



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

February 10, 2009

Not Approved as of Writing February 11, 2009

Scribe: Tiffany Tate

In attendance:

Aldene Alt, Lois Beverage (T), Kelly Clay, Robin Decker, Ron Gunstra (T), Cecilia (Negri) Richardson, Cynthia Mack (T), Debbie Nazarene (T), Jessica Perry, Suzanne Podrazik, Lorraine Quarrick, Greg Reed (T), Betsy Rekus, Jackie Richter, Tiffany Tate

T- attended by telephone

I. Program Updates

- **Immunization Funding in Economic Stimulus Package** – Greg Reed from the Maryland Center for Immunization provided an overview of provisions in the Stimulus Package for immunization programs. Greg stated that, within the \$1 billion included for the Wellness and Prevention fund under the Office of the Secretary's Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund, the final allocation is as follows: \$300 million for the CDC 317 immunization program. There is no sense of how much of the \$300 million will go to vaccine purchase and how much to operations/infrastructure, nor have there been any estimates of breakdown by state. I believe the funding is over a two-year period.
- **DHMH & ImmuNet** – Pending
- **Vaccine Manufacturers** –
 - **GlaxoSmithKline** – Currently experiencing a back-order situation with Enderix-B in pre-filled syringes and vials. Pre-filled syringes are due back in stock by the end of February and the vials by early March. Health departments may not be affected by this back-order situation due to the large supply in the McKesson warehouse. There are no other supply or delivery issues with GSK vaccine products.
 - **Wyeth** – Prevnar is in good supply with no delivery issues. The latest news is that Prevnar is now part of the National Immunization Survey 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 and now will be looked at by CoCase/AFIX as part of the report card.

II. MCIP Updates

- **Immunization Excellence Awards Luncheon** – the event was held on January 21 and featured as keynote speaker Dr. Georges Benjamin, Executive Director of the American Public Health Association and former Maryland Secretary of Health. Awards were presented to the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, Cecil County Health Department Communicable Disease Team, Dr. Donald Shell, and Charlotte Radu. Approximately 80 people were in attendance.

- **Maryland Healthcare Workers Influenza Initiative** – the initiative continues with an emphasis on accurate record-keeping and reporting so the coalition can develop an accurate count and percentage of healthcare personnel vaccinated under the initiative. The Maryland Flu Season Wrap-Up is scheduled for April 29, 2009. Additional details are forthcoming.
- **Coalition University- Second Semester** – The next sessions are scheduled for March 18-19 and May 13. The May session immediately precedes the Points Across VI conference.
- **National Infant Immunization Week** –scheduled for April 25-May 2. MCIP will be releasing an RFP this week offering \$1,000 grants to support NIIW and Maryland Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Month (May) activities. Grant applications are due March 13.
- **Points Across VI Conference**–scheduled for May 14 and will be held at the Four Points by Sheraton at BWI. The conference brochure will be released next week. The theme will be “Back to the Basics” featuring a review of previous themes and tracks to address the unique needs of health promoters at various stages in their career.
- **Child Health Promotion & Nurses Appreciation Luncheon** –scheduled for May 5 and will be held at the Four Points by Sheraton at BWI. The events have been combined due to budget constraints.
- **MPP/MCIP 2009 Calendar** – A calendar containing all scheduled coalition and immunization activities was distributed and will be released via email. Members are encouraged to add their events to the calendar.

III. **MCIP Logo Unveiling**

- The new coalition logo was unveiled and will be used prospectively.

IV. **Discussion: “Doing Less With More: Coalition Activities in Times of Economic Hardship**

- Members shared how the economy is affecting their organization. Impact ranged from furloughs (in the case of local health departments) to lay-offs (in the pharmaceutical industry). LHDs are in a “wait and see” mode for how the worsening situation may affect immunization programs. Currently, routine immunization services have not been decreased, though one county has suspended school-based influenza vaccination efforts.
- Due to budget constraints, only one meeting attendee will be attending the National Immunization Conference.
- It was decided that the coalition should use resources to continue and expand education and initiatives promoting adolescent vaccinations.

V. **Open Discussion**

- Anne Arundel County shared that they are hosting an event during Public Health Week to promote adolescent vaccination.
- Tdap promotion among adolescents was discussed. It was decided that the coalition will begin working on a public awareness campaign for Tdap with a theme that emphasizes providing a “Circle of Protection”.
- Several coalition members will pursue possible membership on the Regional Perinatal Advisory Group (RPAG), which is working on a hospital-based Tdap initiative for new parents. Tiffany will forward contact information for RPAG leadership and an article on perinatal Tdap initiatives.

- The coalition will resend the link to the survey that assessed referrals from private providers to local health departments. Currently, 17 LHDs have responded. Dr. O'Donovan would like full participation from the state's LHDs so the data can be used for planning and possible publishing.
- All four abstracts submitted by the coalition have been accepted. One for a workshop and three for poster sessions.

VI. Next Meeting

The next meetings are scheduled for **March 24 and June 16**. The meeting scheduled for May 5 has been cancelled because of a conflict with the Child Health Promotion & Nurses Appreciation Luncheon.