

Minnesota State Senate



Health Care Access Commission

Structure of the 2007 Health Care Access Commission

Overview of Presentation

- * Timeline
- * Staffing
- * Work Groups
- * Pros and Cons
- * Why it worked

Timeline for Health Care Access Commission

- * April 2007: Legislation requires Health Care Access Commission to make recommendations to the legislature on how to achieve the goal of universal health coverage by January 15, 2008
- * May 2007: Initial Stages
 - Leadership appoints members
 - Unofficial co-chairs meet to discuss goals and direction of commission
 - Possible working groups suggested
 - Working group membership and leadership discussed
 - Timeline for Commission developed

Timeline - Continued

- * June, 2007: First meeting
 - Commission co-chairs officially elected
 - Working groups established
 - Working group goals set
 - Working group co-chairs elected
 - Timeline adopted for commission
- * June-October: 1-2 meetings per month
 - Work Group members appointed
 - Presentations by interest groups
 - Work Groups determine time line and continue reporting to commission

Timeline- Continued

- * November- Work Groups Finalize
 - Work groups present recommendations
 - Ideas sent to department for fiscal noting
- * December- Recommendations Adopted
 - Recommendations are voted on by Commission
 - Report begins to be drafted
- * January:
 - Report presented to Commission for review and comment
 - Public hearing held on final report
 - Legislation begins to be drafted for 2008 session

Staffing

- * To save costs, an Executive Director was not hired
- * Committee Administrators and Legislative Assistants:
 - Acted as lead organizers for commission
 - Scheduled meetings, rooms and speakers
 - Notified Commission members and public Prepared meeting materials
 - Tracked work groups to ensure they were operating smoothly
 - Maintained contact information/mailings for Commission and work group members

Staffing- Continued

- * Legislative Assistants to Work Group Chairs
 - Lead organizer for their Senator's Work Group
 - Administratively functioned as a mini-commission
- * Senate/House Counsel:
 - Assignments made to each work group
 - Researched ideas from work groups
 - Wrote recommendations
 - Wrote final report
- * Legislative Advisory Council:
 - Posted all meeting materials, tapes and minutes publicly on LAC Website

Work Groups

- * HCAC Co-Chairs Responsibilities
 - Appoint co-chairs of work groups
 - Appoint members of work groups
 - Outline scope for each work group
- * Work Group Co-Chairs
 - Create timeline and meeting schedule
 - Administrative duties
 - Operated independently
 - Submit final recommendations by final date

Work Group Make Up

- * Membership between 13-22 members, depending on goal of work group. (Membership of less than 15 was ideal)
- * No limit on number of legislators on each work group
- * Work groups were generally broken down by:
 - 30% Legislators
 - 30% Business Community
 - 30% Advocates/Non Profits
- * Also tried to keep in mind other key partners
 - 1-2 union representatives per work group
 - 1-2 representatives of other government groups per work group (Counties, State Council's, etc)

Pros & Cons

- * Pros:
 - Uses existing resources and staff, thus saving money
 - Engaged the community from the beginning of the process
 - Work group members continued to advocate for the legislation after session began
 - Strengthened relationship between Senate and House legislators and staff
 - Entire healthcare community felt they had some voice in the process

Pros & Cons

- * Cons:
 - HCAC working group size was not capped initially, resulting in large groups
 - For some groups, the independence of the work groups was a disadvantage
 - Some initial staff resistance to working long "session hours" during summer
 - Difficult to schedule meetings during interim for members from Greater Minnesota

Why it worked...

- * Similar vision and goals of co-chairs
- * Work groups had a lot of anonymity
- * A lot of involvement by stakeholders and legislators
- * Staff willingness to work extra hours
- * Assignment of lead and backup staff
- * Set a strict timeline and kept it
