

Texas Health Care Policy Council

Teacher Retirement System of Texas, 5th Floor Boardroom
1000 Red River Street, Austin, Texas 78701

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2009

10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Nancy Dickey (Chair), Seth Chandler, Troy Alexander, Larry Jones, Michelle Moritz, John Monk, Dr. Scott Ransom, Ken Shine, Dr. Stacey Silverman, Jon Weizenbaum.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ann Fuelberg (Vice Chair), Alexia Green, Ronnie Jung, Dianne Longley, and Maureen Milligan.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Nancy Dickey called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. Chair Dickey welcomed the members of the Health Care Policy Council (Council), and asked Mr. Tony Gilman, Executive Officer of the Council, to take roll.

Chair Dickey advised members that Dr. Mary Fenton would be representing Dr. Alexia Green, Ms. Katrina Daniel would represent Dianne Longley, Ms. Betsey Jones would be representing Ronnie Jung, Mr. Don Henderson would be representing Jon Wizenbaum during part of the meeting, Leah Erard would be representing Ann Fuelberg, and Natasha Boston would be representing Dr. Maureen Milligan.

Chair Dickey also recognized Mr. Gilman to introduce Taylor Cook, a new policy analyst to the Council.

REPORTS, UPDATES AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS

Approval of Minutes from the October 30, 2008 Meeting

Chair Dickey asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes for the October 30, 2008 meeting. Dr. Ken Shine made a motion to pass the meeting minutes. Dr. Ransom seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Consideration of FY 2010-2011 Council Budget (Action Item)

Chair Dickey asked Mr. Gilman to brief members on the Council budget for fiscal year 2010-2011. Mr. Gilman reviewed the proposed budget and noted that because of excess revenue in 2009, the Memorandum of Understanding would be revised for fiscal year 2010 to reduce the amount of funding paid by each agency to support the operation of the Council. Dr. Ransom made a motion to approve the budget. Dr. Shine seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Council Member Reports on Implementation of Legislation Passed by the 81st Texas Legislature and Other Agency Health Care Initiatives (Briefing Item)

Dr. Dickey asked members to update the committee on the implementation of legislation that passed in the 81st Texas Legislature and other health care initiatives.

Betsy Jones discussed work on Senate Bill 704, which pertains to pharmacy benefit management contracting. Katrina Daniel talked about the Texas Department of Insurance's progress implementing the Healthy Texas program, created by Senate Bill 78. Natasha Boston updated the Council on the Texas Health and Human Service Commission's Health Resource and Service Administration grant for the State Health Access Program. Stacy Silverman updated the Council on the Nursing Shortage Reduction Program, the Physician Education Loan Repayment Program, and the Hospital Based Nursing Education Partnership Grant Program. Dr. Dickey discussed actions during the 81st legislative session that impacted graduate medical education funding. Finally, Dr. Shine updated the Council on the status of health information regional extension center applications. Chair Dickey thanked members for their updates.

Consideration of 2009-2010 Work Plan (Briefing Item)

Chair Dickey laid out the general work plan and asked Mr. Gilman to brief the Council on nursing faculty and education capacity. Mr. Gilman provided an overview of the proposed work plan item, which will develop options for leveraging the state's economic situation to recruit faculty from other states. The deliverable for this work plan item will be a policy report that will provide policymakers with a comprehensive review of ongoing nursing initiatives, and recommendations on new strategies to grow the state's nursing education capacity with an emphasis on partnerships and attracting faculty from other states. Chair Dickey thanked Mr. Gilman for his presentation. Council members reviewed the staff recommendations, and provided feedback and direction to staff on the proposal.

Chair Dickey asked Mr. Gilman to brief the Council on consumer empowerment and access to price and quality information. Mr. Gilman provided an overview of the proposed work plan item, which will assess state agency price and quality reporting activities, and consider the development of a state web site, which lists pharmacy-by-pharmacy retail prices to help consumers compare frequently prescribed drug prices. Chair Dickey thanked Mr. Gilman for his presentation. Council members reviewed the staff recommendations, and provided feedback and direction to staff on the proposal. Mr. John Monk expressed interest in participating in the consumer empowerment workgroup discussed in the work plan.

Chair Dickey then asked Ms. Taylor Cook, policy analyst for the Council, to brief the Council on effective health care models in Texas. Ms. Cook provided an overview of the proposed work plan item, which will identify low-cost, high-quality Texas hospitals, and conduct case studies in some selected communities to identify best practices. Chair Dickey thanked Ms. Cook for her presentation. Council members reviewed the staff recommendations, and provided feedback and direction to staff on the proposal. Mr. Seth Chandler expressed interest in being a member of the stakeholder workgroup identified in the work plan.

Discussion of House Bill 3961, 81st Texas Legislature (Briefing Item)

Dr. Dickey asked Mr. Gilman to brief the Council on House Bill 3961, 81st Texas Legislature, relating to the regulation of nursing. HB 3961 updates the Nursing Practice Act and requires the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies to contract with an independent researcher to conduct a study to evaluate the competencies of clinical judgment and behaviors that professional nursing students should possess at the time of graduation. The committee is to include a representative of the Health Care Policy Council, and Mr. Gilman noted that Larry Jones will serve in this capacity.

Briefing on Governor's Office Health Care Projects (Briefing Item)

Dr. Dickey asked Mr. Palmer to brief the Council on other health care projects within the Office of the Governor. Mr. Palmer updated the Council on the State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program and the work of the Texas Health Services Authority.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Chair Dickey asked Mr. Gilman to provide members with information on the Council's schedule for 2009-2010. Mr. Gilman advised members that the following dates have been scheduled for future Council and Partnership Workforce Subcommittee meetings:

- December 3, 2009 (Thursday) - Partnership Workforce Subcommittee Meeting
- February 18, 2010 (Thursday) - Council & Partnership Workforce Subcommittee Meetings
- July 15, 2010 (Thursday) - Council & Partnership Workforce Subcommittee Meetings
- October 14, 2010 (Thursday) – Council & Partnership Workforce Subcommittee Meetings

Chair Dickey also asked members if there were any questions about the Council's expenditure reports.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURN

Chair Dickey asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Mr. Chandler and seconded by Dr. Shine. The meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.