

**Texas Immunization Stakeholder Working Group (TISWG)  
Meeting Minutes – November 5, 2009**

Joe C. Thompson Conference Center Room 3.102  
University of Texas at Austin  
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Participants**

Elsie B. Wiley, Kathy Dreyer, University of North Texas/ Senior Volunteers for Childhood Immunization(SCVI); Tammy Wishard, Margaret Mendez, Emily Babcock, Texas Medical Association; Victoria Ford, KL Gates; Dr. Eugene Toy, Texas Association Obstetrician and Gynecologists; Della Sprager, Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Travis County, SVCI; Scheleen Walker, Office of Rep Donna Howard; Esmeralda Guajardo, Cameron County Health Department; Rekha Lakshmanan, Andrea Stricklin, Paul Sanders, Merck Vaccines; Daniel Acosta, Dusty Warden, Immunize El Paso; Rep; Henry Mendoza; Carrie Kroll, Dr. Jason V. Terk, Texas Pediatric Society; Dr. Neil S. Levy, Texas Osteopathic Medical Association; Jennifer Jackson, Brad Bracken, Sanofi Pasteur Vaccines; Bianca Parr, Keith Cunniff, Wyeth Vaccines; Lori Bush, Lori Koehler, Thomas Colbert, Medimmune Vaccines; Maureen Moore, Texas Immunization Partnership; Laura Lerma, Texas Nurses Association; Decrecia Robinson, Houston Department of Health and Human Services; Dr. Tamara Deuser, Kate McCann, Texas Academy of Family Physicians; Diane Flow, Milam County Health Department; Kathy Moore, Texas Association Local Health Officials; Angela Craig, GlaxoSmithKline Vaccines; Fran M. Kirkley, Tarrant County Public Health; Leslie Myers, Randall's Pharmacy; Sandra Hermosa, Clark Petty, San Antonio Metropolitan Health District; Frankie Milley and Lois Reiszner, Meningitis Angels; Jason Lowe, Intern, Texas Pharmacy Association; Ed Kothera, Novartis Vaccines; Dr. Barry Lachman, Texas Association of Health Plans, Dr. Wendy Chung, Dallas County Health and Human Services; Jim Bates, Dan Walters, Dan Walters Associates

**New Members and Guests**

Alan Barnard, GlaxoSmithKline Vaccines; Kathy Barber, Texas Federation of Drug Stores; Debi Hyatt, Texas Education Agency; Rita Veazey, Steve Richards, MedImmune Vaccines

**DSHS Staff**

Sonna Sanders, Cheryl Millican, Health Service Region 2/3; Debra Edwards, Community Preparedness; Larry Cuellar, HIV/STD Comprehensive Services Branch; Diane Romnes, Health Service Region 7; Angel Angco, Health Service Region 6/5 South; Ruthie Benson, Dr. Susan Penfield, Rita Espinoza, Infectious Disease Control Unit; Vivian Harris, Sheila Tucker, Ishah Coleman, Christine Contreras, Sharon Slater, Jack Sims, Lupe M. Garcia, Monica Gamez, Kevin Allen, Kenzi Guerrero, Debra Saxton, and Amy Schlabach, Immunization Branch.

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

**Welcome and Introduction:** Mr. Jack Sims welcomed all TISWG members, meeting participants and guest. He introduced the facilitator, Mr. Dan Walters.

**H1N1 Update:** Mr. Casey Blass Section Director *DSHS Infections Disease Prevention Section* provided an informative update entitled “*DSHS Response to 2009 Novel H1N1*”. The presentation reviewed vaccine allocation methodologies placed for DSHS use. He

described how vaccines are being ordered and distributed across Texas, how electronic and telephone support was created for providers, and instructions on adverse event reporting. DSHS manages vaccine distribution in accordance with the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention' (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). DSHS has created a committee of subject matter experts, Vaccine Allocation Approval Committee (VAAC), to determine the best means of vaccine allocation. Initially according to the CDC, vaccine was to be allocated to high risk groups. Provider allocations, determined by VAAC, are entered in the Vaccine Ordering and Reporting System (VORS). Providers are notified by email or blast fax to place their orders for H1N1 vaccine in VORS. Providers place their orders in VORS up to their maximum amount of available allocated vaccine. The Immunization Branch downloads provider's orders and sends the orders to the distributor for shipment. Distributor's delivery time is 5-10 days. As of October 31, 2009, DSHS has filled 8,177 provider orders for 1,183,086 doses of vaccine in VORS. ImmTrac has received 3,211 new provider registrations. Providers with questions, should send an email to [VacCallCenter@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:VacCallCenter@dshs.state.tx.us)

**H1N1 Media Campaign:** Mr. Luis Morales, DSHS Communication Director, provided a presentation on the public awareness campaign, "*Stopping the Flu Is Up To You*". The goals and objectives of the campaign are to inform and educate Texans; provide innovative ways to share information; and to make tools and resources available. The message focuses on two approaches.

