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Texas Immunization Stakeholder Working Group (TISWG) Joe C Thompson Conference Center University of Texas at Austin Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2010

Participants

Anna Dragsbaek, Maureen Moore, Nidhi Nakra, The Immunization Partnership; **Carrie Kroll**, Texas Pediatric Society; **Dan Walters, Jim Bates**, Dan Walters and Associates; **David Barker, Ed Kotera, Saruj Rai, Stephanie Campbell**, Novartis Vaccines; **Clark Petty, Sandra Hermosa**, San Antonio Metropolitan Health District; **Daniel Acosta, Dusty Warden** Immunize El Paso; **Tammy Foskey**, HIV/STD Comprehensive Services Branch; **Laura Lerma**, Texas Nurses Association; **Patsy Schanbaum**, The Jamie Group; **Austin Holder**, TX Senate Health Human Services Committee; **Elsie B. Wiley, Kathy Dreyer**, University of North Texas/ Senior Volunteer Childhood Immunizations; **Andrea Stricklin, Holly Turner, Rekha Lakshmanan**, Merck Vaccines; **Dr. Neil S. Levy**, Texas Osteopathic Medical Association; **Diane Flow**, Milam County Health Department; **Brian Buckles, Lori Bush, Lori Koehler, Rita Veazey, Steve Richards**, Medimunne Vaccines; **Kate McCann, Dr. Tamra Deuser**, Texas Academy of Family Physicians; **Bianca Parr, Keith Cunniff**, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals; **Emily Babcock, Tammy Wishard**, Texas Medical Association; **Leslie Myers**, Randall's Tom Thumb Pharmacies; **Angela Craig, Becky Jacks, Rick Coco, Scott Piper**, GlaxoSmithKline Vaccines; **Brad Bracken, Jennifer Jackson**, Sanofi Pasteur Vaccines; **Della Sprager**, Retired Senior Volunteer Programs-Travis County; **Dr. Barry Lachman**, Texas Association of Health Plans; **Scheleen Walker** State Rep. Donna Howard; **Victoria Ford**, KL Gates LLP.

New Members and Guests

Alicia Long, Julia Hill, Solonge Chapman, Brownwood-Brown County Health Department; **Amanda Graves, Nina Cobb**, Bell County Public Health District; **Amber Pearce**, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals; **Clint Ishmael, Julie Roberts**, City of Cleburne Fire Department; **Coleen Christian, Isabel Hargrove, Kurt Becker**, Austin Travis County Health and Human Services, **Cynthia Orozco, Delia Garza**, Hidalgo County Health Human Services Department; **Gasper Laca**, GlaxoSmithKline Vaccine; **Jacque Walker**, Waco-McLennan County Public Health Department; **Jennifer Jackson**, Williamson County and Cities Health District; **Karen Reagan** Walgreen Pharmacies, Alta Vista; **Morgana Lamson**, Office Eliminating Health Disparities, TX Health Human Services Commission; **Peggy Gibbons**, Texas Association Community Health Centers; **Tanya Vasquez**, Hill Co. Partners; **DSHS Staff: Codie Prinz, Denise Gonzalez-Walker, Marissa Quesada**, Immunization Branch; **Gracie Rubio, Ivette Nunez**, Health Service Region 11; **Joyce Flores, Racheal Porras**, Health Service Region 9/10; **Keila Johnson**, Health Service Region 1; **Laurie Henefey**, Health Service Region 8; **Lucille Palenapa**, Infectious Disease Control Unit.

Department State Health Services (DSHS) Staff

Amy Schlabach, Christine Contreras, Clara Taylor, Estella Garcia, Ishah Coleman, Jack Sims, Joe Polizzi, Karen Hess, Kathryn Johnson, Melissa Samples-Ruiz, Monica Gamez, Thomas Colvin, Tony Aragon, Tristan DelCanto, Vivian Harris, Immunization Branch; **Mark Ritter, Sharon Slater** CDC Federal Advisors, **Angel Angco**, Health Service Region 6/5 South; **Diane Romnes**, Health Service Region 7; **Kim Wilson**, Title V Child Health Services; **Mindy Schroder**, Texas Health Steps; **Rachel Wiseman**, Infectious Disease Control Unit.

New Member orientation was held from 8:30 am through 9:00 am. The general session was called to order at 9:18 am.

Welcome and Introduction: - Jack Sims

Mr. Jack Sims, DSHS Immunization Branch Manager, welcomed all TISWG meeting participants and briefly reported on the current state of vaccine preventable disease in Texas. He stated that currently there were only 49 cases of Hepatitis A in Texas and 83 reported cases of Hepatitis B. He stated vaccination is making a difference in Texas. He then introduced Mr. Dan Walters, as the facilitator for today's meeting.

