

Idaho Immunization Assessment Board
Board Meeting Minutes – Approved
Monday, March 7, 2011
Department of Insurance

Board Members Present:

- Richard Rainey, M.D. – Regence BlueShield of Idaho – Chair
- Jack Myers – Blue Cross of Idaho – Vice Chair
- Bill Deal – Director, DOI
- Ted Epperly, M.D. – Family Practice Residency
- Christine Hahn, M.D. – Department of Health & Welfare
- Sen. Melinda Smyser – Idaho Senate
- Josh Sears – AmeriBen/IEC Group
- Gina Mulkey – Winco Foods

Others Present:

- Shad Priest – DOI
- Sandy Metro – DOI
- Naoko Weigelt – DOI
- Tamarie Olson – DHW
- Mitch Scoggins – DHW

Board Members Absent

- Representative Jeff Thompson
- Pat Armstrong – Idaho Sand and Gravel

Call to Order: Chairman Rainey called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m.

Approval of Minutes from 12/06/10 meeting:

MOTION: Bill Deal-DOI moved that the minutes of the meeting of 1/14/11 be approved as written. The motion was seconded. The motion carried on a voice vote.

The chair asked whether there were suggestions for changing the agenda format or order of business, for this or future meetings, and there were no suggestions.

Reports

Sandy Metro, DOI, reported that 191,016 children under 19 have been reported on 2011 surveys returned as of March 4. Three TPAs and 7 carriers have not responded and there are 7 carrier extensions. Dr. Epperly requested an update on the 3 Blue Cross affiliates that previously had not paid. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming has paid under protest, but Kansas and Louisiana have default orders entered against them. The DOI is evaluating how to enforce the default orders. The 7 extensions should be small numbers and the 7 no responses were zero last year and will probably be zero this year.

The final 2010-11 transfer to DHW was \$18,800 in February which was from BCBS of Wyoming. Total deposit to DHW is \$10,125,774.00.

Financial Update from DHW

DHW confirmed receipt of \$10,125,774.00 from DOI. Total vaccine expense to date is \$3,592,577.00 with a balance of \$6,532,417.00. There is expected to be approximately a \$2 million surplus of funds as of June 30, 2011. Dr. Hahn pointed out that the bulk of the surplus is due to the excess of the \$10,125,774.00 collected over the estimated 2010-11 vaccine cost of \$8,409,156.00. Dr. Hahn asked whether there was any concern regarding, carrying forward a surplus to the next fiscal year. Board members agreed that so long as all surplus funds are used to purchase vaccines, that the statute does not require a specific spending timeline. Dr. Rainey complemented DHW on the format of the DHW financial report, and thanked DHW for the improvements in these reports over the past year.

The CDC is implementing a new software program which has caused some backorders, canceled orders, and requirements for reordering. CDC is allowing DHW to send vaccines to providers prior to payment, but subsequent payment will be required. There will be an increase in vaccines supplied during 4th quarter because of kindergarten registration and 1st quarter for back to school.

DHW was requested to recommend a target baseline cash balance to provide adequate cash flow throughout the year. Dr. Epperly asked if the money goes into an interest-bearing account. The funds are held in the general fund but use is restricted as detailed by statute. There should be a call to the Treasurer to see if the fund's cash balance generates interest, and if so, where the interest is paid.

Update on Legislation

House Bill 130 passed committee with 1 vote against. The bill passed the House with 5 votes against and now has been referred to the Senate Commerce Committee. It seems the negative votes were from representatives not supportive of vaccines. Thanks to Representative Thompson for sponsoring the bill and to Senator Smyser for supporting the Bill.

HPV and Flu vaccine

The board needs to discuss the important components that will determine the assessment amount for 2011-12, particularly the potential additions of the HPV and/or the Flu vaccines.

Dr. Hahn brought up the issue of whether to provide the HPV vaccine for females only or for both females and males. Because ACIP states that HPV may be given to males, but does not clearly "recommend" HPV for males, insurers are currently not covering males. Dr. Hahn recommends that this issue be reconsidered after an anticipated clarification by ACIP.

Motion: Dr. Hahn moved to provide HPV starting on July 1, 2011 for females only. Dr. Epperly seconded the motion and it carried on a voice vote.

