A G E N D A

Colorado Health Care Task Force

House Committee Room 0112
State Capitol Building
Friday, October 22
10:00 a.m.

Staff Summary follows Agenda

I. ***Consolidating State Health Care Contracts***

- Nancy McCallin, Director, Office of State Planning and Budgeting
- Barbara Ladon, Director, Office of Program Development, Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
- George Kawamura, Manager, Office of Health and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Human Services
- Merril Stern, Director, Family and Community Health Services Division, Department of Public Health and Environment
- Jack Ehnes, Acting Human Services Director, Department of Personnel
- Dennis Kleinsasser, PhD, Director of the Correctional Program, Department of Corrections

II. ***12:00 noon -- 1:30 p.m.***

Lunch

III. ***Possible Continuation of State Health Care Contracts Discussion***

IV. ***Colorado Medical Malpractice Tort Reform***

- Kathy Brown, Director of Business Development and Jeff Kassal, Vice President for Underwriting, COPIC Insurance
- Cheye Calvo, Employment and Insurance Policy Specialist, NCSL

V. ***Colorado Hospitals' Charity Care***

- Larry Wall, President, Colorado Health and Hospital Association

VI. ***Reports from Subcommittee Chairmen***

VII. ***Concluding Remarks***

IIX. ***Adjourn***

STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE TASK FORCE

Date:	10/22/99	ATTENDANCE	
Time:	**10:00 AM** to **03:25 PM**	Hagedorn	X
		Johnson	X
Place:	HCR 0112	Mitchell	*
		Tochtrop	X
This Meeting was called to order by		Evans	X
Representative Morrison		Owen	E
This Report was prepared by		Reeves	X
Whitney Gustin		Rupert	X
		Epps	E
		Morrison	X

10:00 AM -- Opening Comments

Representative Morrison discussed the day's agenda. The following documents were distributed to Task Force members: a meeting agenda, a copy of the memorandum which was sent to Department Directors regarding health care contract consolidation, a summary of the Health Care Coverage Rates and Mandated Benefits Subcommittee topics of discussion, an excerpt from the 1997 Colorado Health and Hospital Reference Guide, and COPIC Insurance's summary of Colorado tort reform law and claim statistics. (See Attachments A - F.)

10:03 AM -- Consolidating State Health Care Contracts

Nancy McCallin, Director, Office of State Planning and Budgeting, stated that the Governor's Office investigation of consolidating state health care contracts is in the very early stages. Over the next five months, the Governor's office will do an inventory of the state health care contracts, research the potential for risk pooling, and review the feasibility of consolidation. Ms.McCallin stated health care contract consolidation may reduce health care costs by leveraging the state's buying power, increase the state's ability to monitor health care quality, increase the number of health insurance plans available to the state, and create greater efficiency by risk pooling certain populations. The risks of health care contract consolidation include the potential to shift costs to the private sector and create a more complex health care contract system. Ms. McCallin answered questions about the type of health care contracts the Governor's Office will consider consolidating, steps to evaluating the success of consolidation, and the parties involved in evaluation.

10:27 AM

Barbara Ladon, Director, Office of Program Development, Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, discussed the Children's Basic Health Plan's efforts to reduce health insurance premiums. Ms. Ladon also discussed the Department's efforts to reduce the cost of pharmaceuticals covered by Medicaid.

10:36 AM

Ms. McCallin answered questions about potential changes for consumers if health care contracts are consolidated and the goals of health care contract consolidation.

10:49 AM

Ms. Ladon answered questions regarding the Children's Basic Health Plan, the Plan's relationship with TANF (Temporary Aid

to Needy Families), possible crowd-out due to the Plan, Plan enrollee statistics, barriers to enrollment in the Plan, and the Plan's
enrollment target.

