

Idaho Immunization Assessment Board
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 24, 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 (via conference call)
- Chris Pickford – Boise School District
- Susan Rhoades – Jackson Food Stores
- 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
- Dr. Anthony Lim

Call to Order: Chairman Rainey called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.

Introduction: Introduction of new board members Chris Pickford and Susan Rhoades.

Dr. Epperly introduced his guest Dr. Anthony Lim, a Family resident in his 2nd year of training. He will be observing Board proceedings.

Approval of Minutes from 4/11/12

Dr. Christine Hahn requested two minor changes be made to the minutes taken from the Board meeting of 4-11-2012.

1) Under New Business, 4th paragraph down...Dr. Ted Epperly inquired about Idaho's costs. Correction to be noted: add the word Assessment in place of costs...compared to other states.

2) Page 3, under Sunset clause, states that Director Deal has a meeting scheduled...Correction to be noted: Director Deal was planning a meeting with...

An additional change was requested by Tim Callender to have his last name correctly spelled on the minutes from 4-11-2012.

MOTION: Vice Chair Myers moved to approve minutes with the corrections as discussed. Mr. Tim Callender seconded the motion. Motion was passed on a voice vote.

Reports – Update of Survey & Billings

Ms. Sandy Metro opened with a review of the survey and billing status. Ms. Metro also stated that a hard copy of the data report is available if requested by the Board members and furthermore; this report was the first attempt to provide this type of information to the Board; therefore, any suggestions for changes to the content or format was encouraged to help the development of the report for future meetings.

Chairman Rainey suggested that moving forward Ms. Metro should include quarterly payments received with the next Board meeting report. Year to date actual and year to date budgeted for revenues of the quarterly periods should also be included.

Dr. Christine Hahn stressed the importance of keeping the expected total amount to be received by end-of-year separately due to slight changes from possible carrier appeals of their assessed amounts.

Ms. Metro apprised the Board members of the increase of inquiries by carriers with regards to the rate increase and that the information sheet supplied by the Board helped to explain the reasons behind the rate increase.

Financial Update from H & W

Tamarie Olson reported Health and Welfare is still on target to spend the anticipated assessment revenue and also anticipate a carry-forward for next year of approximately \$600,000. There is about \$400,000 left to spend this year and the Dept. of Health and Welfare will continue to purchase vaccines.

Chairman Rainey reminded the Board that the next major change prior to the next Board meeting will be the availability of the HPV to males beginning July 1st. Chairman Rainey and Dr. Epperly summarized and clarified the calculations of fee determinants of expected vaccine costs for the fiscal year and the procedures or mechanisms involved in the purchase of vaccines for children in the state of Idaho.

Mr. Mitch Scoggins added that the previous 24 months of actual vaccine costs are averaged then they add in new recommendations such as the HPV for males or the Meningococcal vaccine that was changed from a single dose to two doses now. The CDC renegotiates the contract with the vaccine manufacturers in the first quarter of each year. The cost is built off a base of actual Idaho immunization practices for a 12 month period and averaged over a couple of years but does not take into account behavior such as vaccine uptake and also factors in brand utilization.

Vice Chair Myers added that a natural tension exists between funding the program adequately and keeping the cost as low as possible because the cost is billed out to the carriers. The Board tends to take a more conservative approach on the assumptions so that a carry-over each year is expected rather than leaving the Dept. of Health & Welfare with a short fall.

Tricare Update

Director Deal reiterated that Senator Smyser begins her new position with Senator Jim Risch on or about June 1st.

Chairman Rainey and Dr. Epperly provided explanations and clarifications for Board members. Tricare is for active military. Tricare also maintains the position that the Idaho Immunization program is not an eligible expense and therefore are unwilling to pay the assessed fees even though some of their covered children in Idaho are receiving the vaccines for free.

Sunset Clause

Director Deal provided an update as to his telephone conference and meeting with Senator Cameron. It is Senator Cameron's opinion that the Board move forward under the assumption that the Sunset clause is removed and the Immunization program is continued. The basis for this opinion is the fact that the General fund is not particularly healthy at this point and drawing funds for the Immunization program would not be feasible. Director Deal went on to state that legislation should come from the Board and the DOI would include this legislation in its submission to the governor on the suggested stage by September 1st.

Dr. Epperly suggested that a draft piece of legislation be created by the Board to give each Board member an opportunity to make comments, give feedback, and modify. This would benefit Representatives and Senators to take forward as legislation with a draft vehicle already in place. Director Deal added that the legislation would be a very simple amendment to essentially remove the Sunset clause and any changes as amendments to the current legislation would also be need to be contained in this bill.

Vice Chair Myers added further comments about the past Blue Cross analysis on costs versus savings. He noted a 35% savings last year on the cost of the vaccines and other advantages of the program such as inventory management of vaccines. With the significant cost increase of the vaccine this year, another analysis of the savings discount is needed. What are all the advantages of the program and with all these out on the table, does it make sense to go forward with the program.