The board discussed whether to provide the Flu vaccine during 2011-12. Some lower-volume providers such as pharmacies, urgent care centers, and specialists are not likely to obtain flu vaccine from the state. In addition, some family practices prefer using only privately-purchased flu vaccine in order to avoid managing 2 flu vaccine stocks (state-supplied for children and privately-purchased for adults). These providers will still continue to administer privately purchased flu vaccine, and bill carriers for those vaccines. The CDC requires that DHW pre-book the Flu vaccine, which obligates DHW to pay for the pre-booked amount. Normally the pre-booking is required by March 1st but because of the problems with the CDC's new software, the usual March 1st deadline has been extended. The number of flu vaccines provided in each season varies for numerous reasons, including the season onset, severity of the season, publicity, and recommendations (which have been expanding). The 2009-10 seasons were a particular anomaly because of H1N1. There are only partial numbers for the current season and

because of this and the unpredictability, Mitch Scoggins DHW, is not confident in a prediction for the total numbers for the 2010-11 season.

There is a need to educate providers and phase in providing more state-supplied Flu vaccine to providers over time. There was concern that there will be double payment (carriers paying for privately-purchased flu vaccine for assessed children), which may result in some push back from Employers and Insurance Companies. The state program has provided flu vaccine for insured children to some providers, and this 2010-11 supply was funded primarily by one-time federal funds. An option would be to allow providers who currently use the State vaccine supply to continue that use, but allow other providers to continue to buy private stock. DHW estimated that this option would cost less than \$250,000.

Motion: Dr. Epperly moved to allow up to \$250,000 for the pre-booking/purchase of the Flu vaccine for the 2011-12 seasons for providers that previously have used State program flu vaccine. Dr. Hahn seconded and the motion passed on a voice vote.

DHW reviewed multiple HPV scenarios which assumed providing HPV to females only, continuation of the current higher use of Gardasil by providers, and an estimate of continued vaccine cost increase. The DHW analysis included claims data for HPV supplied by both Blue Cross and Regence. Both DHW and the Board felt that Scenario 4 is the most likely scenario.

DHW requested final survey numbers a week before the next meeting. Sandy Metro-DOI does not see a problem with getting the numbers because the extensions are due March 10th.

There have been some minor changes to ACIP recommendations for vaccines over the past year, including a new recommended dose of Meningitis vaccine added for teenagers and expansion of the Dtap recommendation. None of these changes are significant enough to warrant separate consideration by the Board. Tamarie Olson-DHW provided a table with projections for vaccine funding needed. The Board will consider this and discuss at the next meeting.

Provider Education

After the votes earlier in this meeting finalizing the 2011-12 coverage of HPV (females only) and flu vaccine, provider education can be resumed, including a provider news article. Payers are very interested in coordinating with the DHW on the provider education. Sending the information out to the IMA and to the Idaho chapters of the American Academy of Family Physicians and the American Academy of Pediatrics will help get the word out. Dr. Epperly also suggested sending the information to the Nurse Practitioner group. A draft article directed to the providers will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Website

The draft page aimed at the Carriers needs to be updated to reflect coverage of HPV and flu as finalized during this meeting. Sandy will send the current version out for revisions which will be reviewed at the next meeting. Sandy Metro would like for the review of the Carrier article to be completed at the next meeting so that it can be included with the Assessment notice. Ample communication and education will promote success of the program.

New Business

Shad Priest-DOI stated that the DOI does not anticipate a need to contract for outside Administrative services for the Immunization Fund. Sandy Metro- DOI and Naoko Weigelt-DOI feel that they can continue to handle everything in-house at this time. Any administrative help needed would be part time. Unless there are new issues or glitches where outside help would be needed the DOI does not anticipate any administrative costs. Once the amendment bill is passed and signed into law, the Board needs to set up a procedure if outside administrative services are needed. Collectively, the Board thanks the Department of Insurance and Sandy and Naoko for all their hard work as well as everyone at DHW for their support.

Next Meeting

Monday, March 21, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. at DHW

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Minutes by Susan Livengood, DOI.

Revised by, Chairman Richard Rainey, M.D.