

**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COUNCIL**

June 6, 2017

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

TMC Board Room

HIGHLIGHTS

**Council Members Present:**

Albert Cheng, HCPHES

Ashlea Quinonez, Memorial Herman Healthcare System

Carolyn Belk, Houston Methodist

Doug Abel, Harris County Medical Society

Scott Forbes, UTHealth

Rosie McStay, Texas Children's Hospital

King Hillier, Harris County Hospital District

Johnha Carlson, Texas Childrens Hospital

E. Ahsley Smith, HCCS

Remmele Young, HCCS

**Guest Speakers Present:**

**TMC Members Present:**

Dr. Tim Garson, Director, TMC Health Policy

Dr. Stephen Linder, TMC Health Policy

Tatum Boatwright, Marketing Manager

- I. Welcome & Introductions – Rosie Valadez McStay, Texas Children’s Hospital and Dr. Tim Garson, TMC
  - The meeting commenced shortly after noon. All members went around the table and introduced themselves.
- II. Recap – Legislation of Impact from the 85<sup>th</sup> Session – Scott Forbes and Carolyn Belk - and group
  - Senate Bill 1148 – prohibits the Texas Medical Board from using the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program as a requirement for physicians to obtain or renew their medical license. It also prohibits hospitals and health plans from differentiating between physicians who have undergone the MOC program and those who have not. Many, including the Texas Hospital Association, have expressed concern about the measure’s effects on patient care as well as the quality and caliber of physicians a hospital would be able to hire.
  - TMC’s response to the American Health Care Act (AHCA); concerns with current versions of the bill, communicate and educate on the issues, especially on the Medicaid side.
  - Higher education and hospital industry
    - I. Hospital – difficulties between TMA & THA – caused significant challenges. To prepare for the next session, the entities agreed to meet and work together collaboratively as best they can.
    - II. 7,500 bills – record number; many pieces of legislation died due to sheer number of issues up for consideration under the time constraints of the session.
    - III. Senate Bill 8 – disposition of fetal tissue
      - Looking at tissue donation provision – bill will stand on hold until a ruling or disposition, if part of the bill is ruled unconstitutional and other is plausible, then it survives. Implementation date is September 1, 2017.
  - Medicaid budget
  - Scott Forbes – GME
    - I. Higher education – UTHealth down \$35 million, ended with \$2.6 million above.
    - II. 61 percent of cut was UTHealth
    - III. MD Anderson – up 4percent
    - IV. Employee Retirement System (ERS)
  - HCC side – treated fairly in the funding process; \$1.7 billion received.
  - Organ donation
  - Immigration
  - Sarah Davis Bill – maternal health, Houston endowment and impact – maternal health coalition, what can we do to look at maternal health and look at better health outcomes for mom and unborn child

- Lost – phillips bill was declined
- Transparency umbrella gets broader – inspections, etc. don't try to do clock and dither
- Louise – competitive bidding on contracts –
- LPPFs state wide? Come up in the next session
- Highlights – state general revenue in both state general budgets, a lot of conversation around CPS restructure and trying to show legist. How involved health care institutions are in the CPS, so many kids that fall in a crack where no one can care for them

### III. The American Health Care Act – Issues of Concern for TMC Entities - Tim Garson – and group

- Attach slide notes in the minutes
- Couple thoughts on how AHCA is doing right now
- What the affordable care act did was deal with subsidies
  - I. Concentrated on the premiums and forgot the deductible
- Recap back to the survey – 98% of people want health insurance if they could afford it.
- 70% of enrollment for Medicaid are pregnant women and children in the entire state of Texas
- Association health plan- groups could have a plan for members on an organization and that plan for members did not have to have limits on how low the coverage could go
  - I. Prior to Obama care
- Block grants / per capita caps – idea that there is a formula and the issue is how they will administer the reduction in payments
  - I. Block – certain amount of money
  - II. Per capita – higher risk pool – exclusion for a year
- A lot that was good about the act – personal option
- Google JAMA – wasting 1/3 of health care dollars a year, chart is for reference in the meeting minutes
- An ad will be published within the next couple of weeks for the Houston Chronicle – text to include the concerns with the Medicaid component
  - I. Want the company logos on this and show impact
  - II. Get out the ad by Friday and then will get a yes or no answer

### IV. Additional Council Updates

- TMC Health Policy Course - Stephen Linder
  - I. Nominate people from institutions to participate in a health policy course – 13 sessions, live streamed and audience, launch in September or January
  - II. Each institution will run through curriculum committee so students will be able to sign up for
- Co-chair nominations for 2018

### II. ACTION ITEMS:

- **Council Members:** Attached is a draft example letter for TMC Institutions to use if your institution would like to send a letter of support for the HCPC expansion project: UTHealth's Behavioral Health Continuum of Care Campus.
- **Q3 Agenda Topic** - Government day – lunch at the TMC,
  - I. Timing is an issue – challenge is an issue to accommodate
  - II. 2018 – rodeo time
  - III. connect for the next meeting in 2017
- **Council Members: Dr. Garson would very much appreciate discussing the co-chair position for 2018.** Please email council nominations to Dr. Tim Garson ([garson@tmc.edu](mailto:garson@tmc.edu)) before **August 1, 2017**. We will vote at the made council meeting.

**Next Meeting:**

Fall 2017  
TMC Executive Offices  
6550 Bertner Ave.  
Sixth Floor  
Houston, TX 77030