

# CalSTRS Public Education Health Benefits Task Force

## Meeting Minutes

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MEETING DATE: Friday, September 29, 2006  
LOCATION: CalSTRS Midway  
Truckee River Conference Room,  
7801 Folsom Blvd., Sacramento, CA

### **I. Welcome & Review Agenda**

Ed Derman, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, called to order the regular meeting of the Public Education Health Benefits Task Force at 10:40 a.m. on September 29, 2006 in the Truckee River conference room.

Prior to this meeting, the agenda was revised to include an update on AB 256. No other changes were made to the agenda.

The following task force members, staff and board members attended.

#### **Health Benefits Task Force Members present:**

Adonai Mack, CSBA	Gerry Meister, UESF–Retired
Betty Soennichsen, CRTA	Kenya Spearman, CTA–Retired
Beverly Carlson, CTA/NEA Retired	Loretta Toggenburger, UTLA–Retired
Bob Fesler, UESF–Retired	Mark Quillici, CalPERS
Cindy Young, CSEA/Chair of CCHC	Patrick McCallum, LA Faculty Guild, AFT 1521
Damon Smith, CCSESA	Ruben Ingram, SEAC/ACSA
David Vaughn, Central Valley Trust	Sara Rogers, Representative for Senator Sheila Kuehl
Dennis Smith, FACCC	Steve Depue, CTA–Retired
Dolores Sanchez, CFT	Suzi Rader, CSBA
Dolores Duran-Flores, CSEA	

#### **CalSTRS staff present:**

Jack Ehnes, Chief Executive Officer  
Ed Derman, Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
Jennifer Baker, Director of Governmental Affairs & Program Analysis  
Mike Hardin, Planning & Research Manager  
Gerri Kidson, Planning & Research Analyst  
Peggy Wadge, Governmental Affairs & Program Analysis Technician  
Carmen Atkins-Wasi, Administrative Assistant

#### **CalSTRS Board Members present:**

Carolyn Widener, Chair of the Teachers' Retirement Board  
Dana Dillion, Vice-Chair of the Teachers' Retirement Board  
Jerilyn Harris, Retiree Representative of the Teachers' Retirement Board  
Amy Cameron, representing the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Jack O'Connell  
Dennis Trujillo, representing the State Treasurer, Phillip Angelides

## **II. Approval of 2006-07 Calendar and Minutes of August 25, 2006**

The calendar for the CalSTRS Board, Committees and Task Force meetings for 2006-07 was included for review. A suggestion was made to change the meetings of the Health Benefits Task Force to the third Friday of each month beginning with the December meeting. The purpose of this change is to address concerns that the task force members representing the California Teachers' Association (CTA) are unable to attend the meetings as currently scheduled, as the Health Benefits Task Force conflicts with a CTA monthly meeting.

The minutes for the August 25, 2006 meeting were approved with minor corrections.

## **III. California Education Coalition for Healthcare Reform Presentation**

Ruben Ingram (Executive Director of School Employers Association of California) and Cindy Young (Senior Membership Benefits Coordinator of CSEA) of the California Education Coalition for Healthcare Reform explained to the Health Benefits Task Force (via a PowerPoint presentation) what the coalition is doing in terms of addressing the healthcare issue for school employees; certificated and classified. The coalition is a Joint Labor-Management Committee where its primary focus is to educate the school districts and school employers on healthcare concerns.

The overall goal of the California Education Coalition for Healthcare Reform is to reduce the rate of increase in health care costs in public education, focusing on:

- Protecting and enhancing the quality of education for California students and
- Maintaining and increasing the real income of public education employees.

The short-term goals of the coalition are:

1. to develop an education plan that provides centralized and joint information to districts, unions and consumers,
2. insure transparency of providers, and
3. explore plan design changes.

The Coalition is prepared to provide education statewide, train district-health benefit committees on industry best practices and advocate for reform through all state and federal bodies. This Coalition also sponsors and provides assistance to local areas to set up health care councils (i.e. Orange County Health Benefits Council and Santa Clara Health Benefits Council).

The California Education Coalition for Healthcare Reform has partnered with the California Health Care Coalition (CCHC). The CCHC consists of public and private employers, employees, and union groups. The CCHC's key premises, strategies and goals are to remain organized by adopting common performance standards, negotiate collectively and directly with the industry to meet standards and educate plan participants about the efforts to preserve affordable, quality healthcare. The CCHC supports systemic change of a single payer plan, a plan that provides healthcare for all school employees, a comprehensive healthcare that

covers all citizens and strongly supports SB 840. Currently, there are five areas of primary focus for the CCHC: Stanislaus County, Sacramento County, the Bay Area, San Diego County, and Los Angeles County.

**IV. Update on SB 840 from Sara Rogers, Representative for Senator Sheila Kuehl**

Sara Rogers of Senator Sheila Kuehl's office stated that SB 840 went farther than any other previous single payer legislation and was approved by the Legislature. Senator Kuehl is planning to re-introduce the measure next year and is mobilizing a strong, grassroots movement to support the measure. The Governor has stated that he wants to work with Senator Kuehl on this measure. Legislation of this magnitude does not often pass on the first try; they sometimes take a number of years to move completely through the process and gain the Governor's signature.

**V. Update of CALSTRS' Health Care Survey**

Task force members were provided a draft copy of CalSTRS Health Care Survey scheduled to mail out in early October 2006. CalSTRS staff will update the task force on the results of the Health Care Survey at the December task force meeting.

**VI. Update from CalPERS on AB 256**

Mark Quillici provided an update on AB 256. The governing structure has not been decided however, the scope of work for AB 256 is completed. The big issue remaining is funding the study. CalPERS staff had a meeting in June to discuss funding options for the study to be completed. CalPERS would likely have to fund part of the study and will soon issue a Request for Proposal (RFP).

**VII. Development of Future Agendas**

CalSTRS staff updated the following list of key agenda items for the coming months as a result of the August 25, 2006 meeting. CalSTRS staff and task force members were instructed to send any additional agenda items of interest to the Health Benefits Task Force contact; Carmen Atkins-Wasi, administrative assistant to Ed Derman, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Plan Design and Communication .

Month of Meeting	Possible Agenda items
October	To be determined
December	National Coalition on Health Care  Implementing GASB assistance  Share results from CalSTRS Health Care Survey and a survey on reasons why teachers retire or leave the profession.
January	Overview of other health care in pension retirement systems: Colorado PERA, Ohio STRS, Texas STRS.  Overview of Massachusetts' Model on recent health care reform  Health Security Accounts

The next meeting will be Friday, October 27, 2006 at 10:30 a.m.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Ed Derman adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Carmen Atkins-Wasi

Minutes approved by: Ed Derman