

Idaho Immunization Assessment Board  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, April 11, 2012  
Department of Insurance

**Board Members Present:**

- Richard Rainey, M.D. – Regence BlueShield of Idaho – Chair
- Jack Myers – Blue Cross of Idaho – Vice Chair
- Tim Callender – AmeriBen/IEC Group
- Bill Deal, Director DOI
- Christine Hahn, M.D. – Department of Health & Welfare
- Sen. Melinda Smyser – Idaho Senate
- Pat Armstrong – Idaho Sand and Gravel
- Ted Epperly, M.D. - Family Practice Residency
- Rep. Jeff Thompson (via conference call)

**Board Members Absent:**

**Others Present:**

- Sandy Metro – DOI
- Mitch Scoggins - Immunization Program Manager (H&W)
- Tamarie Olson-H & W
- Gina McBride, Consumer Services Bureau Chief, DOI

**Call to Order:** Chairman Rainey called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

**Introduction:** Introduction of new board member (pending signed agreement) of Tim Callendar

**Approval of Minutes from 3/16/11**

**MOTION:** Mr. Myers moved that the minutes of the meeting of 3/16/11 be approved as written. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion. Motion passed on a voice vote.

**Reports – Update of Survey & Billings**

Chairman Rainey reminded the Board of the importance of the regular reporting of budgeted revenue based on the assessment sent out, any significant changes in the survey results, and for a more detailed revenue reporting mechanism to avoid the type of confusion that was exhibited at the last meeting.

Sandy Metro informed the Board that the current number of children reported on the survey was 210,917 as of 4/11/2012, which is about 10,000 more than had been reported in last year's survey. No significant drops in numbers reported by any large carriers were observed and all large employers have reported on this year's survey. Chairman Rainey noted the fact that all of the revenue receipts should have been received to close out the 2011-2012 budget year and that no additional money is due. Sandy confirmed.

Sandy Metro apprised Board members of the Revenue and Auditing spreadsheet that was created for the purpose of tracking revenue by the DOI and the reporting mechanism which has been approved by Dr. Hahn and Mitch Scroggins of Health & Welfare. Director Deal stated that the refined spreadsheet and procedures in place will allow for a comprehensive double check on all monies received and by whom it is sent to alleviate the nervousness felt at last month's meeting. Chairman Rainey requested a regular report on revenue be sent to the Board members 1 or two weeks after the quarterly payments are due.

**Financial Update from H & W**

Tamarie Olson reported that from Health and Welfares stand point, we are still on target to spend the original assessment revenue. After a discussion with Sandy Metro, it is determined that one more deposit is anticipated for the 2011-2012

assessment which will push the revenue slightly over the projected assessment amount; not a shortfall as previously thought and discussed at last month's Board meeting. Ms. Olson reiterated that H & W is on track to spend the original projected assessment amount by the end of the State fiscal year. Jack Myers commented on the May 1<sup>st</sup> deposit and it was noted that all deposits are transferred from the DOI to H & W at the end of each month.

#### **Tricare Update**

Director Deal confirmed that a letter was sent out to all four members of the Congressional delegation and that no reply had been received. After a month and one-half, a follow up was conducted; some via telephone to their staff members but no responses or updates are available at this time. Dr. Ted Epperly inquired about other states also involved with this issue. Mitch Scoggins provided new information to those Board members not present at last month's meeting and a recap for those in attendance at last month's meeting. Mitch said the small consortium of three other states show no movement at the policy level. The State of Washington had received some payments from TriCare. Chairman Rainey clarified that Washington's payment process bills on a case by case basis and the reason for payment could be because they are seen as being a provider.

Senator Melinda Smyser offered to be a contact for this issue and is willing to follow up as she has accepted a new position working for Senator Jim Risch. Chairman Rainey reiterated that this is not an isolated issue in Idaho but at least ten other states may have a vested interest in resolving this problem with TriCare. Mitch Scoggins will put together a packet to include letters sent to the Pentagon outlining the issue, any responses from the Pentagon, and a detailed historical background of the issue for Senator Risch's review. Dr. Ted Epperly reminded the Board of the fact that this is an accountability issue. People are receiving a service that is not being paid for and the cost is being carried by others because of TriCare's unwillingness to pay and the State of Idaho should be persistent in the pursuit of payments due.

#### **New Business – Discuss and Determine 2012-13 Assessment**

Mitch Scoggins provided two different proposal spreadsheets for calculating the 2012-13 assessment per child amount. Proposal A assumes a similar behavior from last year plus 12%. In proposal B, males and females seeking vaccines will exhibit the same behavior. (No cost barrier) Dr. Ted Epperly commented that proposal A will be much closer to accurate than proposal B and there will not be an absolute across the board uptake in males; in fact it will be slower than the projected 12%. Dr. Ted Epperly expressed the ideas that a lack of general public knowledge, parents on the fence, and providers on the fence would contribute to the slower than projected increase in HPV for males. Dr. Hahn commented that the new 7<sup>th</sup> grade vaccination requirements for Tetanus and Meningitis may influence HPV male vaccination rates even though it is not part of the requirements.

