

Idaho Immunization Assessment Board
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 28, 2013
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 (Via Conference Call)
- Tim Callender – AmeriBen/IEC Group
- Christine Hahn, M.D. – Department of Health & Welfare
- Chris Pickford – Boise School District
- Bill Deal-Director, Department of Insurance
- Jeff Thompson – Representative, Idaho Legislature
- Susan Rhoades – Jackson Food Stores

Board Members Absent:

- None

Others Present:

- Sandy Metro – DOI
- Mitch Scoggins - Immunization Program Manager (H&W)
- Tamarie Olson-H&W
- Rich Burleigh-Deputy Attorney General, Idaho

Call to Order: Chairman Myers called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from 10/29/12 meeting

Dr. Ted Epperly and Dr. Christine Hahn noted suggested changes for the October 29th board meeting minutes.

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

Reports – Update of Survey & Billings

Ms. Sandy Metro provided survey updates to the Board. The 2013 Immunization Survey was sent out to approximately 800 carriers and TPA's the first week of January with 155 carriers having submitted the survey to date. There is about six weeks left for the remaining carriers and TPA's to report by the March 15th due date. Ms. Metro reiterated the fact that the last quarterly payments from the four participating carriers are also due March 15th.

Financial Update from H & W

Ms. Tamarie Olson provided a document outlining the current status of the Immunization Fund expenditures and noted that nothing out of the ordinary has occurred since the last board meeting. With the fiscal year about half way completed, the funds are also about half way depleted which is to be expected.

Vice Chair Dr. Ted Epperly inquired as to any noticeable increase in Influenza vaccine usage in the last month or two. Ms. Tamarie Olson commented that there has been more activity in Flu vaccine ordering by providers and that 80% of the vaccine purchase has been distributed to date.

Old Business

Sunset Clause-Legislation

Representative Jeff Thompson apprised the Board that the legislation was drafted the week prior to this current board meeting adding a one year extension. Dr. Hahn and Chair Jack Myers made it clear that the Board recommended a two year extension be added to the legislation.

Mr. Tim Callender clarified that the discussion for adding a two year extension was predicated on the need for two solid years' worth of data to determine the cost benefit of continuing the Immunization Fund program. Chair Jack Myers also pointed out that the first two years of data were not stable. Furthermore, two additional years would give the Board additional time to complete the analysis on a full year's worth of data with all the vaccines represented and also time to complete an evaluation to make a determination as to the cost benefit of continuing the program. Dr. Ted Epperly added that the additional two years would also benefit the providers by giving physicians more time to secure a source of vaccine and establish pertinent ordering behaviors.

Director Bill Deal inquired as to vaccine funding should this program be discontinued. Dr. Christine Hahn explained that the vaccine for children program would still provide guaranteed free vaccines to this specific group of children and most providers would have to decide whether they would purchase vaccines or not. This makes it a business decision for the providers. Furthermore, some providers may choose not to provide this service due to a financial risk or administrative issues surrounding a private stock being stored separately from a Federal Government provided stock.

Vice Chair Ted Epperly inquired as to any anticipated roadblocks or obstructions to the passage of the Sunset Clause bill through the House of Representatives. Representative Thompson stated that it should move through without any issues.

TPA for Immunization Board-review cost estimates

Ms. Sandy Metro referred to a document outlining the basic administrative duties associated with the Immunization Board. Ms. Metro will provide a copy and the board members are to review/add any duties that they deem necessary for the proposed TPA. Comments and revisions are to be returned by March 1st. It could possibly take 10 to 20 hours a week or 520 to 1040 hours per year for a TPA to carry out the administrative duties for the Immunization Board. Therefore, it is anticipated that the Third Party Administrator position would be open for an informal bid process.

Director Bill Deal and Ms. Sandy Metro commented that the preferred time frame for the TPA to begin administering would be July 1st, 2013 to start the new fiscal year. Director Deal also reiterated that a Fiscal note would not be needed as there will be no cost to the General Fund.

