

Senator William Stouffer, Chairman
Senator Victor Callahan
Steve Reintjes, MD
John Stanley, MD
David Carpenter



Representative Robert Schaaf, MD
Representative Curt Dougherty
Lancer Gates, DO
Gloria Solis, RN, MSN, MBA

Health Care Stabilization Fund Feasibility Board

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December 12, 2008

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:30pm.

Board Members in Attendance: Senator William Stouffer, Senator Victor Callahan, Rep. Rob Schaaf, Gloria Solis, RN, Dr. Lancer Gates, Dr. Stephen Reintjes, David Carpenter

Others in Attendance: Linda Bohrer, DIFP; Brent Kabler, DIFP.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes was made by Sen. Callahan and seconded by Dr. Reintjes, with all in favor.

Discussion of the Draft Annual Interim Report (Brent Kabler, DIFP)

The board next took up consideration of the draft interim annual report.

Brent Kabler summarized the results of the board's survey of Missouri physicians to determine the level of support of a stabilization fund. He stated that the survey had a low response rate, as was to be expected by a mail-in survey of this type. Results indicate that majority respondents supported the creation of a stabilization fund across the state. Significantly more respondents practicing in the Kansas City area supported a fund than elsewhere in the state.

Dr. Schaaf requested that the raw numbers be provided for the regional break-down, in addition to the percents. Dr. Schaaf also wondered if there was any way to determine whether attitudes varied by employment status of physicians. For example, employed physicians who have coverage through their employer may be less likely to support a fund. Brent indicated that there was no way to classify the data this way, but did indicate that several respondents volunteered concern about how employed physicians might be treated. Dr. Schaaf wondered if there was a way to consider uninsured physicians. Brent indicated that there was not, as insurance status was not captured in the survey.

Sen. Stouffer recognized the methodological limitations of the survey, given possible self-selection biases, and the low response rate. He did think the survey results indicated some level of support among physicians for a fund, and thought the board ought to consider ways of conducting a more comprehensive survey. He suggested that the DIFP look into the costs of conducting a valid random sample telephone-based survey through various third parties, including the University of Missouri.

The board next discussed Andrew Teigen's presentation earlier in the year regarding limitations on the med mal JUA. Andrew had addressed two primary limitations. First, the JUA was required to surcharge first year insureds an amount equal to 100% of premium. Secondly, the JUA was not permitted by statute to sell claims made policies, but instead permitted only to have occurrence policies. Sen. Stouffer recommended that the JUA governing board recommend statutory changes that the board might consider. Rep. Schaaf agreed, and suggested that the board needed to consider the JUA within the overall context of the med mal market, including a possible stabilization fund. It was agreed that the board should solicit another presentation by the JUA to discuss outstanding issues.

The board next discussed the current status of HB 1837 data reporting requirements and the subsequent rule making efforts of the DIFP. Linda Bohrer indicated that the DIFP was working with stakeholders to try to reach consensus, but that so far these efforts have not been entirely successful. Sen. Callahan opined that the DIFP should try it's best to reach a consensus among all stakeholders.

Sen. Callahan moved to adopt the report, and the report was adopted unanimously.

The board next discussed possible future steps. It was decided to invite various stakeholders to meetings in 2009 to address outstanding issues and concerns. Linda suggested that the DIFP might be able to fund a more extensive survey.