

A G E N D A

Health Care Systems

House Committee Room 0112
State Capitol Building

Monday, September 23, 2002
9:30 a.m. -- 5:00 p.m.

SUMMARY FOLLOWS AGENDA

I. 9:30 CALL TO ORDER

II. 9:30 -- 11:30

Palliative Care -- General information and the need for Medicaid room and board reimbursement for hospice residential facilities

- **Christy Whitney, RN, MS, President and CEO of Hospice and Palliative Care of Western Colorado**

Palliative Care Education for Healthcare Professionals and the Public

- **Daniel Johnson, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center**
- **Cordt T. Kassner, PhD, President, Colorado Healthcare Ethics Forum**
- **Jonathan Peter Weston, MD, Medical Director, Pikes Peak Hospice and Palliative Care**

Research Documenting the Prevalence of Pain in Nursing Homes

- **Regina Fink, RN, PhD, AOCN, Clinical Instructor, University of Colorado Schools of Nursing and Medicine**

III. 11:30 -- 12:00

Palliative Care, Long-term Care, Prescription Drugs

- **Bill Shultz and Kelli Fritts, AARP**

IV. 12:00 -- 1:00 LUNCH

V. 1:00 -- 2:00

Higher Education -- Meeting the Need for Health Care Professionals

- **Tim Foster and Sharon Sampson, Colorado Commission on Higher Education**
- **Dr. Joe May, System President, Colorado Community College System**
- **Jay Gershen, DDS, PhD, Executive Vice Chancellor, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center**
- _____, **University of Northern Colorado**

VII. 2:00 -- 2:30

Health Care and Technology

- **Chuck Saunders, MD, EDS Corporation**

VIII. 2:30 -- 3:00

Suggestions for Legislation

- **Jennifer Miles, Covering Kids and Families**
- **Diana Protopapa, Colorado Consumer Health Initiatives**

IX. 3:00-- 5:00

Discussion of Bill Requests

X. 5:00 ADJOURN

Final

STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING

HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS

Date:	09/23/2002	ATTENDANCE	
Time:	09:34 AM to 04:55 PM	Clapp	X
		Hanna	X
Place:	HCR 0112	Hillman	X
		Jahn	X
	This Meeting was called to order by	Owen	*
	<u>Representative Spradley</u>	Takis	X
		Williams T.	X
	This Report was prepared by	Spradley	X
	<u>Jeanette Chapman</u>	Hagedorn	X

X = Present, E = Excused, A = Absent, * = Present after roll call

Bills Addressed:

Action Taken:

Interim Committee on Health Care Systems

-

09:35 AM

Representative Spradley called the meeting to order. She introduced Christy Whitney, Hospice and Palliative Care of Western Colorado. Ms. Whitney began her discussion of hospice in Colorado and provided a handout to the committee (Attachment A). Currently, both in nursing homes and at home, approximately 25% of patients die with hospice care. Ms. Whitney believes that this demonstrates the high need for more hospice care. She described the current Medicaid hospice benefit. She discussed the difference between hospice and palliative care. Medicaid hospice coverage was intended for those with a six-month prognosis, however, changes in therapy have made that limit more difficult to enforce. Hospice has thus expanded it's role to include palliative care, although not all palliative care is hospice care. Ms. Whitney discussed the need for educating

the public and health care professionals about palliative care; widening the application of palliative care to hospitals and nursing homes, and the need for Medicaid coverage of room and board in hospice facilities. She then turned the presentation over to Daniel Johnson, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, for his discussion of medical education and palliative and end of life care.

09:59 AM

Dr. Johnson discussed the education of health care professionals and the public and review death and dying in America. 90 percent of individuals will have a protracted death, and with an aging population this will become a larger focus of health care. Current medical training has been a curative model that focuses on discovery, inquiry, and death as the enemy. A palliative model is more focused on tailoring care to the individual and less focused on making people better no matter what. Graduating medical students lack training in the care of the dying, classes are elective on this issue and teaching tends to focus on knowledge rather than attitudes and skills. He showed a brief portion of a video of a program from Harvard Medical School teaching medical students about relationships with patients facing the end of life.

