

Idaho Immunization Assessment Board
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 21, 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
- Bill Deal, Director DOI
- Ted Epperly, M.D. - Family Practice Residency

Board Members Absent:

- Pat Armstrong – Idaho Sand and Gravel
- Rep. Jeff Thompson – Idaho House of Representatives
- Sen. Melinda Smyser – Idaho Senate
- Gina Mulkey - WinCo Foods

Others Present:

- Sandy Metro – DOI
- Mitch Scoggins - Immunization Program Manager (H&W)
- Tamarie Olson
- Naoko Weigelt - DOI

Call to Order: Chairman Rainey called the meeting to order when a quorum was reached at 8:46 a.m.

Approval of Minutes from 3/7/11

Dr. Hahn wished to clarify her comments quoted in the minutes regarding the HPV vaccine. She noted that at this time, ACIP has issued a recommendation that females should be immunized, but that males might also be a candidate for the vaccine. She expects that ACIP will issue a recommendation, in June, that both males and females should receive the vaccine. Dr. Hahn's comments were more accurately reflected in the draft minutes by omitting a phrase, and that a change was suggested.

MOTION: Mr. Myers moved that the minutes be approved with the change noted above. Dr. Hahn seconded the MOTION. The MOTION passed on a voice vote.

Update of survey and billings

Ms. Metro announced a total of 200,948 program eligible children have been reported. She noted that there are a few carriers who have not yet responded, but she believed that this number would be useful for the purpose of determining assessments for FY2011-2012. She suggested that the Board "round up" the number to 201,000. This rounded number would conservatively adjust for any additional children that could come from the carriers who have not yet responded.

Update on proposed amendment legislation – H130

DOI Director Deal announced that this legislation had passed through committees in the House and the Senate with little or no opposition, and no amendments, and was awaiting the Governor's signature to be signed into law.

Dr. Epperly wished to express his gratitude to the Senators and Representatives who had assisted in the passage of the bill.

Determining per child assessment amount, based on review of 2011 survey results

Mitch Scoggins presented the components of developing the average per-child cost of vaccines. He noted that the figures in his table currently represented a total population of 209,948, and the Board had decided earlier in the meeting to use 201,000 as the population figure. The attached copy reflects the amounts based on the 201,000 figure. He noted that the final FY 2011-12 assessment would be \$11,693,205 and 45.30% of Idaho children would be covered by this assessment. This results in a \$58.18 per-child assessment for FY2011-2012. There was discussion that perhaps this assessment did not account for a price increase in vaccines. Mr. Scoggins noted that the prices used in these calculations were based on best estimates, and did include estimated price increases.

Members of the Committee commented on the contingency fund built into the assessment. Mr. Scoggins said that he had consulted with the state of Massachusetts to determine whether such a figure should be included in the budget. The officials in that state noted that they had a several year history of this funding and felt that a 3% figure was appropriate. He had also attempted to contact New Hampshire, who had a longer history of this kind of assessment, but was unable to obtain an answer from that state. This contingency fund would be of some value if the price of vaccines should be higher than anticipated. The Chairman suggested that this item be labeled "vaccine price variation adjustment factor".

There was some discussion among Board members whether including a contingency fund was in the Plan of Operations. The Chairman suggested that the Board add language in the next revision of the Plan of Operation allowing a contingency fund, specifically noting that monies collected in one fiscal year could be used for vaccines in another fiscal year.

In continuing with his analysis of the population numbers and assessments to be derived from them, Mr. Scoggins noted that the surplus funds collected were not accruing any interest. He also noted that the Department had used the \$250,000 target for influenza vaccine established at the last meeting of the Board.

There was a consensus that the assessment for FY2011-2012 be \$58.18 per program eligible child.

