

Idaho Immunization Assessment Board
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 29, 2012
Department of Insurance

Board Members Present:

- Jack Myers – Blue Cross of Idaho –Chair
- Ted Epperly, M.D. – Family Practice Residency – Vice Chair
- Richard Rainey, M.D. – Regence BlueShield of Idaho
- Tim Callender – AmeriBen/IEC Group
- Christine Hahn, M.D. – Department of Health & Welfare
- Chris Pickford – Boise School District
- Susan Rhoades – Jackson Food Stores

Board Members Absent:

- Rep. Jeff Thompson
- Bill Deal, Director DOI

Others Present:

- Gina McBride, Consumer Services Bureau Chief, DOI
- Mitch Scoggins - Immunization Program Manager (H&W)
- Tamarie Olson-H & W
- Rich Burleigh-Deputy Attorney General, Idaho
- Dan Asterino

Call to Order: Chairman Myers called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from 8/6/12 meeting

Dr. Christine Hahn presented suggested changes for the August 6th board meeting minutes under the New Business-Loss of Flexibility section.

MOTION: Chair Myers asked for a motion to approve minutes with the added/modified line items to be corrected. Dr. Rich Rainey moved the motion. Mr. Tim Callender the seconded motion. Motion was passed on a voice vote.

Reports – Update of Survey & Billings

Ms. Gina McBride opened with a review of the survey and billing status report. All carriers have paid with the exception of the balances due for the four carriers on the quarterly payment option and BC/BS of North Dakota's underpayment amount. Also an additional \$30,000 was submitted for the Washington Vaccine Association to cover Washington's border kids that receive vaccinations in Idaho.

Dr. Hahn and Mitch Scoggins provided a clarification to the Board in regards to the Washington Vaccine Association's payment addressing the question of Insurers potential "Double Payment." As Idaho's assessment is based on state of residence, there is no chance of double payment for a child.

Chair Jack Myers noted that an additional line should be added on the Board Report to reflect the Washington Vaccine Association's payment. Dr. Hahn concurred with this request. Chair Jack Myers also requested that Gina McBride or Scott Frost follow up with Ms. Sandy Metro on the BC/BS of North Dakota's under payment issue.

Financial Update from H & W

Ms. Tamarie Olson provided a current update report on the Dedicated Immunization Vaccine Fund for SFY2012 & SFY2013 and stated that the DHW was on track for spending as planned with nothing unusual to report.

Vice Chair Ted Epperly questioned if Influenza was reflected on the report sheet. Ms. Olson referred to page 2 of the handout sheet under the 3rd quarter summary paragraph. Flu is included on the report sheet.

Old Business

BC/BS Montana

Ms. Gina McBride apprised the Board that BC/BS of Montana had paid in full the amount of \$22,120 for the assessed 280 Idaho residents.

Tricare Update

Dr. Christine Hahn provided a handout presentation for State Fiscal Year 2013 which highlighted TRICARE and Idaho's Vaccine Financing. Dr. Hahn stated that the DHW has been directed by the governor to find state funding for vaccines for TRICARE children for this fiscal year, while continuing to work with TRICARE to find a long-term solution for TRICARE funding, but working with legislators to try to push for long-term changes to TRICARE to allow this type of payments to assessment funds can be difficult at this particular time due to re-election slow down.

Vice Chair Ted Epperly stated that a background of TRICARE was needed to find a short-term solution to the payment issue that could potentially turn into a long term solution or good faith solution. Dr. Epperly reiterated that if children are vaccinated a policy change may be needed to get TRICARE to pay into the fund. Dr. Christine Hahn re-stated that Tricare won't pay a third party entity. TRICARE will only pay the provider directly.

Sunset Clause-Legislation

Chair Jack Myers re-stated the decision to extend the Immunization fund program for another two years and that the next step needed was to draft and submit legislation for the next Idaho legislative session.

Dr. Rich Rainey posed the question if there was a person at the DOI that can draft this legislation and if so, the DOI should approach those State representatives who have shown interest in presenting the legislation to the legislature.