Participants Introductions and Meeting Overview: - Dan Walters

Mr. Walters welcomed all participants and creatively demonstrated the demographics of all attendees. By show of hands attendees represented vaccine providers, vaccine supply chain, schools, local health departments, DSHS Austin and Health Service Regional staff, Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), and others. The participants represented Texas from

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Austin, Dallas, El Paso, Houston, San Antonio, including East, West, Central, Gulf and the Valley. One attendee visited from out of state. Members were asked to introduce themselves and the organization they represented; they also shared if they had summer vacation plans. The planned agenda and meeting packet contents were then reviewed.

Adult Immunization Program: -Tristan DelCanto and Tony Aragon

Tristan del Canto, Adult/Adolescent Immunization Coordinator, provided a presentation entitled, “Adult Immunization Program”. He addressed the needs of an Adult and Adolescent Vaccination Program and explicitly defined the program history, basic goals, barriers, opportunities to increase coverage levels and demand for adult vaccination.

Today’s presentation mainly focused on adult vaccines as adolescent vaccine coverage is reflected through school requirements and The Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). An emerging need to reflect on adult vaccination is becoming a priority. *Please see attached presentation for additional data and information.*

Tony Aragon, Epidemiologist and Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) Coordinator, presented: “Vaccine Coverage”. Mr. Aragon addressed and clarified the definition of vaccine coverage levels for children, adolescents and adults. He also explained the process for the traditional immunization studies which includes the National Immunization Survey (NIS), in addition to various Texas survey methods such as the Retrospective Texas School, Validation, and Child Care surveys. He stated the coverage for adolescents, adults BRFSS, is available on-line in addition to conscientious exemption data and various other extrapolated data. Both presentations generated discussion of access, limited ability to gather specific local data and data retrieval which is user friendly. Specifically attendees question why this data and information seem difficult to collect and why the state and other resources cannot come together to create more user friendly access to this information. Mr. Sims addressed that this challenge is the very reason TISWG exist, as the Texas Immunization System is complex and everyone in this room and beyond represents some component of the system and a solution. Mr Sims added that gathering data for adults is very complicated and does not compare to childhood coverage. For example Healthy People 2010 goals are set at 90% for all vaccines, but it is not the same for adult vaccines due to variables such as age restrictions for some vaccines and not for others. He also reiterated that DSHS wishes to gather as accurate and complete datasets to determine what the next steps should be. There are many gaps with not enough adult reporting as of yet. National sources are also being evaluated. At the next meeting we can perhaps collaborate to identify the gaps. Several other questions were posed by stakeholders and staff was asked to address a few of these questions. Such as how do you make a reportable condition based on the epidemiology findings and statistics? *Please see attached presentation for additional data.*

The working group was divided into tables of six (6) to discuss the Adult Immunization Program as presented today and provide feedback to the program coordinators. They were given a task to discuss any needed clarifications of the topic, strengths recognized, and barriers. Each table was called upon to share their findings to the larger group. *Please see attachment for this discussion outcome.*

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Next Steps: It was recommended that both Tristan del Canto and Tony Aragon jointly prepare a strategic plan report for adult vaccination in Texas which may include an adult database for measuring vaccination coverage levels.

Review TISWG Charge and Expectations: - Dan Walters

Members were asked to review the current TISWG charge for updates. Due to time constraints participants were asked to forward their comments to Vivian Harris. Of the comments received, members suggested updates in the current vaccination coverage levels, ranking and the adding of new members to TISWG. Updates will be implemented and posted on the web page.

Branch Update: - Jack Sims

Jack Sims, Immunization Branch Manager reiterated future plans to create an adult immunization system database and stated DSHS would be looking to TISWG for assistance in this effort. Additional updates discussed by Mr. Sims were the current use of ARRA funding for specific projects such as the First Responder Feasibility Study and cocooning. Other hot topics addressed were the projected budget and cost reductions, the TVFC program and vaccine supply. Included in this update were new funding sources, needed equipment for vaccine storage, budget reductions in health service regions and local health departments, outreach and vaccine supply to providers and assuring local health departments and schools have sufficient vaccine supply.