Dr. Epperly inquired about the status of Tri Care in these calculations. Ms. Metro said that she had exhausted every avenue in attempting to reach anyone of authority at Tri Care. Tri Care's policy is to honor individual claims after the fact. They refuse to participate in this program. Dr. Epperly commented that this could present a problem for providers since some Tri Care children receive vaccines from community-based providers rather than at a military base. It would be difficult for providers to plan for these children, and keep a separate stock for them. The figures that Mr. Scoggins presented did not include Tri Care children. However, Dr. Epperly argued that the vaccines used for these children were still part of the cost of the program. His concern was for the individual provider who would provide vaccines for Tri Care children out of state stocks, and then be out of compliance with state program guidelines because Tri Care was not part of the state program. He did not want to single out Tri Care patients, he simply wanted the individual provider to be aware of this problem.

The Chairman asked for Board approval of Mr. Scoggins report and the recommended assessment of \$58.18 per child. Dr. Epperly expressed concern over this issue. He would like to see the Tri Care issue clarified. Director Deal said that Ms. Metro had truly contacted everyone possible and had received no further information. The Chairman suggested that a note regarding Tri Care be inserted into the language to be distributed to the carriers. Dr. Hahn indicated that her department would look into options for providing vaccines for TriCare beneficiaries, and that she

would report back at a future meeting. Dr. Hahn further asked that the Board defer any action specific to Tri Care until this report.

MOTION: Dr. Epperly moved that the Board approve the report presented by Mr. Scoggins. Mr. Myers seconded the MOTION. MOTION passed on a voice vote.

MOTION: Dr. Epperly moved that the assessment for FY2011-2012 be \$58.18 per program-eligible child. Mr. Myers seconded the MOTION. The MOTION passed on a voice vote.

Provider Education communication

The Chairman presented two documents – Idaho Immunization Program Update, and Information for Carriers about the Idaho Immunization Assessment.

Regarding the first document, Dr. Hahn suggested the title “Idaho Immunization Assessment Fund Update. The Chairman suggested that the bracketed comment in the last paragraph of the first page be removed, and the last word on the first page be changed from “ingredients” to “products.

It was suggested that the last bullet point – to change from “It is improper...” to “It is illegal”, since any provider who charges for free vaccine received from state stocks is violating state regulations. Members of the Board suggested other language that was less harsh. There was a concern that a well-meaning provider could inadvertently provide vaccines for Tri Care children and be punished for a mistake. Other members noted that this document is intended as a “template” that carriers will use in notifying providers of the program.

MOTION: Mr. Myers moved that the title of the document be changed to “Idaho Immunization Assessment Fund Update”. Dr. Epperly seconded the MOTION. The MOTION passed on a voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Myers moved that “improper” be replaced with “illegal”, and “ingredients” be replaced with “products. The MOTION passed on a voice vote. Dr. Epperly wished to be recorded as voting NO – he objected to “illegal”. He believes the word is too strong and implies an intent to defraud.

A copy of the revised document is attached.

Regarding the document titled “Information for Carriers about the Idaho Immunization Board”, the Chairman suggested that the adopted assessment figure of \$58.18 be inserted into the fifth paragraph. He also suggested that “most” be replaced by “many” in the second to last paragraph. He suggested the addition of a sentence at the end of that paragraph to read “A list of providers using state supplied influenza vaccines will be available on the Assessment Board website at:

http://www.doi.idaho.gov/company/immuneassess/immunization_assessment.aspx

MOTION: Mr. Myer moved that this document be amended as described above. Dr. Hahn seconded the MOTION. The MOTION passed on a voice vote.

A copy of this revised document is attached.

Director Deal expressed his gratitude to Ms. Metro, Ms. Weigelt, and Mr. Scoggins for their hard work in gathering this information.

Next meeting

The Chairman suggested that the next meeting deal with revising the Plan of Operation. Revisions are necessary due to passage of HB130 and several other opportunities for revisions have been identified. The next meeting will be June 6 at 1:00 p.m. at the Department of Insurance.

Adjournment

MOTION: Dr. Hahn moved that the Board adjourn. Mr. Myers seconded the MOTION. MOTION passed on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Minutes by Teresa Jones
Idaho Department of Insurance

Revised by Chairman, Rich Rainey