Dr. Hahn suggested re-engaging the insurers (Health Plans) to remind them that the Sunset clause is approaching and for them to re-examine the program, do the math with regards to cost/savings calculations. Dr. Epperly added that widespread industry support would be very helpful.

Director Deal stated that if the Board decides to go forward with the suggested changes to be made and the removal of the Sunset clause, it would be prudent to use Sandy Metro's list to send a three year program summary to let the insurers know the intent and the reasons to continue forward with the program.

Mr. Tim Callender suggested usage versus wastage data be included to help carriers determine if the program makes sense from a cost/savings versus usage perspective. Chairman Rainey agreed and suggested this be an added paragraph for the summary sent out to the carriers.

Chairman Rainey summarized the Sunset clause discussion: (1) At the end of this meeting, the next Board meeting will be scheduled in mid-August to meet the legislation submission to the Governor deadline of September 1st. (2) The New business items will then be to review the new proposed legislation with respect to the removal of the Sunset clause and review the legislation to see if there are any glaring deficiencies that need to be addressed.

New Business – BC/BS Montana

Ms. Sandy Metro gave the Board background information regarding the letter received from BC/BS Montana. Vice Chair Myers provided additional information from the BC/BS aspect of the issue. Discussions with BC/BS of Idaho's General Counsel have taken place but contact with Montana's General Counsel has not occurred as of this time. Vice Chair Myers has sent a copy of the letter to the CFO of the Montana Blue Plan.

Dr. Ted Epperly commented that a bad precedent could be set if we do not pursue litigation against Montana. If litigation is not pursued, other states could then choose not to pay for covered lives in Idaho. A consistent standard needs to apply to any state for vaccination services rendered.

Vice Chair Myers requested that a few weeks be granted in order to get Montana to comply and if a resolution cannot be obtained, then start legal proceedings.

The sentiment of the Board is to aggressively pursue if the Immunization survey from Montana has not been received in 30 days from the date of this Board meeting, May 24th, 2012.

Plan of Operation Revisions

Chairman Rainey opened up the discussion by highlighting the two main issues: (1) How to facilitate meeting a Quorum to avoid trying to reschedule the meeting and keeping time deadlines. (2) Options such as an Alternate Board member plan or a Proxy.

The opinion of the Board is that a Proxy would work better than an Alternate plan. Dep. Attorney Rich Burleigh provided a clarification of a Proxy plan.

Chairman Rainey suggested that a notification be sent to the Board in writing and fax a document that authorizes and identified person to vote on the behalf of the absent Board member. Rich Burleigh also offered suggestions to clarify the wording to send the notification to the Chairperson as opposed to the whole Board and that another Board member may not be allowed to be a Proxy for the absent Board member.

Dr. Hahn opened the discussion on clarifying language for carriers requesting adjustments.

Chairman Rainey clarified the wording in the Plan of Operations to state "no reductions", rather than "no adjustments to carrier assessments. Also to add the wording "any reductions in a carrier's survey report in excess of 150 program eligible children require an approval of the majority of the Board."

Dr. Epperly suggested adding “any change to a carrier’s survey report of less than 150 program eligible children, a notification will be sent to all Board members.” Chairman Rainey commented that this may fit better with the reporting in Article 5 after number 1 by adding the phrase “including assessments to carriers and all assessment changes.” Dr. Epperly and Dr. Hahn concurred.

Dr. Hahn re-opened the discussion on the 6 month period for carrier adjustments. Mr. Tim Callender suggested keeping a longer time frame for adjustments to handle simple errors or mistakes by the reporting carrier. The consensus of the Board is to leave the time period as six months.

Chairman Rainey provided a recap for the two wording changes for the Plan of Operations: (1) to allow Proxy voting with specific directions and (2) adjustments to survey reporting and assessments. He also reiterated the consensus of the Board to leave in the 6 month time period for carrier adjustments.

MOTION: to approve the several amendments discussed. Mr. Tim Callender moved. Dr. Ted Epperly seconded.

All in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions.

Elections of Officers

Director Deal reviewed 41-6003, Assessment Board make-up.

The slate of officers: **MOVED:** to nominate Dr. Ted Epperly as Vice Chairman of the Immunization Vaccine Fund Board and Mr. Jack Myers as Chairman of the Immunization Vaccine Fund Board.

Chairman Rich Rainey asked if there are any other nominations from the floor.

MOTION: to approve the slate of officers that has been nominated.

Director Deal: moved. Mr. Tim Callender: Seconded. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.

Director Deal requested to have the discussion of a Third Party Administrator to take over the administration duties of the fund, be added to the agenda for the next Board meeting. Dr. Rainey stated this request is in addition to the New Business item of discussing the Sunset clause and any other changes that are pertinent to the legislation.

Vice Chair Ted Epperly commented on the great job that Dr. Rich Rainey has provided to the Board as Chairman the past two years.

Next meeting

Monday, August 6th @1:30pm MDT

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:24p.m. MDT

Minutes by Scott Frost, Idaho Department of Insurance

Revised by Chairman, Jack Myers, Blue Cross of Idaho