

Idaho Immunization Assessment Board
Board Meeting Minutes – **Draft**
Friday, January 14, 2011
Department of Insurance

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

- Pat Armstrong – Idaho Sand and Gravel
- Ted Epperly, M.D. - Family Practice Residency
- Rep. Jeff Thompson – Idaho House of Representatives

Others Present:

- Gina McBride – DOI
- Sandy Metro – DOI
- Mitch Scoggins - Immunization Program Manager (H&W)
- Tamarie Olson
- Shad Priest - DOI Deputy Director

Call to Order: Chairman Rainey called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

Sandy Metro introduced Richard Burleigh, a new Deputy Attorney General assigned to the DOI.

Approval of Minutes from 12/6/2010:

MOTION: Mr. Myers moved that the minutes of the meeting of 12/06/10 be approved as revised. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hahn. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Reports

Ms. Metro announced that there was no new news on the TriCare issue, nor were there further conversations with Senator Risch's office. It was suggested that she attempt another avenue to open discussions with his office.

The Chairman requested that Ms. Metro forward any communication she received from federal officials to him.

Ms. Metro discussed the year end financials. It was reported that \$56,212 was transferred to DHW for December 2010. Total transferred to date was \$10,101,099.

She noted that there were 3 Blue Cross companies that refused to participate in the survey/assessment, and said that the Department was preparing legal action against these companies.

Mr. Myers inquired if the survey was sent to self-insured groups. Deputy Director Priest noted that the Department has no jurisdiction over self-insured groups and therefore does not track them.

There was some concern that there might be a duplication of assessments in dealing with some of these companies. The Chairman noted that every effort had been made to make sure that the process was smooth and non-duplicative. He said that the Board's preference was to bill the carrier, who could in turn bill the administering company. This avoids the possibility of double billing.

Financial Update from DHW

Dr. Hahn presented a handout. She said that her department (Health & Welfare) had used the funds wisely. She believes that there will be surplus funds at the end of the fiscal year and additional vaccinations may be included in the program – HPV and flu are a possibility.

Mr. Myers noted that carriers are very interested in some sort of consistency. They need a relatively stable dollar amount from year to year so planning can be more predictable.

Senator Smyser inquired how the Department determines the dollar amount needed. The Chairman noted that this figure is based on past experience with vaccination numbers and a percentage increase. Dr. Hahn noted that the survey results in March will be very helpful in determining the needs and funds necessary to implement the program.

Update on Legislation Presented to Health Care Task Force

Deputy Director Priest presented a copy of the proposed legislation. He said that during a meeting of the Health Care Task Force, a representative of the Idaho Association of Health Plans (IAHP) has expressed some concern with language on page 2 of the RS. The IAHP prefers for the legislation to directly reference PPACA-required rather than ACIP-recommended. Deputy Director Priest emphasized that the current language in the bill reflects ACIP-recommended provisions of PPACA. He noted that the Idaho Medical Association concurs with the current language.

The Chairman pointed out that the Board already determined to recommend the current RS language. (minutes of Board meeting 12/6/10). He recommends that the Board keep the current language. There was general agreement to do so.

HPV

Ms. Olson circulated a handout on HPV vaccines. The handout presents a variety of scenarios with differing assumptions and facts. Each scenario presents figures for females' and males' HPV vaccinations. Each scenario projects costs based on the facts and assumptions indicated. She noted that Gardasil had been used as the vaccine of choice for cost comparisons. The Chairman asked what the total number of females to be covered was. Ms. Olson said that her figures only cited VFC numbers; the number of insured girls receiving the vaccine was not available. Dr. Hahn said that she would greatly appreciate any data that the carriers could provide so that she could include those girls who were insured along with VFC recipients. The Chairman asked that for consistency, DHW specifically define the data requested.

There was some discussion regarding ACIP's "permissive" rather than "recommended" language used for HPV vaccination of males. ACIP has a clear HPV recommendation for females. ACIP does not "recommend" HPV for males, but indicates that HPV may be given to males. Dr. Hahn said that a new guideline will be published by the federal government which indicates this vaccination is recommended for males – it is expected that the permissive language will be replaced with a recommendation. The Chairman requested that Dr. Hahn distribute the new language to the members of the Board as soon as it becomes available. Mr. Sears noted that this issue does not need to be addressed at this time because of the timing when new plans are issued. The Chairman suggested that the Board follow ACIP recommendations as closely as it can.

Flu

Ms. Olson presented a handout showing costs associated with the 2010-2011 flu season. She noted that these figures are very preliminary and reflect VFC funding and some other sources.

Senator Smyser asked if there had been any statewide marketing done to alert Idaho citizens to the availability of the flu vaccine. Would flu vaccination rates increase with more statewide promotion? Dr. Hahn noted that the flu season is somewhat unpredictable. Parents will generally vaccinate their children in anticipation of the flu season.

The Chairman recommended that the Board review all these documents in between meetings. The issue is complex and the numbers can be confusing.

Ms. Metro noted that the Board should begin work on determining the 2011 assessments amount around the first part of March. The Chairman suggested that the Board members agree on program components at the next meeting. Components to be addressed include HPV and the timing of including HPV, whether the program will cover HPV for females only, and the flu vaccine.

Dr. Hahn suggested that the Board meet twice in March – perhaps the first week in March to discuss preliminary numbers and the legislation proposed by the DOI. The second meeting could be in mid-March to determine a final assessment.

Website

The Chairman said that the website contains good information. He suggested a separate page for carriers and circulated a draft carrier page for input. Any input could be incorporated before or during the next meeting.

Ms. Metro said that she had received requests for extension on survey replies. She would like direction from the Board whether she could grant extensions. She recommends that any extensions be limited to a due date of March 10, 2011 for anyone requesting them.

MOTION: Director Deal moved that the DOI could grant survey extensions, but the deadline would be March 10, 2011. Mr. Myers seconded the MOTION. MOTION carried by voice vote.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be March 7, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. in the Department of Insurance.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:39 a.m.

Minutes by Teresa Jones
Idaho Department of Insurance

Revised by Dr. Richard Rainey, Chairman