

Idaho Immunization Assessment Board
Board Meeting Minutes – Approved
Monday, October 25, 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
- Christine Hahn, M.D. – Department of Health & Welfare
- Josh Sears – AmeriBen/IEC Group

Board Members Not Present:

- Rep. Jeff Thompson – Idaho House
- Bill Deal, Director DOI
- Ted Epperly, M.D. - Family Practice Residency
- Senator Melinda Smyser – Idaho Senate

Others Present:

- Gina McBride – DOI
- Sandy Metro – DOI
- Tamarie Olson – DHW
- Bob Cooper – DOI

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

Approval of Minutes from 9/14/10 meeting:

MOTION: Mr. Myers moved that the minutes of the meeting of 9/14/10 be approved as revised. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sears. The motion passed on a voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Final Review of Plan of Operation and referral to Director

This is the final review of the Plan of Operation which would then be referred to the Director for approval. Dr. Rainey and Ms. McBride discussed that on page 7 three bullets were put in only using 2011, 2012 and 2013 since 2013 is the sunset year.

Dr. Hahn raised a question about the change on page 8 above notes. Ms. McBride and Dr. Rainey changed “not later than the following September 1” to “within six months of May 31.” Dr. Hahn feels that 6 months is longer than necessary and felt that 3 months would be better. Mr. Myers would prefer to leave it at 6 months. He does understand the argument, but with the communications from the other Blue plans he can see the other carriers might have a problem. Mr. Armstrong agrees with Mr. Myers and feels that this could be looked at again next year.

Mr. Myers would like to change Article 10 to Article 8 in the last sentence on page 8 above the notes since there is now no Article 10 due to re-numbering.

Dr. Hahn pointed out that the bullets should read January 1 of the current year. Ms. McBride stated that the current versions states January 1st of the current year. On page 7 top bullet make it January 31st of the current year instead of the assessment year.

Mr. Myers would like changes made on page 8 in the 3rd bullet so that the wording be changed to “as of January 31 of the current year.”

Mr. Sears feels that the first two lines of the box on page 7 should be removed as they are not part of the billing. Mr. Armstrong feels that it should indicate “billing and assessment schedule”. Mr. Sears noted that he could change the wording to keep the chronological order but maintain the message.

Dr. Hahn feels the wording on page 7 (top bullet) stating the “current year” leaves some question as to which year it refers to, and should be changed to “the same year the survey is sent.” Mr. Myers agrees with Dr. Hahn feels it should be changed to the survey year. The wording in the first box should be changed to “Immunization Assessment Survey sent out by DOI”.

Mr. Myers struggles with the terms on Exhibit C stating “For all carriers falling within the top 90% of assessments due.” The decision was made to strike Protocol A and change Protocol B to Follow-up Protocol.

The changes that were agreed to are as follows:

- On page 8, change Article 10 to Article 8
- On page 7 (top bullet) change the date to January 31st of the current year instead of the assessment year.
- On Exhibit C, strike Protocol A and re-name Protocol B “Follow-up Protocol”

MOTION: Mr. Myers moved that the Plan of Operation with the changes noted above be approved and referred to the Director for approval. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Additional carrier feedback on accelerated reporting for survey

Mr. Myers noted that his consultations with Blue Cross affiliates yielded little opposition to a 2/28 deadline. He did say, however, that this firm deadline might pose some cash flow problems. Ms. McBride said that a firm deadline is very important because the Department will begin to contact those carriers who have not completed the survey as required under Exhibit C of the Plan of Operation. The Chairman suggested that a cover letter noting the short time frame would be helpful so that everyone would be able to formulate a plan to comply on time.

Financial update from DHW

Tamarie Olson of Health and Welfare handed out a graphic noting the state first quarter results (7/1/10-9/30/10) of expenditures for vaccines. She noted that federal funds already collected were spent before any state funds. The Chairman noted that large assessments were collected after this period.

There was a request from Ms. McBride to discuss item “F” at this point. There was no opposition.

Update of survey and billings

Ms. Sandy Metro, DOI, presented the current assessment receipts. She noted that the current balance of funds received is \$9,262,619. She noted that some of these funds were the result of partial payments.

Mr. Myers asked if there was some fluctuation in need for vaccines, and Ms. Olson replied that there was. An example of more frequent vaccine administration is during the spring when pre-school vaccines are given at the time of school registration.. She reiterated that the Department expects to receive reduced federal funds.

Members of the Board noted that having the two sources of funding could be very confusing, and they suggested that the Department keep the two funding sources separate.

Ms. McBride noted that most of the carriers contacted had responded and had sent their assessments, or had made arrangements to do so. Tri-Care/Tri-West was the primary carrier which had not yet sent in its assessment.