Ms. Sandy Metro informed the Board that she would be working with Consumer Services Bureau Chief Gina McBride to draft the proposal and would consist of an RFI, Request for Information which differs from an RFP due to the anticipated cost of an administrator of under \$100,000.

Vice Chair Ted Epperly inquired as to who would decide on which TPA would be awarded the task or hired. Director Bill Deal reaffirmed that it would be a Board decision as to who would receive the contract.

Ms. Sandy Metro asked if assessment money transfers to the DHW will still be performed by the DOI's fiscal department. Director Bill Deal is of the opinion that this process will continue as it is performed now.

New Business

Review for Influenza removal and cost estimates

Chair Jack Myers opened the discussion with a reference to minutes taken from the October 29th board meeting. The highlights were a number of arguments to pull the vaccine from the program or continue to administer through the current process.

Dr. Christine Hahn stated that the Idaho statute would require the Board to cover Flu vaccine and the Board will assess to cover the current recommended vaccines and because the Flu vaccine is in the FVC program, the physicians have it supplied from the State of Idaho. Furthermore, the statute would have to be amended to enforce any change.

Chair Jack Myers voiced concern that the Flu vaccines are the most difficult to estimate (cost) and physicians are already purchasing for the adult population. Physicians are probably obtaining the Flu vaccines from two different sources thus having to maintain two separate supplies. The thought being it would be simpler for the physicians to purchase the Flu vaccine thru the normal commercial vendors.

Dr. Christine Hahn read section 41-6006, section 2, final sentence of the Idaho Code which provided language concerning TPA funding and to fund the purchase of vaccines for program eligible children that have in effect, a recommendation from the advisory committee on immunization practices of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention on the date the Board makes its assessment determination.

Chair Jack Myers posed the question if the Board had the right and opportunity to select the vaccines. Mr. Tim Callender stated his belief that this was the case and the reason hinged on the language in the last sentence of 41-6006, section 2 that reads "a recommendation from the advisory committee..." The language is not clear that the Board has to follow the recommendations of the committee. However, his interpretation is that the assessment determination must include vaccines that fall under the recommendation of the committee.

Mr. Rich Burleigh DAG provided his legal interpretation of the statute in which he stated if it fits both categories, it is defined as a vaccine and therefore the Board must supply it for use by the providers. The Flu vaccine would be covered by the legislative intent.

Chair Jack Myers reiterated two prominent issues of this discussion. Issue one is if the Influenza vaccine is recommended by ACIP, is the Board bound to provide it. A follow up by the DAG to get a ruling is suggested for a general understanding to handle any future issues that could arise on this subject. Issue two relates to the Immunization Flu vaccine and the consensus of many of the board members is that it is a small issue and even if the Board had a ruling and flexibility to pull the vaccine out, is it the intention of the Board to continue to supply it.

Chair Jack Myers proposed a motion by the show of hands to keep the Influenza vaccine as part of the program now and in the future. All were in favor. None opposed.

Board Member 2013 term expirations

Ms. Sandy Metro supplied the Board with term expiration dates. Director Bill Deal confirmed that two of the Board members, the legislators, must be appointed for a two year term and a letter had been sent to the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate for their nominations.

Ms. Sandy Metro restated the Board members whose terms expired March 2013 as Dr. Rich Rainey, the two legislators, Ms. Chris Pickford, Ms. Susan Rhoades, and Mr. Tim Callender. Director Bill Deal asked each Board member whose term will expire if they would like to continue serving on the Immunization Board. All confirmed with the exception of Dr. Rich Rainey who will contact Director Deal privately to confirm or deny serving another term on the Board. Director Bill Deal stated that all who wish to continue to serve will be re-appointed for a three year term.

Next meeting

1. Update on Surveys
2. Assessment determination

Proposed date/time for next Board meeting is Friday, April 5th @2:00pm. Ms. Sandy Metro will send an email to schedule the next meeting date.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:36p.m. MST
Minutes by Scott Frost, Idaho Department of Insurance