

Idaho Immunization Assessment Board
Board Meeting Minutes – Draft
Monday, June 6, 2011
Department of Insurance

Board Members Present:

- Richard Rainey, M.D. – Regence BlueShield of Idaho – Chair
- Jack Myers – Blue Cross of Idaho – Vice Chair
- Josh Sears – AmeriBen/IEC Group
- Sen. Melinda Smyser – Idaho Senate
- Bill Deal, Director DOI
- Gina Mulkey - WinCo Foods
- Ted Epperly, M.D. - Family Practice Residency
- Pat Armstrong – Idaho Sand and Gravel

Board Members Absent:

- Rep. Jeff Thompson – Idaho House of Representatives
- Christine Hahn , M.D. – Department of Health & Welfare

Others Present:

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

Call to Order: Chairman Rainey called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from 3/7/11

Dr. Epperly noted a clerical error on page 2. In the third paragraph, the assessment figure is noted as \$11,693.205. The figure should read \$11,693,205. A comma should be inserted before “205”.

MOTION: Mr. Sears moved that the minutes be approved as amended. Dr. Epperly seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Reports – Update of survey & billings

Ms. Metro said that the annual notices and assessments had been mailed out, and a total of \$5,451,409 has been received. This figure reflects 4 payments from carriers who elected to pay their assessments quarterly. There are 20 carriers who are past due or who are in arrears. She noted that the largest outstanding amount (\$667,000) is owed by Anthem. The next largest sum is \$65,000. She said that there has been some pushback from TPA’s who believe that they are not subject to Idaho regulatory authority. She noted information had been sent to all carriers which included a letter from the Attorney General declaring that TPA’s were in fact responsible for this assessment.

Mr. Myers inquired about the Blue Cross Blue Shield plans in Louisiana, Kansas and Wyoming. Ms. Metro said that the Wyoming plan had submitted its payment under protest. Kansas will submit the surveys from 2010 and 2011. Louisiana had not submitted any surveys nor any assessments. She noted that the 2010 indicated only 163 members enrolled in the Louisiana plan.

Financial Update from DHW

Tamarie Olson, speaking on behalf of Dr. Hahn (who was not able to attend the meeting) began her presentation by noting that an unintentional glitch in the legislative budgeting process had reduced the DHW spending authority by some \$1.8 million during the 2010-11 fiscal year. This will be re-captured in the 2011-12 budget effective July 1, 2011. This will delay some vaccine program payments, but not the total amount of payments. Mitch Scoggins emphasized that this is truly a bookkeeping issue and the vaccine program will not see any decrease in the service provided by DHW. The DHW report is attached.

Dr. Epperly inquired if Dr. Hahn was attending a national Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) conference and Ms. Olson replied that she was. Dr. Epperly asked whether the recommendation to include males in HPV vaccinations would be discussed and she replied that it would be discussed.

Update on implementation of 2011 legislation

Shad Priest reminded the Board of the legislation passed by the 2011 legislature: the ability of the Board to consult with outside entities, the assignment of administrative services, the ability to assess an annual fee for vaccinations, and adoption of CDC guidelines on recommended vaccines.

Concerning the Plan of Operation, he said that there did not appear to be any conflicts with this legislation, and he suggested an update to reflect the actual practices of the Board.

Provider Notification Update

The Chairman presented a draft explanation of the mission and procedures of the Assessment Fund directed to providers which had been revised since the last board meeting reflecting the input of providers. He noted that a condensed "Summary" had been included to in the draft based on provider input. He suggested that it be included in DHW, DOI, and carrier websites, and any newsletter distributed by DHW or carriers.

Tricare update from DHW

Mitch Scoggins updated the Board on his efforts to resolve the Tricare refusal to participate in the program. He said that he had consulted with several states and all had the same problem with Tricare. He said that others had engaged an attorney to resolve this. The attorney said that he felt the best solution would be federal legislation. Mr. Scoggins noted that Idaho had not contributed to payment for any legal services to resolve this.

Mr. Scoggins noted that DHW had received written permission from CDC to pay Tricare vaccination costs from a non-VFC funding source.

Dr. Epperly noted that Tricare's refusal to participate in the survey means that local providers bear the brunt of the problem in deciding which children qualify for state-sponsored vaccines. He believes that not including Tricare children in the total survey numbers falsely skews the survey results, and by extension the assessments. Mr. Scoggins replied that the Tricare children are funded separately and would not affect the survey results. The Chairman suggested that the Board re-visit this problem next year, with the number of Tricare patients noted specifically.

