**HAWAII HEALTH AUTHORITY**

Department of Budget and Finance

STATE OF HAWAII

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Date:** Monday, April 16, 2012

**Places:** John A. Burns School of Medicine

University of Hawaii

615 Ilalo Street

MEB Room 202

Honolulu, HI 96813

1. **Call Meeting to Order**

The Hawaii Health Authority meeting was called to order at 4:10 P.M. by Jory Watland.

**HHA Members present:**

Ritabelle Fernandes Marion Poirier

Stephen Kemble Jory Watland

S. Peter Kim

**HHA Members absent:**

Nathan Chang

Rey Graulty

1. **Review of Meeting Minutes from March 5, 2012**

Minutes were reviewed. No changes were made. S. Peter Kim motioned to accept the minutes as is. Marion Poirier second the motion. All members voted in favor (5-0)

1. **Report on resolutions and bill introductions to the Legislature**

SB2344, the appropriation to the Hawaii Health Authority, is in conference. The House conferees have been appointed, but Senate conferees haven’t been yet. There hasn’t been a determination yet of where the money will be directed from, the Office of the Governor or the Department of Budget and Finance.

On the SNAP appropriation bill, Jory Watland said he is unsure if they will provide new money. He stated that there are noncompliance and monitoring issues of the current SNAP program and they are in jeopardy of losing the current SNAP support. One of the legislators told Jory that they are going to add 4 to 6 new positions in the Department of Human Services for enrolling more people in the SNAP program and avoiding fraud.

On the resolution to collaborate with HHSC, Jory Watland stated there didn’t seem to be opposition during public testimony with this bill. He hopes that HHSC realizes that language for collaboration is in the legislation for creation. On the resolution for the 1115 waiver, Stephen Kemble stated that it is up for renewal this year. Jory Watland said he is concerned about Medicaid because of the lowered eligibility. S. Peter Kim made appointments to speak to Legislators, and Rey Graulty spoke with Marcus Oshiro as well. Jory Watland said there seems to be some conflict setting up between the House and the Senate.

1. **Report on Hawaii Health Authority member appointments**

Chelsea Okamoto, staff to the Hawaii Health Authority, received notice from Boards and Commissions that they received names from the Senate, but will not make interim appointments until after session has ended on May 4, 2012. Jory Watland is unsure of the names that were submitted. Jory Watland also mentioned that Rey Graulty has recently had a heart attack, but he seems to be doing well.

1. **Discussion on the creation of an advisory committee to Hawaii Health Authority**

Jory Watland proposed to the board in creating an advisory committee to the Hawaii Health Authority. These people will have expertise in various fields. Jory Watland listed some people he would like to have on an advisory committee:

* Terry Shintani
* Leonard Jacobs
* Barbara Yamashita

Stephen Kemble also mentioned that he’s had discussions with a policy think tank at the Law School. Kelley Withy and David Sakamoto may be interested and sympathetic to HHA’s cause, and will have expertise in this field. S. Peter Kim asked if we needed legislators’ approval for this creation. Jory Watland said it wouldn’t be a formalized thing and they wouldn’t have standing or voting abilities on our Board. Ritabelle Fernandes stated while this is an admirable goal, and we’ve had subgroups created previously, the reality is we don’t have speed and we need support from the Governor, so we can draw these people. However, if we get these people, where do we go from there? Jory Watland stated that we need resources, like the appropriations made for the HHA. Currently, we can’t hire people, get budgets, talk and work with people in the Attorney General’s office, and utilize resources in our State. Ritabelle Fernandes said that we don’t have a lot of power. Jory Watland said that we are in a strange time and we don’t know that we don’t have power because we haven’t really presented anything yet. He further stated we can’t do anything if we’re competing against another state entity going in a different direction and our direction is defined by the legislation that created us.

1. **Report on meeting with Healthcare Transformation Council**

Stephen Kemble said there have been two of the executive committee meetings and a meeting each of the delivery system domain and the payment reform domain. Stephen Kemble introduced in the first meeting that we had a report as well as a roadmap from the HHA as well as additional documents. Stephen Kemble feels that Tom Tsang is driving the concepts and he runs the initiatives, whereas Beth Giesting isn’t the driving force. Recently, the Office of Healthcare Transformation hosted a learning session, in which they brought experts from other states to describe their initiatives. Stephen Kemble presented the Community Care North Carolina model, which is similar to the plan presented by the Hawaii Health Authority. It’s a single payer model within Medicaid, but continues to be a multi-payer model outside of Medicaid. Tom Tsang wants to institute a plan similar to what was developed in North Carolina; however, he wants to put this in place on top of the Medicaid Managed Care model. Stephen Kemble greatly objects to the Managed Care models in place in Hawaii. He presented a document titled “The case against United Health and Well Care.” He stated that there aren’t doctors that are accepting any new Medicaid patients. He stated that they engage in fraudulent marketing practices of the Medicare Advantage plans. The federal government banned them for a year from selling their plans because of these practices, but they are now continuing the same practices. They have also skewed their medical loss ratio numbers and it’s really higher than what they’re reporting. Because of deceptive reporting, Hawaii has recently won a lawsuit and will receive a chunk of money. They have also engaged in legislative practices against reforming healthcare. Stephen Kemble stated that he’s tried to point these things out at meetings, but Tom Tsang is in direct opposition to a single payer model, because he believes single payer is not politically viable.

Another problem Stephen Kemble pointed out is Ken Fink, the director of MedQuest. Although Stephen Kemble has spoken a lot, they haven’t had a deciding vote or asked what anyone else thought about these issues. He feels the direction they are heading in is bad politics.

Jory Watland also added that the decrease in eligibility levels for Medicaid patients is also indicative of bad politics. Stephen Kemble continued by adding that the insurance companies may not be as politically adverse to a single payer as it seems. The single payer plan can accommodate insurers like HMSA, by making them the single payer plan administrator. Other plans can become delivery systems, and thus there are many systems within a single payer system. Stephen Kemble noted that first, we need to get Medicaid working properly.

Jory Watland said that we’re a creation of the Legislature and if they want us to do what they created us for; we will need to have a stronger alliance with the Legislature to compete with the Administration. We’re accountable in a sense to the Legislature and every year, Medicaid needs to go to the government for renewal. We need to see the Legislature as our “parent” in order to get more driving force to change these department agencies.

Stephen Kemble put together a survey on Patient Center Medical Homes for providers and their practices. He said he’s open to any suggestions about who to talk to in order to move this. He said he wants to approach the Governor and he’s very supportive of the North Carolina model. Ritabelle Fernandes said she wants to put together a letter and send it to Ken Fink. Marion Poirier said that we should also propose what should be done to the Governor and we need to write a letter to the Governor as well. Jory Watland has concerns that our meeting with the Governor will be like our last meeting with the Governor. He knows that we will need Rey Graulty to ask for a meeting with the Governor.

1. **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 5:07 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2012.