

**Texas Immunization Stakeholder Working Group (TISWG)
Meeting Minutes – November 2, 2006**

Texas Medical Association
Thompson Conference Room
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Participants

Dr. Barry Lachman, Texas Association of Health Plans; Carrie Kroll, Texas Pediatric Society; Dr. Jason V. Terk, Texas Pediatric Society; Dr. Neil S. Levy, Texas Osteopathic Medical Association; Dr. Tamra Deuser, Texas Academy of Family Physicians; Ardas Khalsa, Health and Human Services Commission; Susan Griffin, Texas Medical Association; Kurt Stembridge and Angela Craig, GlaxoSmithKline Vaccines; Clifford Pumphrey, Wyeth Vaccines; Andrea Stricklin, Merck Vaccines; Curtis Krause, Medimmune Vaccine; Crystal Zamarron, Texas Medical Association; Rita Hanson-Bohl, Texas Pediatric Society; Frankie Milley and Lois Reiszner, Meningitis Angels; Velma Gonzales, Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, Early Childhood Intervention; Dan Walters, Dan Walters Associates; facilitator

New Members and Guests

Del Negron, Merck; Terri Andrews, Texas Medical Association Alliance; Terri Kemp, DSHS Health Service Region 7;

DSHS Staff

Sandra Morris and Carol Donsbach, Infectious Disease Control Unit; Beverly McCarty, Kathy Clements, Angela Hobbs-Lopez, Purchased Health Services; Vivian Harris, Christine Contreras, Jack Sims, David Scott, Lupe M. Garcia, Anita Freeman, Claude Longoria, Monica Gamez, Tim Hawkins, and Karen Hess, Disease Prevention and Intervention Section; Sharon Slater, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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

Welcome and Introduction: Mr. David Scott welcomed TISWG members, meeting participants, and introduced facilitator, Dan Walters.

Introduction of All Participants: TISWG members and meeting participants introduced themselves and the organizations they represent.

Review of Minutes: Mr. David Scott asked for any feedback/comments regarding last meeting minutes. Having no comments, the minutes were approved and are now final. The minutes may be viewed at the following web address:

http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/partners/minutes_11-2-06.pdf (1)

Agenda Review Content and Expectations: Mr. Dan Walters reviewed the agenda and discussed meeting expectations with participants.

Call to Action Update: DSHS Immunization Branch convened a Call to Action conference in September 2006, with the primary purpose of sharing ideas centered on strategies that are consistent with higher vaccine coverage levels. Ms. Anita Freeman distributed a handout, *DSHS Immunization Branch, Call to Action, September 13 & 14, 2006*, which summarizes the Processes, Outcomes, Evaluations and New Ideas shared from the conference. Transcribed notes from the Call to Action may be viewed at the following web address:

http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/docs/Call2Action/Call2Action_9-06.pdf (2)

Medical Home Update: As requested by the TISWG, an ongoing update and progress report of the statewide Medical Home Workgroup was provided. Ms Beverly MacCarty distributed a handout, *Medical Home Workgroup, Strategic Plan Update – September 2006*, which identifies five (5) Strategies and Activities and provided status updates on current activities. This document can be viewed on-line at the following web-site.
<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/partners/MedHomeWorkgroup.pdf> (3)

Pharmacy Inventory Control System (PICS): Ms. Karen Hess provided a presentation on the basic and general features of PICS, an automated inventory and reconciliation system for vaccines purchased through the Texas Vaccines for Children Program (TVFC). The presentation outlined provider expectations of the system. PICS will interact with TWICES (client database), VACMAN (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) database for orders) and ImmTrac (Texas Immunization Registry). PICS will be implemented in phases with ongoing training and technical assistance. The power point presentation can be found on-line at
<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/partners/PICS.ppt> (4)

Immunization Branch Update: Mr. Jack Sims provided an update concerning the following Immunization Branch issues.

- **Bar coding:** Still on agenda item. Gaining interest is shown among other states and registry managers at CDC. Possibly would require a Food and Drug Administration regulation.
- **Four Areas in Texas Measured by National Immunization Survey (NIS):** CDC has announced it will drop 22 cities in future NIS measurements. Dallas and El Paso counties are to be dropped. Mr. Sims stated he is negotiating the use of federal funds to keep these two counties in the survey. CDC is anticipating directing the focus towards measuring adolescent vaccination since the introduction of the new adolescent vaccines.
- **Legislative Update:** DSHS is working closely with the Senate Health and Human Services Committee through the interim study.
- **Human Papilloma Virus Vaccine (HPV):** CDC has signed a contract with Merck for the purchase of HPV vaccine. Implementation of the HPV vaccine will begin as soon as funds become available.
- **Branch ACIP Committee – Vaccine Advisories:** The Branch has introduced a new communication tool for dissemination of immunization updates. Partners are encouraged to distribute the new Vaccine Advisories widely.
- **Statewide Infrastructure:** DSHS is committed to strengthening the statewide public health infrastructure for immunizations.
 - Local Health Departments will add 85 new staff across the state to focus on ImmTrac and PICS.

