

COALITION-COORDINATORS' JOINT MEETING MINUTES

January 25, 2011

Scribe: Erica Denner

In attendance: Shilpa Anderson, Darlene Armacost, Aldene Ault, Lois Beverage, Elizabeth Bohle, Elease Booker, Penny Bramlett, Chrissy Burke, Olive Butler, Inez Cage, Andy Chisholm, Judy Coleman, Robin Decker, Erica Denner, Judy Dragotta, Lee Ann Ennis, Debbie Farlow, Melanie Gardiner, Joanne Georgelis, Holly Hayman, Jenny Holmes, Dawn Jones, Elizabeth Jones, Lynn Kane, Kim Kelley, Shawn Legambi, Cheryl MacLaughlin, Sharon Nazarek, Crossan O'Donovan, Susan Parks, Stephen Pearce, Jessica Perry, Suzanne Podrazik, Lorraine Quarrick, Greg Reed (T), Judy Richards, Pat Rollo, Scott Romanoski, Lori Schiffhauer, Kelley Smith, Deena Speights Napata (T), Debra Stevens, Tiffany Tate

T – Attended by telephone

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Updates

- **Pertussis Surveillance:** Jennifer Lam (T) provided the following update:
 - According to the CDC, there has been a nationwide increase in pertussis cases reported.
 - There has been no increase in reported pertussis cases in Maryland.
 - West Virginia, Virginia, and New York have reported an increase in cases.
 - DHMH continues to encourage testing of all suspected pertussis cases.
 - Pertussis specimens can be sent to the state lab for PCR and culture.
- **Immunet:** Keith Childress (T) provided the following update:
 - New system expected to be up and running in the spring.
 - Webinars for users will be held beginning in March.
 - Brochures about new system will be sent to existing and potential users.
 - New system will be available at the same URL as current system: mdimmunet.org.
 - Current system will continue to be active, overlapping the new system for at least one month to allow users to become familiar with the new system and make the switch.
 - DHMH will address ways to get information from all counties into the new system, even counties that do not use ImmuNet.
 - Any organization that uses a computer to keep data should be able to send that data to DHMH to upload it into ImmuNet.
- **VFC:** Deena Speights-Napata (T) provided the following update:
 - VFC providers should have ample supplies of all formulations.

- Due to changes to federal regulations, VFC has reduced its field staff to two consultants (with a third to be added, budget allowing) to conduct site visits, etc. Providers should continue to call their consultant's phone number, which will be answered by someone in the central office.
- The focus will be on Prince George's County for the first part of this year – January through March – because the CDC has mandated that providers experiencing the most challenges receive the most attention.
- There was a question about sharing excess VFC vaccine with other providers. Deena stated that unused vaccines should not be given to other providers, understanding that there will be exceptions, particularly between health departments. The primary concern is how the vaccines are handled, assuring maintenance of the cold chain. She prefers that providers contact VFC so adjustments can be made in their allotment if they are receiving too much or too little vaccine.
- After several questions were raised about the way VFC information is distributed throughout LHDs, Robin Decker decided to schedule a separate meeting to discuss these issues with the Immunization Coordinators.
- **Flu Surveillance:** Rene Najera (I) provided the following update:
 - Flu activity is increasing and will probably peak in the next 2-3 weeks.
 - 25% of rapid tests are proving positive. Positive results have been increasing over the past 6 weeks. Positive results usually peak at 30%.
 - Hospitalizations are increasing, with most cases among those in the 25-49 age group, followed by those in the 65+ age group.
 - H1N1 and H3N2 are the top strains being reported.
 - Circulating strains in Maryland are a match to the vaccine.
- **317 Vaccine Initiative:** Elizabeth Bohle provided the following update:
 - Enough hepatitis vaccine remains in the state to continue to vaccinate targeted populations.
 - GSK has created a form for undocumented income for patients who request a vaccine but cannot/do not report income. LHDs may also provide a letter stating that the patient cannot report income and fax the letter with the application for vaccine replacement.
 - 317 vaccine doses can be used concurrently with GSK program since that program only replaces purchased vaccines, not free vaccines.
 - DHMH has requested increased funding from the CDC for adult hepatitis vaccines.
 - A hepatitis summit has been scheduled for May 6.
- **Vaccine Manufacturers' Updates**
 - **GSK:** Joanne Georgelis provided the following update:
 - Prefilled syringes are now available in 10-packs, not 5-packs.
 - Orders are being taken for Fluval and Fluarix.
 - All products are available.
 - There were hepatitis B vaccine backorders, but they should have been filled by now.
 - **Sanofi Pasteur:** Steve Pearce provided the following update:
 - There aren't supply issues with any products.

- Supply of high-dose Fluzone supply should be ample this year and may be pre-booked for next season.
 - Only prefilled syringes remain for this season. No multi-dose vials are available for this season.
 - Sanofi Pasteur did not conduct any direct-to-consumer advertising for Fluzone high-dose this season due to concerns that demand would exceed supply.
- **Medimmune:** Shawn Legambi provided the following update:
 - The CDC replacement program for FluMist is good through the end of January to allow vaccination to continue through March. If doses expire within two weeks of January 31, 2011, they can be replaced.
- **Merck:** Shilpa Anderson provided the following update:
 - Afluria multi-dose vials and prefilled syringes are available.
 - Zostavax orders placed in January will be shipped in April or May.
 - New indications for Gardasil have recently been released. Shilpa Anderson or another Merck representative will be making visits to providers to discuss the new indications.

III. Completed Events/Activities

- 2011 Immunization Excellence Awards and MPP Tenth Anniversary Luncheon held on January 19 was successful.
- The Maryland Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations (MSACI) met on December 7, 2010.

IV. Upcoming and Ongoing Events/Activities

- Flu Multimedia Campaign will continue through the end of January.
- Maryland Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations will meet on January 25. The agenda includes setting 2011 priorities for the commission.
- HealthyEmbrace Pilot Project
 - Robin Decker and Tiffany Tate will be visiting practices to identify pilot participants.
- The National Immunization Conference is scheduled for March 27-31. MPP will forward a request for volunteers from the conference host committee.
- Points Across VII is scheduled for May 25. It will focus on maximizing use of technology.

V. Practice Makes Perfect 2011

- The dates for this year's trainings have been set. A flyer will be sent soon. The first training is scheduled for March 9 in Gaithersburg.
- This year, trainings have been focused in areas where providers are experiencing more challenges.
 - There was discussion about using LHD staff to speak at PMP trainings. There were several volunteers. Tiffany and Robin will follow up.

VI. Setting Coalition’s Priorities for Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations

There was discussion about the priority-setting that was scheduled at the next Commission meeting. The following suggestions were offered by meeting attendees:

- Development of lifespan registry with mandates for school-age children and adult hepatitis.
- Enhance communication system between immunization stakeholders, including LHDs, DHMH, MPP, and VFC providers.
- Increase adult immunization initiatives.

VII. Planning for Flu Wrap-up Meeting April 27

VIII. Big Announcement: New Healthcare Personnel Grant Initiative

- There will be two phases to the 2011-2012 initiative.
- First round of grants at the beginning of the initiative will reward programs already in place and provide start-up grants for new programs.
- Second round of larger grants (\$10K) at the end of the initiative will be awarded for best practices.

IX. Next Meetings

- The next meetings are scheduled for March 15 and May 3.