10:16 AM

Cordt Kassner, Colorado Healthcare Ethics Forum, spoke about a patient who had requested "do not resuscitate" but whose sister asked that everything be done to keep the patient alive. He discussed the ethical issues that doctors must deal with as they relate to palliative care. He discussed the need for better education for health care professionals relating to palliative care generally and the ethical aspects of that care.

10:24 AM

Dr. Jonathan Weston, Pikes Peak Hospice and Palliative Care, spoke about the need for a physician specialist in palliative care. The last five years of an individual's life are anticipated to be ones where the majority of individuals will need assistance with basic daily tasks, making the need for a specializing physician even greater. He responded to questions from the committee. Dr. Johnson came back to the table to answer a question from Representative Tochtrop regarding the role of the legislature in requiring university's to include palliative care in a required curriculum.

10:42 AM

Regina Fink, Nurse at the UCHSC School of Nursing and Medicine, spoke about the prevalence of pain in nursing homes. She provided a handout to the committee (Attachment B). In spite of guidelines that indicate the importance of pain management, many patients and residents in nursing homes experience significant pain during the last months of life. She discussed the study she is conducting of pain in residents of nursing homes. Some patients in nursing homes are only asked 4 times a year if they are experiencing significant pain. Providers need training in pain screening, treatment and medication must be properly assessed. She responded to questions from the committee.

11:10 AM

Christy Whitney returned to the table to talk about Medicaid room and board reimbursement for hospice residential facilities. (see attachment A for details of her discussion.)

11:22 AM

Bill Schultz and Kelli Fritz, AARP, discussed palliative care, long-term care, and prescription drugs. Mr. Schultz discussed in detail the need for long-term care insurance and encouraged a focus on home and community-based services to care for the aging population. Ms. Fritz responded to questions from Senator Hillman, concerning mandates of care and the impact on younger families. Committee discussion ensued.

11:40 AM

Kelli Fritz, AARP discussed what AARP believes to be the source of many problems associated with health insurance. AARP supports the creation of a preferred drug list in the Medicaid program. She responded to questions from the committee. Senator Owen and Hanna noted that hospital care is also a driving force in increasing health care costs. Representative Clapp noted that for many patients, stability of care is paramount.

11:50 AM

The committee recessed for lunch until 1:15 p.m.

01:23 PM

The committee reconvenes. Tim Foster, Colorado Commission on Higher Education, comes to the table for a presentation on how the institutions of higher education are meeting the need for health care professionals. He provides the committee with Attachment D - Information on Nursing Students (FTE) and Program Costs. This handout identifies the number of students and total program costs to educate nurses. The handout also includes two graphs on nursing degrees and certificates and nursing headcount enrollment as a percentage of total FTE enrollment.

Sen. Owen states that the U.S. Department of Labor indicates it will be an upcoming priority to address the nursing shortage nationwide from the perspective of the labor market. Mr. Foster noted he was unaware of such an effort but would follow up with the Colorado Department of Labor

and Employment. Mr. Foster responds to a variety of questions from the committee members.

01:40 PM

Dr. Jay Gershen, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center (UCHSC), is invited to the table to present information on how the UCHSC is meeting the need for health care professionals. He provides the committee with Attachment E. He speaks briefly on the UCHSC's mission, academic programs, the number of students and graduates, the retention/graduation of the respective schools of the UCHSC, and the schools' national rankings. The UCHSC is among the top one percent of the 2,570 institutions receiving National Institute of Health funding for research.

The UCHSC has a number of affiliates and partners in the state; most notably hospitals in the metropolitan Denver region. Approximately 65 percent of recent graduates report they are working in Colorado and 76 percent are providing patient care. The UCHSC provides community outreach through the Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program to all regions of the state. In December 2001 the UCHSC, together with the Community Colleges of Colorado, hosted a health workforce summit with representation by many organizations throughout the state.

Dr. Gershen continues with a brief discussion on Fitzsimons development.

01:58 PM

Dr. Joe May, System President, Colorado Community College System, begins his presentation. He provides the committee with Attachment F. Dr. May notes that the community colleges just received a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. Dr. May discussed the community college health-related programs, the role of the schools in meeting state health care needs, graduates, placement, needs/vacancies, rural needs/issues, and challenges. He provided statistics in Attachment F on the number of healthcare worker vacancies across the state according to county. The total number of vacancies is 2,821.