- Health Service Regions will add 24 new staff across the state for health education, ImmTrac, and adult/adolescent activities.
- Austin will add four staff to focus on ImmTrac, contract monitoring, and adult/adolescent activities.
- Data Items Shared During Call to Action: A sample survey was conducted prior to the Call to Action conference using doses administered for public clinics versus the non-health department clinics, and ImmTrac county assessments. The findings were presented individually to each public health clinic revealing a low of 6% and high of 44% coverage levels.
- Other Hot Topics:
 - DSHS implemented the 2nd dose Varicella a couple weeks ago.
 - Alma Chavez is working with data in ImmTrac for county wide assessments.
 - Vaccine coverage levels in Texas went up according to the recent NIS results released September 15th. DSHS is positive the work of TISWG played a vital role in this achievement.

2006 TISWG Recommendation, Next Steps, and DSHS Responses

Reviewed handout *2006 TISWG Recommendations with DSHS Responses*. Discussed each recommendation listed per task and identified next steps. The following list the summary of each goal discussed and the recommended next steps. Handout can be found in PDF format at http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/partners/2006_TISWG_Reccs.pdf or XL spreadsheet at http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/partners/2006_TISWG_Reccs.xls
(5)

Goal # 1 Promote Adolescent Vaccination:

- **Discussion Reviewed Tasks 1:1-1:15:** DSHS will be hiring an adolescent coordinator at the central office level, as well as among the health service regions. First task will be to develop a Business Plan. Most recommendations for these items will be incorporated into the Business Plan. Future brainstorming sessions will be required to discuss ways to engage specialty societies in an effort to promote education (physicians reaching out beyond their own specialty), advocate alignment of funding with cost, explore ways of developing alternative vaccination sites and ways of providing “rewards” for children and adolescents in terms of receiving vaccines. DSHS will coordinate with Texas Education Agency (TEA) to explore the possibility of schools sending home information at the end of the school year (April/May) instead of the beginning, and explore ways of utilizing School Health Advisory Councils.
- **Next Steps:**
 - Motion to Decommission Sub Committee
 - Use TISWG to develop Business Plan on Objective 1

Video Presentation Meningitis Angels: Ms. Frankie Milley presented a promotional video of her organization, Meningitis Angels. The PSA is quite informative and

energetic.

Goal #2 Increase 4th DTaP Coverage:

- **Discussion reviewed Tasks 2:1-2:13:** Ms. Sharon Slater, CDC Advisor, is working to develop the Vaccine University, a new 2007 grant activity. DSHS will explore the possibility of developing a recommended immunization continuing medical education (CME) credit similar to the state requirement for ethics education, and incorporate into Vaccine University. Future brainstorming sessions are required to discuss contract and recruitment issues, information needs, explore methods of outreach and the development of an optimized, simplified public health department–approved immunization schedule for parents. DSHS has a meeting scheduled with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to discuss several recommendations listed. DSHS will report outcomes at the future TISWG meetings. DSHS will continue on-going efforts to explore ways of offering non-traditional hours for administering vaccines, and develop public service announcements to medical doctors, medical staff, and medical associations. A discussion continued on the current communications and publications. For those who wish to receive the *Upshot*, a publication from Immunization Branch, please email Lupe Garcia at LupeM.Garcia@dshs.state.tx.us.

- **Next Steps:**
 - Consolidate DFPS and Vaccine University items
 - Summarize results and take another look at recommendation
 - Remove Task ID 2.7 -Explore the establishment of a consortium between government, private corporations, physicians, pharmaceutical companies, insurance companies to discuss the creation of a universal immunization program for Texas – Dr. Levy will pursue and provide occasional updates to TISWG.
 - Remove Task ID 2.8 - Develop an intensive advertising program targeting the weakest links in the population – Combine with Task ID 8.4 to create a new Task ID 9.6.(Public Education)

Goal # 6 Promote Education and Marketing of ImmTrac:

- **Discussion reviewed Task 6:1-6:5:** The ImmTrac Group of DSHS has recently developed a presentation to communicate a consistent message. ImmTrac staff will continue to provide presentations and updates. Additionally online training will be developed as part of Vaccine University project. The ImmTrac Provider Working Group (IPWG) will explore opportunities to partner with pharmaceutical representatives and direct education efforts to the following primary care specialties: Family Practice, Pediatrics, Internal Medicine, and OB/GYN. Mr. Claude Longoria provided the sub-committee report with a handout *TISWG IMMTRAC Subgroup Report*. (6)
- **Next Steps:**
 - Motion to Decommission Sub Committee

- Mr. Claude Longoria will continue to report on IPWG activities

Goal # 7 Collaborate with OB/GYN:

- **Discussion reviewed Tasks 7:1-7:4:** The Texas Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (TAOG) has posted a message on immunizations and a link to ImmTrac on their website completing Task ID 7.1. Ms. Adriana Rhames, of ImmTrac, spoke at a TAOG meeting as recommended, completing Task ID 7.2. TISWG has discussed the progress of this goal and has determined it to be complete.
- **Next Steps:** Close out goal and incorporate Task ID 7.4 – Develop a pamphlet specifically for OB/GYN specialists to give to their patients. Include this task in into the Business Plan.

Goal # 8 Provider Education (Medical Schools):

- **Discussion reviewed Tasks 8:1-8-4:** Ms. Sharon Slater has been added to this sub-group. The sub-group will explore the possibilities of inviting key personnel from medical schools to an upcoming TISWG meeting to discuss how provider education on immunizations can be included in the medical school curriculum. Updates on their efforts will be provided to TISWG. Further discussion is needed to develop a consistent presentation (physicians to physicians) to be given at conferences. Mr. Jack Sims asked manufactures to research available presentations and submit to Sharon at the following email address: Sharon.Slater@dshs.state.tx.us .
- **Next Steps:**
 - Sub-group to continue meeting and report back to TISWG.
 - Anyone who has an immunization presentation, please submit to Sharon Slater.
 - Remove Task ID 8.4 - Develop an intensive advertising program targeting the weakest links in the population – Combine with Task ID 2.8 to create a new Task ID 9.6. (Public Education).

Goal # 9 Public Education:

- **Discussion reviewed Tasks 9:1-9:6:** Ms. Lupe M. Garcia distributed a handout, *2006 Pertussis Campaign in Full Swing*, a brief summary of the campaign and four maps that identify the Immunizations Campaign Media Markets in 2005 & 2006. DSHS took advantage of the national immunization observance dates to deliver pertussis messages. Ad materials were sent to Texas Parent Teacher Association to include on their website and also materials were distributed to local health departments to promote the Pertussis Campaign. DSHS will continue to gather and analyze data needed to determine target populations and geographic area expansion of the pertussis media campaigns, determine best strategies for providing the campaign in both English and Spanish, and continue to provide updates to TISWG.
- **Next Steps:**
 - Combine Task ID 2.8 & 8.4 - Develop an intensive advertising program

- targeting the weakest links in the population – Create new Task ID 9.6.
- Continue to provide updates to TISWG

Goal #10 Other Goals & Tasks:

- **Discussion reviewed Tasks 10:1-10:5:** DSHS will continue to track and list TISWG recommendations. Ms. Sharon Slater was added to the Provider Education sub-group to complete Task ID 10.2. Ms. Anita Freeman discussed outcomes and recommendation from the Call to Action meeting, completing Task ID 10.4. Further discussion is needed to determine if subgroup charges are complete. TISWG will consider at a future date if a sub-group for PICS should be developed.
- **Next Steps:**
 - Continue to track list of TISWG recommendations
 - Determine if subgroup charges are complete
 - Consider developing a sub-group for PICS

2007 Projections, New Ideas, Wrap Up, and Evaluation:

- Future Meeting Brainstorm: Task ID 1.3, 1.7, 1.9, 1.12, 2.2 & 2.4
- Coordinate education items that involve all goals identified.
- Disaster/Pandemic – Dr. Lachman recommended discussion at a future meeting, His suggestion to contact Casey Blass for a presenter to discuss “Where we are in Texas?” regarding Pandemic Flu and Disaster Preparedness, is also being considered.
- Next Meeting scheduled for January 18, 2007. Location and logistics to be determined.

Evaluation:

- Negatives
 - Needed a third microphone
- Positives
 - Room Size
 - Format of meeting
 - Covered a great deal
 - Lunch
- Special appreciation and Thank you to both Texas Medical Association and Texas Pediatric Society for hosting today’s meeting, luncheon and refreshments.

Adjourn:

- The meeting adjourned at 2:51 p.m.