

## HEALTH PLAN TASK FORCE

**Tuesday, June 9, 1998**  
**10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**  
**Nolte Library**

**Present:** Richard McGehee (Chair), Linda Aaker, Avner Ben-Ner, Amos Deinard, Judith Gaston, Robert Fahnhorst, Martha Johnson, Priscilla Pope, Richard Purple, Harlan Smith, Larry Thompson

**Absent:** Bart Finzell, David Hamilton, Robert Sonkowsky

**Regrets:** Keith Dunder

**Guests:** Kathy Burek, Dave Haugen, Barbara Shiels

**Others:** None

[Meeting Topics: State Prognosis for 1999 and 2000, Summer Meeting Schedule, Executive Session]

### **1. Prognosis for 1999 and 2000 (as taken from Barbara Shiels' notes)**

Presentation by Kathy Burek from DOER

- Blue Cross will be conducting focus groups concerning referrals and bureaucracy over the summer and University representatives will be included.
- A request for proposals that include carve-outs for mental health and chemical dependency care and prescriptions will be issued on July 6 to the various health plans.
- The State will either fix the existing health care model or move into a model similar to BHCAG for 2000, but that will not be determined until the bargaining process takes place with the unions.
- Typically, the legislature does not make special allocations for salary and benefit supplements, but it did occur in 1993.
- Each dollar that goes into the benefit pool comes from the salary pool.
- The State held a meeting with University representatives the day before to discuss including University providers into the Select Health Plan Select for 1999.
- The State is pleased with the thinking and planning that University providers have done so far.
- The allowance of opting out of health care coverage must be given serious consideration and stipulations for coming back into the program must be developed.
- No adjustments will be made to the mental health care carve-out for 1999.
- Premium rates for 1999 will be available on Wednesday, June 17, 1998.
- Networks will be formed between mid September and March.

## Open Discussion

- It may be beneficial to set-up a pilot project to determine if an opt-out of health care is plausible.
- The University should be represented at the bargaining tables because that is where the most important issues are resolved and currently the University is not part of that process.
- There is a formal relationship between the State and University that incorporates a memorandum of understanding that is developed under joint effort.
- The negotiating process has been formalized between the State and University with the University's inclusion on the Joint Labor Management Subcommittee.
- There are other groups besides the University that are not part of the bargaining process that share the same concerns of representation.
- The State bargains with state universities so issues important to the University are being considered.
- The Judicial and Legislative branches are able to opt out of the State's benefits package if they choose, but the Executive branch cannot.
- The individual health plans provide the State with a detailed breakdown of their benefits as well as their utilization rates versus their costs, but the health plans protect them with a trade secret.

## **2. Summer Agenda and Meeting Schedule**

- The task force agreed to meet the Thursday after the first and third Wednesday of each month, which is when the JLMC meetings are scheduled to take place.
- Meeting times and locations will be determined and distributed to the task force.

## **3. Executive Session**

Discussion was held in closed session on the actuarial data about the University calculated by Deloitte & Touche.

## **4. Adjournment**

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