Mr. Scoggins replied that DHW is in the process of developing a new system for providers. It will include a drop-down menu listing those companies insuring Idaho residents. Since there are many health insurance companies doing business in Idaho, he would like the ability to list them in the order of numbers of members insured. This would make it easier for providers to quickly select the company that applies to a particular patient. He requested that the DOI provides survey results to DHW so that this ordered list could be developed. Specifically, this would allow DHW to select the top ten companies to place as selections, with an "other" to include the rest. This would

allow DHW to select the top ten companies to place as selections, with an "Other" to include the rest. This would also allow Tricare to be placed in the selections and provide DHW with a better picture of how many Tricare patients have been served and where. Mr. Myers noted that these figures have already been made public. Director Deal agreed with Mr. Myers and noted that the DOI lists the top 20 health insurance companies on its website.

There was further discussion about federal legislation to resolve the Tricare problem. Dr. Epperly strongly suggested that Senator Crapo and Rep. Simpson are well-placed to move this issue forward. He said that military families depend on the community to support them while their relatives are abroad serving their country. The federal government is ultimately responsible for these people and it should step up to bear its share of the vaccine cost. He strongly suggests that Idaho join Washington, New Hampshire and Maine in resolving this issue, and believes a letter to our Idaho delegation on this matter would be a good start. Sen. Smyser suggested that all the information on the problem be gathered and then presented to our delegation. Mr. Sears pointed out that the Board has the authority to consult with outside experts on Board business – (H130) 41-6005 (e). Director Deal suggested that a letter and face-to-face meeting with our delegation would be appropriate.

MOTION: Mr. Armstrong moved to authorize Board staff and the Director of the Department of Insurance to consult with our legislators and other appropriate persons on this matter. Mr. Sears seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Other old business

Dr. Epperly inquired about the status of vaccinating males for HPV and whether HPV is to be given only to females this budget year. Mr. Armstrong replied that this is the case, but he would support vaccinating males. The Chairman noted that if ACIP changes to recommend HPV for males and there is a surplus during 2011-12, this might provide an opportunity to vaccinate males.

Review proposed changes to Plan of Operations

The Chairman suggested that the Board review the current Plan of Operations and forward any suggestions to Ms. Metro. Any changes could be discussed at the next Board meeting. Mr. Priest said that any changes made in the operations of the Board by 2011 legislation are not reflected in the current Plan of Operation. He said that this is an opportunity to correct any inconsistencies in the way the Board operates. He said that he would coordinate with the DOI's Deputy Attorney General and the DOI fiscal officer to address any concerns.

The Chairman noted that the annual CDC vaccine price list is published very soon after the current date for the determination of the annual assessment. He suggests that the assessment be determined after publication of the annual CDC vaccine price list so that the updated prices could be used in calculating the assessment. This would also give companies more than the current few weeks to reply to the survey.

Ms. Metro noted that there is a provision for an annual election of officers and the Board has not yet fulfilled this provision for this year. The Chairman suggested that an election of officers should take place at the next meeting.

Ms. Metro also pointed out that on page 2, there is a requirement that the Board meet each year. She said that since the Board meets regularly throughout the year, this provision is superfluous. Dr. Epperly pointed out that as the Board moves through organizing the program, it might very well reach the point where only less frequent meetings will be necessary. Keeping this requirement would ensure that the Board would meet at least once a year to review survey results and set assessments. The Chairman suggested that wording be inserted to indicate that an annual meeting would occur, at which time annual assessments would be set.

The Chairman said that any changes in the Plan should be forwarded to Ms. Metro at least 2 weeks prior to the next Board meeting, and she will incorporate any planned changes into the Plan at least 1 week prior to the next meeting and distribute the revised draft to board members for their review prior to the next meeting.

Next meeting

The Chairman said that the next Board meeting will review any changes in the Plan of Operation, will hold election of officers, and will hear a DHW update from Dr. Hahn on HPV recommendations and other changes.

The next meeting will be 9/12/11 at 1:30 in Conference Room A in the DOI offices.

Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Armstrong moved that the meeting adjourn. Mr. Sears seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

Minutes by Teresa Jones

Idaho Department of Insurance