Jack Myers opened up a discussion about shelf life of the vaccine. Dr. Hahn reiterated the fact that this may not change provider behavior because the providers are not financially at risk but the H & W department might be if the providers over order the vaccine. Chairman Rainey commented that the H & W tracks spoilage and wastage to provide feedback on practices that have high rates of wastage and spoilage. Mitch Scoggins confirmed and added if in fact it is due to negligence, a reimbursement procedure would aggressively be enforced. Tamarie Olson reported the amount of unusable vaccine for calendar year 2011 was less than 2%. Mitch Scoggins reported that the CDC, under the VFC program, considers any amount of unusable vaccine below 5% is acceptable.

There was considerable discussion among the Board members about the overall pricing and how much contingencies are added in. Avoiding doubling up on contingencies was another concern; however, most members considered Proposal A's low as generous and therefore not much contingency is needed. Other discussions on the variability factor of 3%, an extensive critique of Mitch Scoggins graph/spreadsheet representations, and an in depth numbers crunch were also carried out by the Board members to arrive at a well-informed decision on the assessment amount per child.

Dr. Ted Epperly inquired about how Idaho's assessment compares to other states. Tamarie Olson responded that information is not generally compared between states. Mitch Scoggins added that all other states have different assessment mechanisms and systems than Idaho.

Mr. Pat Armstrong moved to set the assessment rate at \$79.00. Dr. Ted Epperly seconded. Director Deal asked Chairman Rainey to call for the vote. Chairman Rainey stated the motion on the table is to approve the assessment at \$79 flat per eligible child. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

### **Review of Expiration of Board members Terms and Possible Reappointments**

Mr. Pat Armstrong indicated at the previous Board meeting that he would continue until a replacement for his seat was appointed. Mr. Armstrong's term will expire on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Director Deal confirmed the reappointment of Jack Myers for another full term on the Board. Senator Smyser and Representative Thompson are reappointed until November 30<sup>th</sup>. Chris Pickford from the Boise School District was suggested as a nominee by Chairman Rainey to replace the seat vacated by the WINCO representative who had resigned. Tim Calendar will receive a Letter of Appointment from Director Deal.

### **Sunset Clause**

Chairman Rainey apprised Board members of the need for legislation during the next session in order to continue the Immunization Board beyond the summer of 2013. Director Deal stated that was planning a meeting with David Hawn, Senator Cameron, Senator Lodge, and David Hensley to discuss the next legislation session. Director Deal also suggested that the Board carry on through the next few months until direction from the legislation leadership is obtained.

### **Plan of Operation Revisions**

Chairman Rainey reiterated that the suggested change to the Plan of Operation was to try to avoid the issue of payers changing their Immunization assessment survey results which in turn affects receipts.

Dr. Hahn commented that this is a very unique year so if the program sunsets and payments are in arrears, Health and Welfare would have to absorb the deficit; therefore, the risk of a shortfall of funds or a mistake in reporting must be avoided as there is no way to roll over or adjust next year's payment by a carrier. Dr. Hahn also stated that the Board must maintain the power to say no or deny a reduction or adjustment to avoid a gap in vaccine coverage due to a lack of funding; the emphasis being any adjustments absolutely must be a Board decision on a case by case basis.

Sandy Metro clarified to the Board that there were only three carrier requests for a revision of the assessment numbers which would result in a minimal dollar amount.

The question was posed to the Board as to how many times the Board can meet to discuss readjustments or revisions. Chairman Rainey suggested additional meetings should be based on the carrier's type of error. Mr. Pat Armstrong suggested that a threshold be set for any adjustment over 150 enrollees be brought to the Board. Chairman Rainey concurred that a threshold should be set and this is a standard business practice. Dr. Ted Epperly suggested that after a threshold has been set, any requests over that amount be handled by the Board through e-mail correspondence for a vote. Chairman Rainey proposed the 150 threshold, e-mail correspondence, and a response time be added to the Plan of Operation. Sandy Metro stated that any adjustment to enrollment numbers under the 150 threshold could be approved with a letter from the carrier or group and the Board would be apprised of any change.

Jack Myers proposed that Article 8 of the Plan of Operations be reviewed by the DOI legal department (Tom Donovan) with regards to any proposed change in language. Director Bill Deal stated that with our internal controls in place, changes to the Plan of Operations are not really needed as long as the Board is in agreement that Sandy Metro send an e-mail to the Board with a copy of the letter that was sent to the company. Chairman Rainey stated rather than making a motion for the changes at this point in time, folding that into the overall Plan of Operation revision which has been contemplated for the next Board meeting. Sandy Metro is to send a timeframe request to Chairman Rainey for Board member response time regarding any change request votes.

### **Next meeting**

The next meeting will be May 24th, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. The location will be announced at a later date.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Minutes by Scott Frost

Idaho Department of Insurance

Revised by: Chairman Rich Rainey