First is "Prevention" – good hygiene, get your shot, and follow 211 recommendations  
Second is "Mitigation" – how to keep the illness from spreading, stay home if sick, call your doctor or 211, plan how you will care for sick family members, and to stay informed. One may sign up at [www.Texasflu.org](http://www.Texasflu.org) to receive email updates.

- Activities to Date:
  - Texasflu.org,
  - TV, Radio, Online banner ad
  - Webinar with news media
  - Radio "Media Tours"
  - Podcasts – Audio/Video
  - Posters/Flyers
  - Social Media
  - Op-Ed
  - News Release
  
- Planned Activities:
  - "Taggable" TV ads
  - Print Ad
  - Editorial board visit
  - Webinar with health care providers
  - Additional Partner Resources
  - Outreaches

**Vaccine Supply and ACIP Updates:** Mr. Mark Ritter CDC Advisor presented current information of the status of the new ACIP recommendation for Seasonal Flu, and vaccine supply updates. Mr. Ritter discussed Seasonal Flu doses for (2005-2009). He also discussed the CDC' doses available for the VFC Program (2009-2010) program year.

**Branch Updates:** Mr. Jack Sims reported on the following items:

- Seasonal Flu
- National Immunization Survey (NIS) Coverage levels for Texas rose 77.3 to 77.8 ranking Texas 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation. A steady increase is noted since 2002 in part thanks to TISWG assisting the department in making immunization history.
- In April, Texas was recognized by the CDC at the national conference as the most improved state in vaccination coverage levels.
- Expansion of Adult Safety Net Program will include all routinely recommended vaccinations for adults. A memo was sent to the regions and providers last month.
- Hepatitis B: Fewer than 300 cases were reported in Texas this year. We do expect the incidences in Adult Hepatitis B disease to decrease.
- TISWG members were commended for there input regarding the Measles Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine. Their input was also discussed at the recent ACIP meeting. This week Merck will announce they are no longer pursuing MMR changes.
- Upcoming Bills and Rule Changes: SB 291 regarding the Hepatitis B vaccine for high school entry. The requirement now is law and was passed by the advisory council. The ruling will be posted in the Texas Register in a couple of weeks.
- Back to School seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) graders vaccine requirements are facing an emergency ruling.
- Discussed Dallas County experience. Best Practices will be subject to questioning. Staff and stakeholders are encouraged to be ready to minimize any confusion.
- Legislation and Stimulus Funding has been awarded. (See listing below). Mr. Dan Walters is assisting with the Project Management of these efforts. Information on progress will be shared on a regular base.

**Stimulus Projects:** The Immunization Branch was awarded American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) Funding to develop four (4) specific projects for immunizations. Various Immunization Branch staff, subject matter experts provided the following status reports and updates.

- **First Responder Study:** Ms. Ishah Coleman reported that a First Responder Feasibility study is currently underway. The purpose of the first responder feasibility study is to determine the feasibility of providing vaccines to first responders deployed to a disaster area. See handout attached.
- **School Based Immunization:** Ms. Rochelle Kingsley provided an update on the School-based Influenza Study. This also a feasibility study will evaluate existing school-based influenza vaccination programs for their effectiveness, identified issues/barriers, and the potential for statewide implementation.

- **EMR-ImmTrac Reporting:** Mr. Kevin Allen discussed the progress ImmTrac has made towards identifying and exploring the many Electronic Medical Record (EMR) software systems in an effort to increase and enhance access of ImmTrac registrants who utilize those systems.
- **Cocooning:** Ms. Monica Gamez reported this project will develop and implement a pilot to introduce the concept of cocooning. Cocooning will approach and encourage immediate family members of newborn infants to be vaccinated in order to protect a newborn/child against pertussis. Education in being explored to provide provider education to hospitals, pediatric and obstetric practice settings.

**Media and Education:** Ms. Lupe M. Garcia presented on the recent media projects. She reviewed current projects such as the newly developed video for First Responder recruitment. The video is currently running in four markets across Texas. (See handout).

**2010 Strategic Imperatives:** Mr. Walters facilitated this portion of the agenda. Participants were divided into smaller working groups to address certain stakeholder topics. Table discussion and report out followed with particular common and unique items of interest. Participants were asked to address the following topics:

1. What are the key focus areas in your organization for 2010? What are the “Top Three” priorities?
2. Identify areas of focus in your organization for TISWG.
3. Identify key areas of focus for TISWG.

**Future Meeting Dates for 2010:**

- February 18, 2010
- May 20, 2010
- August 19, 2010

**Adjourn:**

- The meeting adjourned at 2:56 pm.