Her office has contacted them and hopes to resolve this issue soon. GEHA was also non-responsive, and her office was unable to establish any communication with them. There were a few Blue Cross affiliates who were also non-responsive. She believes that assessments from these sources would total about \$600,000. She believes there may be other carriers with dependents residing in Idaho, but the Department has contacted all known carriers. Mr. Myers said that he had data that might be of some help to the Department, which he will provide to Ms. McBride

Status of survey from TriCare

Ms. Metro noted that a telephone conference was held with TriWest (the administrator for TriCare in Idaho) on October 1, but there had been no further communication with them. The Tri-Care contact mentioned that they were dealing with the same sort of issues in Washington, so Idaho was not an isolated case.

There was discussion regarding that the Department had received approximately 10% more in assessments than anticipated. Ms. McBride said that she was concerned whether the Department should immediately transfer all of these funds monthly to the Department of Health & Welfare, or if it should hold some in reserve in case funding should fall short in upcoming quarters. The Department does not want to refund assessments, nor does it want to issue additional assessments for 2010.

Members of the Board proposed the possibility of providing the HPV vaccine with the additional funds on hand. There was some discussion whether the Board had the authorization to do this. Dr. Hahn, H&W, suggested that the Board treat this situation like it currently provides flu vaccines. The Chairman believed that this would provide a good precedent. Members of the Board questioned if the HPV vaccine could be provided under the provisions of the Statute without the requested amendments. The Chairman suggested that Director Deal could investigate this possibility and report back to the Board on his findings.

Status of proposed legislation

The Chairman noted that there were three proposed legislative actions: 1) allowing the Board to pay an Administrator; 2) allowing the Board to consult regarding its duties, such as with a clinical sub-committee in an advisory capacity, 3) the Board would determine the diseases or categories of diseases for which vaccine purchases would be funded. He noted that most of those with whom he had conferred would support all three amendments. However, the Idaho Medical Association does not feel that non-physicians should select diseases or categories of diseases and that the amendment language was too broad, and would not support the third portion ("diseases or categories, etc."). Their opposition could prove difficult to overcome. . The Chairman said that State Senator Dean Cameron had requested a meeting with stakeholders on November 17 so that the Assessment Board and other stakeholders would be able to discuss the issue and possibly find a compromise. He suggested that Board members who were interested and Director Deal attend this meeting.

The Board considered the fact that the original advisory clinical workgroup included physicians of different specialties from different locations within Idaho, so that all of Idaho was represented. There is an Idaho Childhood Immunization Policy Commission (see item below) already in place that might serve as an ad hoc advisory committee, although their members are mostly from Southwest Idaho and there are currently no family medicine physician members.

There was discussion why legislation was necessary in order for the Board to establish a sub-committee and to have discretion in selecting vaccines for the program. It was noted the Department's legal counsel determined the provisions of Chapter 60 do not give the Board the authority to select the vaccines to be paid with assessment funds. The Chairman asked Ms. McBride to set up a meeting on Monday, November 1, to discuss this issue with the Department's attorney.

NEW BUSINESS

Preventative Care under PPACA

The Chairman noted that the provisions of PPACA require that all non-grandfathered plans new or renewing after 9/23/10 cover 100% of preventative care, including ACIP-recommended vaccines. All carriers understand this provision and know that the state will provide the vaccines, and carriers will require that providers use this source when it is available.

Ms. McBride requested that the last item under New Business on the agenda [Review 2011 draft survey] be moved ahead so that she could explain the new electronic survey being proposed with the assistance of Bob Cooper from the DOI's I.T. Section.

Review 2011 draft survey and cover page (electronic)

Ms. McBride said that the goal of this survey is for carriers to submit all information electronically, with everyone understanding the surveys, assessments, and deadlines for these. It will also decrease the administrative burden of the Department. The goal is to submit the 2011 survey to all carriers in an electronic format, as requested by Director Deal.

Bob Cooper, DOI, noted that this form can be accessed from outside the Department and could be sent to Board members for their appraisal. This survey is still in the initial stages and is not intended to go "live" until later in the year.

Idaho Childhood Immunization Policy Commission

This Commission had been established by 2010 legislation, and it advises H&W and the Board of H&W. Dr. Hahn believes that this Commission would be helpful to the Assessment Board. The Chairman noted that this is a possibility in the future.

Presentation to 11/22 Health Care Task Force Meeting

The Chairman said that he had been asked to attend and speak to the task force on the Board. He intends to give a short history of the Board, its mission, and a snapshot of the current position of the Idaho immunization dedicated vaccine fund.

Education to Providers

Mr. Myers suggested that many providers were confused about the purpose and function of the Idaho Immunization Assessment, and education would be very helpful to them.

Ms. McBride asked for a clarification on the distribution of funds to be sent to the Department of Health & Welfare. Should all the funds received be distributed to H&W, or should a portion be kept back as a reserve? Members of the Board agreed that all the funds received should be distributed to the Department of Health & Welfare.

Other business

No other business was offered for discussion.

Next Meeting

Monday, December 6, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. at the DOI

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

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Minutes by Teresa Jones, DOI.