10:58 AM

George Kawamura, Manager, Office of Health and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Human Services, distributed a
document to Task Force members. (See Attachment G.) Mr. Kawamura described the Department's health care contracts. The
Department has contracts with Community Center Boards, Community Mental Health Centers, Mental Health Assessment and
Services Agencies, and Managed Service Organizations for Alcohol and Drug Treatment. Mr. Kawamura answered questions
about mental health treatment policies, Community Mental Health Centers, how the Department may consolidate its health care
contracts, and changes to the Department's Mental Health Program.

11:24 AM

Merril Stern, Director, Family and Community Health Services, Department of Public Health and Environment, discussed the
department's health care contracts, populations which are covered by the contracts, and possible opportunities for contract
consolidation. These populations include migrant workers, old age pensioners, and HIV/AIDS patients. Contract consolidation
may be possible in the Department's pharmaceutical purchases, dental care, and monitoring of health maintenance organizations.
Ms. Stern answered questions about the department's state funding.

11:41 AM

Jack Ehnes, Acting Human Services Director, Department of Personnel, distributed a document to Task Force members. (See
Attachment H.) Mr. Ehnes discussed health insurance coverage for state employees, health insurance coverage rates, and other
health insurance issues. Mr. Ehnes discussed a past bill which would have consolidated state health care contracts. Mr. Ehnes
described Colorado Choice Plus and the Colorado Business Group on Health (a group of the largest health insurance
purchasers), and public/private partnership programs which are working to reduce health insurance costs. Mr. Ehnes answered
questions about the availability of providers to Medicare enrollees.

12:07 PM

A document was distributed to Task Force members by Dennis Kleinsasser, PhD. Dr. Kleinsasser was unable to testify because
of a time shortage. (See Attachment I.) The Task Force recessed.

01:49 PM -- Colorado Medical Malpractice Tort Reform

Jeff Kassal, Vice President for Underwriting, COPIC Insurance, described COPIC Insurance company and Colorado Medical
Malpractice tort reform. Colorado medical malpractice law includes a $1.0 million cap on monetary awards. Kathy

Brown,
Director, Business Development, COPIC Insurance, discussed the definition of medical claims, dismissed medical malpractice
cases, awards which exceeded the $1.0 million cap, medical malpractice premium rates, and premium cost components. Mr.
Kassal and Ms. Brown answered questions about vaccine-related medical practices, COPIC's process of addressing malpractice cases, and Certificates of Review.

02:26 PM

Cheye Calvo, Employment and Insurance Policy Specialist, National Conference of State Legislatures, distributed a document
to Task Force members and discussed Colorado's medical malpractice tort reform in comparison to other states' tort reform.
(See Attachment J.) Mr. Calvo discussed statutes of limitations, damage award caps, expert witness rules, and burden of proof.

02:36 PM -- Colorado Hospitals' Charity Care

Larry Wall, President Colorado Health and Hospital Association, discussed the Association's Reference Guide to Colorado
Hospital and Health Care Organization Financial and Utilization Data. The Association's members have been working to define
charity care. Future publications of the Reference Guide will reflect a more comprehensive definition of charity care. Mr. Wall
answered questions about charity care and bad debt and how a hospital's level of charity care impacts the amount of taxes they
pay.

03:01 PM -- Reports from Subcommittee Chairmen

Senator Evans discussed his subcommittee's findings, including the numbers of uninsured Coloradans. Senator Evans' subcommittee is reviewing the possibility of covering all Coloradans with health insurance over the next five years. Senator Evans
stated the subcommittee will have a resolution for the Task Force's review and may recommend some bills.

03:12 PM

Senator Reeves stated her subcommittee will meet one more time to discuss the issues they have heard testimony on. Senator
Reeves discussed the subcommittee members' priorities for emerging trends in health care. These trends include loss of job
satisfaction, earlier retirements, work force shortages, reduced time for patient/provider interaction, data collection by a wide
variety of organizations, and demand for home health care.

03:25 PM -- Concluding Remarks

Representative Morrison announced the Task Force will have its last meeting of the 1999 interim on November 3 at 1:00 p.m.

The Task Force adjourned.