Dr. May responds to questions from the committee members. Rep. Williams asks Dr. May to respond to the matter of community college graduates leaving a number of healthcare professions. He notes that many of his graduates are women with families; working evening shifts is often difficult with young children. Due to the demands and low pay of some healthcare professions, people do seek other employment opportunities.

02:15 PM

Dr. Sandy Baird, Director, University of Northern Colorado, School of Nursing, begins her presentation on the programs at UNC. The school is capped at 72 students per year. This cap limits the school's ability to recruit. She notes that scholarships are there for students if they look hard enough. Rep. Williams notes that hospitals in northeastern Colorado are willing to pay the tuition for students at the school. The school faces challenges which are not present in the metropolitan Denver area. Dr. Baird provides the committee with Attachment G. She discusses the nursing programs at the school, the cost of nursing education, and Colorado's obstacles and challenges.

Dr. Baird finishes her presentation with recommendations for the committee to consider. She notes that healthcare agencies need to enhance work place conditions (stress), increase both financial and professional rewards, and foster positive career pathways. Stress is related to the patient load, acuity of illness in the patients, hours (most hospitals have moved to a 12-hour shift), and harassment.

02:26 PM

Dr. Chuck Saunders, EDS Corporation, begins his discussion on health care and technology. His presentation begins with a look into the future and what healthcare will look like 100 years from now. He provides staff with one copy of his powerpoint presentation (Attachment H). There is record productivity gains in industry due to digital transformation of business. However, healthcare is the last frontier. This industry takes the least advantage of technology in providing services. Page 14 of his presentation identifies ways in which technology can address today's healthcare issues.

Dr. Saunders provides information on how Humana is using technology to better serve its patients through technology. The attachment provides a case example of how medication errors can be reduced through the use of technology. There are opportunities in the public health system as well. He speaks to the concept of the longitudinal patient record which will give consumers better understanding and more active role in their own health, and enable better disease prevention and disease surveillance.

He speaks to the growth of electronic trading networks. Physicians will participate if there is the incentive of fast payment for services.

03:01 PM

Jennifer Miles, Covering Kids and Families, and Diana Protopapa, Colorado Consumer Health Initiatives, begin their presentation. Ms. Miles provides the committee with Attachment I which includes an information sheet on the coalition of Covering Kids and Families, in addition to a table on selected simplified enrollment procedures in children's regular Medicaid, children's SCHIP-funded Medicaid expansions, and SCHIP-funded separate child health insurance programs. She provides suggestions for the committee to consider in their legislation deliberations.

Diana Protopapa provides the committee with Handout J. She notes that she is not suggesting legislation, rather she wants to provide information

on what other states are doing regarding the rising cost of health care.

03:25 PM

Committee in short recess prior to beginning a discussion of proposed legislation.

03:32 PM

The committee is called back to order and begins a discussion of proposed legislation. The committee works off of Attachment K - Bill Request Summary, prepared by the Office of Legislative Legal Services.

Bill 042 was not accepted on a 4-6 show of hands.

Bill 0137 was next for discussion. The proposal failed on a tied 5-5 show of hands.

Bill 0136 passed on an 8-2 show of hands.

Bill 0134 failed on a 5-5 show of hands.

Bill 0133 passed without objection.

Bill 0132 (Representative Tochtrop would like to combined this bill and the preceding bill under one title) passed without objection.

Bill 0128 (Senator Hanna asked that the title be changed and add an education component to the bill) failed on a 5-5 show of hands.

Bill 0094 was pulled by the sponsor, Representative Spradley.

Bill 0093 (Representative Spradley would like to combine this bill with ...) was pulled by the sponsor, Representative Spradley.

Bill 0092 passed without objection.

Bill 0091 failed on a 5-5 show of hands.

Bill 0089 passed without objection.

Bill 0085 passed without objection.

Bill 0056 failed on a 5-5 show of hands.

Bill 0055 was pulled by the sponsor.

Bill 0054 passed on a 6-4 show of hands.

Bill 0053 failed on a 5-5 show of hands.

Bill 0135 passed on a 7-3 show of hands. (This bill will be combined with Bill 0136)

04:53 PM

The committee discussed the final meeting of the committee.

04:53 PM

The committee adjourned.