

To: Legislative Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability
Joint Committee on Government and Finance
From: Interagency Health Council
Re: Combined Quarterly Reports for 1st and 2nd Quarters
Date: July 6, 2007

Pursuant to W.Va. Code §16-29G-5(b), the following is submitted as the report of the activities and recommendations of the Interagency Health Council for the quarters ending June 30, 2007.

- The Council has held two open meetings at the offices of the Insurance Commissioner (April 23 and June 25, 2007).
- HB 4021 requires that the Council “report to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance on an annual basis the estimated cost shift to the private sector created by the federal and state government payers. Government payers include, but are not limited to, the Bureau for Medical Services, the Children's Health Insurance Program, Workers' Compensation and the Public Employees Insurance Agency.” Sonia Chambers, Chair of the West Virginia Health Care Authority and Co-chair of the IHC reported that the Cost-Shifting Report awarded to Mathematica, to be completed by February of 2007, was not finalized as of this date. Some matters concerning shortfalls from government payers, changes concerning critical care hospitals and non-critical access hospitals need to be worked out before the final report is issued.
- Dr. Mark Wilson, (OIC), reviewed the Accident and Health Insurance Report with the Council. The Report indicates for the first time that the private market is shrinking in West Virginia.
- Expansion of the CHIPS Program has been reported by Sharon Carte. Currently the reauthorization language of the federal CHIPS program is looking very positive.
- Sally Hunt, (WVHIN), presented the statutorily report to the IHC concerning the current progress of the Health Information Network. The focus of the program has been to establish appropriate privacy and security requirements for West Virginia and to resolve the barriers to sharing medical information. The Network has applied for a three year contract to work with other states in the exchange of information.
- Dr. Mark Wilson, (OIC) reviewed the Commonwealth Fund State Scorecard on Health System Performance with the Council. West Virginia ranked 44th overall in this study. Five measures were used to compile the scorecard, including access, quality, avoidable hospital use and costs, equity and healthy lives. West Virginia ranked well (20th) in providing health care to children, however, the lowest rating the state received was in the healthy lives measure (45th). The full report can be found on the Commonwealth Fund website (www.cmwf.org/publications). The Council agreed that they needed to explore ways to deal with the unhealthy life styles of so many that drive up health care costs in West Virginia.