

Idaho Immunization Assessment Board
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 23, 2010
Department of Insurance

Board Members Present:

- Richard Rainey, M.D. – Regence BlueShield of Idaho -- Chair
- Jack Myers – Blue Cross of Idaho – Vice Chair
- Pat Armstrong – Idaho Sand and Gravel
- Bill Deal – Director, DOI
- Ted Epperly, M.D. – Family Practice Residency
- Christine Hahn, M.D. – Department of Health & Welfare
- Rep. Jeff Thompson – Idaho House
- Josh Sears – AmeriBen/IEC Group

Board Members Not Present:

- Sen. Melina Smyser – Idaho Senate

Others Present:

- Shad Priest – DOI
- Gina McBride – DOI
- Eileen Mundorff – DOI
- Joan Krosch -- DOI
- Naoko Weigelt – DOI
- Sandy Metro – DOI
- Tamarie Olson – DHW

I. Call to Order by Chair Rich Rainey: Rich called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm. Chris asked to add two items to the agenda: discussion on the upcoming legislative session and vaccines for border children. Moved, approved.

II. Approve Minutes from 7/12/10 Meeting: Ted had one correction to the 7/12/10 minutes, on page 5, 4th paragraph. Change “nominator” to “denominator,” where the first sentence would read: “Director Deal told the board that any additional lives added to the *denominator*...” Moved, approved.

III. Old Business

a. Discuss Plan of Operation and Exhibit A

Rich began with a review of Plan of Operation changes by DOI and DAG staff. First issue: The Board does not have legislative authority to hire an administrator. The 8-23-10 Plan draft includes changes to delete most references to “administrator.” The Board discussed and determined it should not be a difficult legislative change to add the Board’s right to hire and pay for an administrator.

Second issue: The Board has no legislative authority to address vaccine selection, so the Plan cannot include a Board clinical committee to select vaccines. The options are to either have

DHW select vaccines or change the law. Chris expressed concern who has the authority to determine what vaccines must be covered, especially with the high cost of Gardasil. After Board discussion, Chris agreed to review at DHW and bring back a recommendation to the next meeting if a clinical committee should be a part of DHW or be a part of the Board, which would require a legislative change.

Rich asked the Board to review the other language changes in the 8-23-10 draft for the Plan before moving on to the third issue on Exhibit A. Ted suggested one correction on p. 2 on first line of Article 4 to delete the "s" in "committees" to indicate only one committee. Gina distributed additional changes from the DAG staff for Article 10 (now 8) on penalties. For Exhibit C, Gina asked the Board to strike Protocol C for follow-up for past due assessments. The Board gave verbal agreement.

Third issue: Exhibit A on scheduling of assessments on 8-23-10 Plan draft page 9. Scheduling was based on some understanding of DOI reporting requirements and quarterly assessments. Two problems: First, membership often changes on December 31 as plans move to other insurers for a January 1 effective date. Second, next year's first assessment payments aren't due until June 1, 2011. There are fiscal year versus calendar year issues in reporting when the assessments are due from June 30 to July 1 each fiscal year. The Board agreed there was confusion in report timing as the law went into effect in February 2010. The initial intent was funding for February 2010 to June 30, 2010. The next funding cycle is for the fiscal year of July 2010 to June 2011. This understanding helps to resolve the "11/12s" issue for a law that began in February that was thought to require initial funding to December 31, 2010. The fiscal year funding cycle will synch up with the sunset date, July 1, 2013. The first quarterly assessment notice is schedule to go out April 30, and the assessment payment is then due by June 30. The Board agreed the Plan draft should be corrected to read annual assessment billing and quarterly installment billing on April 30, etc.

Jack suggested changing the quarterly assessment billings to a date one month earlier to bring in payments sooner. The Board discussed possible changes:

- Change the date to determine enrollment numbers and birthdates from December 31 to January 31 each year. This change would appear in the top bullet point and third bullet point on page 9 of the 8-23-10 draft.
- The DOI could send enrollment surveys out to carriers on January 1 asking for a snapshot of enrollment numbers as of January 31;
- The carriers would be required to return the surveys by February 28;
- The Board would meet in March to set the assessments;
- Assessment billings would be sent to carriers on March 31, payments due May 31.

There were concerns that carriers may be dealing with multiple DOI reporting requirements, such as annual statements and surveys, all at the same time. Rich suggested the carriers ask internally if they can handle all the reporting requests at the same time, and report back at the next Board meeting. The Board agreed if the date changes are not workable for carriers, the dates will remain as currently written in the 8-23-10 plan draft.

MOVED to approve all Plan of Operation changes included in the 8-23-10 draft and as discussed; approved. Board members asked to see a "track changes" version of all changes discussed today.

b. Third Party Administrator Services

Director Deal thanked Josh Sears for assistance from AmeriBen in administrator service discussions.

c. Status of Carrier Surveys

Gina reported assessment bills were sent to 74 carriers and a majority responded. There have been delays and some push-back from employers and TPAs. Total billed was \$7,779,064. The DOI collected \$533,450 as of August 20, 2010. With the approximately \$2.475 million collected previously from Blue Cross of Idaho, Inc. and Regence BlueShield of Idaho, the total received is \$3,009,110. The goal is to have all 2010 assessments collected by December 31, 2010. However, the DOI must decide what action to take to get all assessments from those entities in disagreement with law. Total number of dependents from DOI surveys is currently 165,512. Jack reported there are another 30,092 known dependents from Blue Cross affiliates surveys, and he is continuing to get updated reports; assessment payments from those Blue Cross companies are due no later than September 30, 2010. Gina mentioned that the Department will handle surveys and assessments for all carriers, including affiliates of carriers doing business in Idaho, for the 2011 assessment, to make certain that the statutory payment periods are properly triggered. Board members asked for written updates from the DOI at each meeting with the number of eligible children and assessments paid or owed.

d. Review of Vaccine Costs

Chris provided a 5-page report with a projected vaccine funding need of \$8,409,156 for FY 2011. Tamarie gave additional information to Board members clarifying vaccine costs and funding. There was discussion about children in border states who come into Idaho and receive vaccines, especially in the Lewiston area. The Board also discussed issues with the possibility of assessing TriWest/TRICARE and GEHA for eligible children in federal programs. The DOI is contacting those entities for information.

IV. New Business**a. Scheduling of Assessments for 2011 – Other DOI Deadlines**

This was covered in earlier discussions on Exhibit A.

V. Other Business**a. Vaccine Assessment Board Clinical Workgroup Meeting of 7/29/10**

Chris reviewed the minutes from the 7/29/10 meeting. The workgroup asked for the Fund to cover flu vaccine next season. The workgroup also thought the Washington approach on billings was too burdensome to physicians. The Board is grateful to the workgroup's work, and will offer thanks in writing if the workgroup's role with the Board is ended as may be determined at the next meeting.

b. Legislative changes needed

The Board discussed the proposed legislative changes needed:

- Allow for the hiring of an administrator for the Fund.
- Allow the Board to select vaccine types (not specific brands) or specific diseases to be included in the Fund, which would allow the Board to have a clinical committee. This change will depend on what Chris can determine from DHW discussions.

The DOI has approval to include Assessment Board legislation in the DOI's legislative package; however, legislative drafts from state agencies are due September 18, 2010. Shad offered to do preliminary drafts and will provide those by the next Board meeting.

VI. Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 14, 2010 at 1:30 pm at the DOI. Please send agenda items to Gina by September 8.

VII. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Minutes by Eileen Mundorff, DOI. Adopted September 14, 2010.