker on behalf of AARP. Though this is not part of the Maui Health legislative package, it is related to the home and community based services recommendations in the task force report. Chair Barreras submitted amendments for consideration that would expand the focus of the work of the long term care commission to include persons of all ages, adding language to define home and community based services, the development of a home and community

based services index (HCBS-I), a research collaboration, other technical changes, and a proposed appropriation of \$100,000.

Other Updates.

Dr. Arendsdorf and Chair Barreras attended a meeting of the Tri-Isle Subarea Council when the Council decided to adopt the priorities and integrate in to the Hawaii Health Performance Plan.

Next Meeting:

The members decided we should wait until the end of the legislative session for another task force meeting. We should invite Maui County legislators to get their opinion about what we need to do to work on a legislative package for next year.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. Motion by Krieg, second by Bezane; adopted unanimously.

From: Joe Pluta [pluta@maui.net]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2008 9:45 AM  
To: 'Norm Bezane'; rbarreras@hawaiiantel.net  
Cc: 'Sheri Morrison'  
Subject: FW: Dr. Joseph Zajchowski and West Maui Hospital CON

Importance: High

Attachments: West Maui Hospital Doctor Joes testimony for CON.doc

Aloha Rita and Norm:

I read in the Maui News that the Mayor would be meeting with the Health Care Task Force this afternoon at 3pm at Maui Community College.

I believe that the Health Care Task Force should be copied on this and be informing the mayor what this Doctor has to say. He has given his permission as seen in the attached and below.

I also believe the task force should ask the mayor to officially notify the State of Hawaii, via the Governor's office, that she is very concerned with the invitation to liability created by ignoring the implementation of the legislative recommendations of the Health Care Task Force. I know that the Mayor has supported the West Maui Hospital and Medical Facility and recognizes the urgent need for timely access to emergency medical care.

Warm Regards,

Joe Pluta, President  
WMIF  
283-4533

-----Original Message-----

From: Dr. Joe [mailto:jzajchowski@yahoo.com]  
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2008 1:16 PM  
To: Joe Pluta  
Subject: RE: Dr. Joseph Zajchowski and West Maui Hospital CON

ABSOLUTELY Joe.

Please contact me if I can be of more service. Right now, we're doing OK in south Maui, but I would prefer to practice Emergency Medicine in West Maui!

My number is 810-814-0669. Otherwise feel free to use the testimony.

Dr. Joe

--- Joe Pluta <pluta@maui.net> wrote:

> Aloha Dr. Joe:  
> Mahalo nui loa for your thoughtful testimony.  
> I'm certain that it will be beneficial to all concerned.  
> May we use this testimony in any part of our public Relations and  
> Media Campaigns?  
> Kindly advise.  
> Mahalo,  
> Joe  
>

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>  
> -----Original Message-----  
> From: Dr. Joe [mailto:jzajchowski@yahoo.com]  
> Sent: Sunday, March 30, 2008 9:17 PM  
> To: ronald@shpda.org; darryl@shpda.org; governor.lingle@hawaii.gov  
> Cc: bhoyle@prodigy.net; pluta@maui.net  
> Subject: Dr. Joseph Zajchowski and West Maui Hospital CON  
>  
> Aloha!  
>  
> Attached is Word document from myself in support/commentary of the  
> West Maui Improvement Foundation.  
>  
> Mahalo nui loa,  
>  
> Dr. Joseph Zajchowski, M.D.  
>

March 31, 2008

Aloha Mr. Terry,

My name is Dr. Joseph Zajchowski, M.D. I am writing to you in support of the request for the certificate of need, as filed on behalf of Mr. Brian Hoyle and the West Maui Improvement Foundation recently. I am a board certified emergency physician who currently provides medical services across the state of Hawaii.

As the current medical director of Resort Medicine of Wailea in Maui (at the Grand Wailea), I continue to see volume increases from guests and locals alike. We are fortunate to be able to provide service to those who may not have the immediate ability to drive to Kahului. However, as we focus primarily on very rudimentary urgent care needs, we are quick to refer anything “serious” onward to Maui Memorial Medical Center. Thus our ability to provide care to those in South Maui seems satisfactory at the present time.

My main concern is for the residents, visitors, and transient guests of West Maui who currently have to travel a significant way to receive care from a board certified emergency physician. As you are most certainly aware, the “golden hour” is the time when an ER can make the difference between life and death. I do not feel I need to expound on this subject; however, I am in full agreement that 24-hour, emergency care access is a vital necessity to the ever-growing population of West Maui.

My support for the CON comes with my offering of full emergency services from a collection of board certified emergency physicians who are all licensed in the state of Hawaii. Dr. David Yew, M.D. and Dr. Charlie Tsalamandris, M.D. (emergency physicians licensed in Hawaii, likewise) as well as myself would be able to provide complete operational and management services through Quantamed, P.C. With the assistance of three other licensed physicians currently practicing in the state, we are prepared to assume full responsibility in physician coverage once the hospital is built. We would also be available immediately for consulting services, if Mr. Hoyle and WMIF were to require such services.

Please do not consider a “lack of physician coverage” as a blockade to the needs of those in West Maui. Certainly the expanded population requires this necessary care. I offer my name in testimony of full support for this great opportunity for Maui, and for Hawaii. I pray that SHPDA allows all of us to provide care through the approval of the CON.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Joseph Zajchowski, M.D.  
President, Quantamed, P.C.  
(808) 891-1111 (office)  
(810) 814-0669 (cell)