Representative Jeff Thompson, should he be re-elected would be the Board's first choice. However, if his election bid should fail, the Board feels that Senator Cameron, Representative Rusche, and then Representative Wood in this order would be strong representatives to carry forward the legislation change to the Sunset Clause. Director Bill Deal is asked by the Board to approach Representative Jeff Thompson to sponsor the legislation to extend the statute for an additional two years to sunset 7/1/2015.

Ms. Gina McBride reminded the Board that in regards to the Immunization funds, the DOI transfers all monies to the DHW. The DOI would need a fiscal notation attached to the legislation and appropriation/spending authority to allocate Immunization funds to pay a third party to administer the program. Dr. Hahn agreed that the spending authority is a separate issue but is also a standard procedure or routine step that is needed to spend funds.

TPA for Immunization Board

Ms. Gina McBride provided a handout that outlined proposed duties to be conducted by a third party administrator for the Board. An RFP would be needed if the cost of a TPA is above \$100,000. An RFI (request for information) may be required for amounts below \$100,000.

Dr. Hahn provided clarification on the RFP procedure as the DHW submits these on a consistent basis. Dr. Hahn also stated that more information may be needed such as a job study, skill level versus pay rate, actual amount of time spent for duties, cost of printed materials and overhead costs. The DHW can provide the DOI with assistance in composing the RFP if needed.

The Board requested that a time study be conducted by DOI staff reflecting the next two year period and the DWH staff to help compose the RFP if necessary.

New Business

Discussion on keeping or removal of Influenza vaccine as a covered vaccine in FY2014

Chair Jack Myers opened the discussion by suggesting the Board reconsider the exclusion of influenza vaccine from the assessments to insurance carriers. This would mean that providers would need to purchase flu vaccine for insured children from commercial suppliers rather than from the program. However, most providers already purchase flu vaccine for the adult population and they are therefore currently carrying two stocks of the vaccine. Unlike other vaccines, influenza has the potential of high wastage due to over ordering, shelf spoilage and the variability of seasonal outbreaks which increases the assessments charged to carriers. Influenza vaccine is also one of the lowest cost vaccines suggesting that there is not a lot of savings attributable to purchasing through the program. Furthermore, flu vaccine is readily available in retail outlets leading to double payments by insurance carriers and increased estimation error when determining assessment amounts.

Mr. Mitch Scoggins and Dr. Hahn suggested that a total removal could cause a pushback from the physician community.

Ms. Tamarie Olson stated that small offices could experience a hardship with no vaccines to buy from the State of Idaho. Dr. Ted Epperly agreed and added that the group most affected by removal of Influenza as a covered vaccine would be pediatricians.

Chair Jack Myers suggested that before we make a decision, we conduct some analysis on the percentage of influenza vaccine provided to pediatricians to determine if removal of the flu vaccine will have a significant effect on physician ordering.. Dr. Ted Epperly stated that a survey could be delivered at the next Pediatrics' board meeting. Dr. Hahn commented that an outline would be needed for a proposal (language).

Vice Chair Ted Epperly questioned whether Medicaid expansion would have an impact on the decision. Dr. Hahn stated that the kids would be under the parents own plan and VFC child numbers are estimated. Dr. Rich Rainey brought up the question about how much VFC was being given to uninsured children. Mr. Mitch Scoggins re-iterated that the data is not reliable right now due to a system change but could be counted on at a later date. Dr. Rainey also stated that the largest bulk of uninsured would be transferred to the expanded Medicaid program.

Next meeting

Ms. Gina McBride stated that the Board would need to approve language for the Sunset Clause and would also need to review and approve [a](#) RFP when appropriate.

Chair Jack Myers stated some of the items to consider at the next meeting are:

- Review cost estimates for a Third Party Administrator-RFP information
- Status of Sunset Clause
- Review for Influenza removal and cost estimate with or without Influenza coverage.

Proposed date/time for next Board meeting is Monday, January 28th @2:00pm. Sandy to poll the Board before this date to ensure a quorum can be met.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:40p.m. MDT
Minutes by Scott Frost, Idaho Department of Insurance