ImmTrac Technical Replacement Project: - Thomas Colvin

Thomas Colvin, ImmTrac Group Manager, presented a presentation titled “ImmTrac Enhancement Technical Assistance Project (ETAP). He provided the latest efforts on the immunization registry being looked at for improvement. He stated the ETAP is a CDC funded service to furnish consultants that will assist DSHS to develop requirements for overall system improvements. The consultant’s primary functions are to facilitate and or participate in stakeholder events, look at the available replacement technology and produce a systems required document to procure a newer system. The kick-off event to engage health organizations such as the Texas Medical Association, Texas Pediatric Society, The Immunization Partnership, Department of State Health Services, and local health department immunization registries of Tarrant County and San Antonio Metro Health, was held last month. The next step is to experience the stakeholder engagement process, look at and jointly compare other systems, and determine what will be best suit the Texas registry. There will be a standard production release schedule for enhancements to the system sent quarterly. The first release will be in June 2010. The Shot Scheduler will be part of the first release. *Please see attached presentation for additional information.*

“Make Your Voice Heard”: – Anna Dragsbeck

Anna Dragsbeck, JD, President/CEO, The Immunization Partnership, provided a presentation on “Making Your Voice Heard”. The current objectives of The Immunization Partnership (TIP) is to host stakeholder meetings across the state to discuss immunization “hot topics” on the national level and its impact at the state level. In addition their aim is to discuss immunization challenges and to learn how to become effective immunization advocates. She has posted shared “Best Practices” at www.ImmunizeUSA.org. The “Make Your Voice Heard” meetings will culminate into the Immunization Summit which will be held September 30-October 1st, in Fort Worth

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Texas. Attendees must register to attend. The TIP stakeholders meetings allow everyone to voice hard issues and focus on how to improve them. Quality improvements activities and discussions led by TIP have included: private practice barriers, reimbursements, Electronic Medical Records (EMR) and ImmTrac registry, border issues, HINI, healthcare workers vaccination and vaccine hesitancy, and a host of other immunization related topics. Ms Dragsbeck stated The Immunization Partnership was recognized and received a local community outreach award. She asked TISWG members to visit their webpage to stay abreast of TIP action items, to tell your story, take an on-line survey and register to attend the upcoming summit. *Please see attached presentation for additional information.*

Vaccine Choice: - Karen Hess

Karen Hess, Vaccine Services Group Manager provided a presentation titled “Vaccine Choice”, describing the new vaccine ordering and reporting system. The new system will be implemented on August 31, 2010. Karen informed the audience the HB 448 was passed, to include a 115% cost containment clause. Vaccine Choice will not be applicable in emergencies. She compared the current processes with the new Vaccine Choice process and the benefits of the Electronic Vaccine Inventory (EVI) system. EVI will reduce paperwork, processing time and delivery time. Training for the EVI system is in development at this time. The operating and procedure manuals for Vaccine Choice are now posted on the DSHS website at www.Immunizetexas.com. There is also a link to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s) which will continually be updated and will offer a default for those providers who have not made a choice and other resources for implementation. Karen also discussed the process of the order system. A choice survey for providers is now on line and will be available through July 31, 2010. You can access this survey through <http://TVFCchoice.questionspro.com>. A call center will also be in place to assist providers. The kick-off meeting will be held in Austin next week. *Please see attached presentation for additional data.*

Vaccine Supply Update: - Mark Ritter

Mark Ritter, CDC Health Advisor, provided a presentation and handout regarding the Influenza Summit, seasonal flu projections for 2010-2011 and vaccine supply updates. At the summit, there was some controversy regarding “flu messaging” and whether we should continue to focus on high risk groups and regulate distribution of supply. *Please click here to gain access to the Influenza Summit.* The 2009-2010 Flu supply is adequate. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations will be released in June. A total of 171 to 176 million doses are projected among the five vaccine manufactures for distribution across the United States. This is significantly higher than last year. There are five recently licensed vaccines and one soon to be licensed vaccine. HINI is being considered as the seasonal flu for this upcoming year.

H1N1 Update: - Sharon Slater

Sharon Slater, CDC Health Advisor, discussed the final phase of H1N1. CDC has considered a national program for states to return expired HINI vaccine. This is a provisional plan and not yet

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finalized. Labels will be sent to participating providers to have them send back any expired vaccine in their inventory. Details are still being finalized as how this will proceed. This will be a voluntary effort and will be at no cost to the qualifying providers. Texas will be a participant and will equably retrieve doses from those providers who have orders of 700-1000 doses of vaccine and who have expired doses left over. As soon as the official communication is made available a notice with instructions on how to package the vials and other details will be sent out. Providers with small doses of expired vaccine are expected to safely dispose of their excess as medical waste.

Announcements

- Next Meeting on August 19, 2010

Adjourn at 3:02 PM