

**Texas Immunization Stakeholder Working Group (TISWG)**  
**Meeting Minutes – August 16, 2007**  
Goodwill Industries of Central Texas  
1015 Norwood Park Blvd., Room 1124  
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Participants**

Lois Reiszner and Frankie Milley, Meningitis Angles; Kathy Moore, Texas Association of Local Health Officials; Angela Craig, Glaxo Smith Kline Vaccines; Madeline Gill, Texas Medical Foundation Health Quality Institute; Dr. Tamra Deuser, Texas Academy Family Physicians; Velma Gonzales, Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services – Early Childhood Intervention; Carrie Kroll and Dr. Jason V. Terk, Texas Pediatric Society; Camille Pridgen, Texas Higher Education Coordination Board; Dr. Barry Lachman, Texas Association of Health Plans; Terrence Campbell, City of Houston; Clifford Pumphrey, Wyeth Vaccines; Kathy Dreyer, Retired Senior Volunteer Program; Crystal Zamarron, Texas Medical Association; Reece Patterson, Sanofi Pasteur Vaccines; Dr. Neil S. Levy, Texas Osteopathic Medical Association; Dan Walters, Dan Walters Associates; facilitator

**New Members and Guests**

Laura Lerma, RN, Texas Nurses Association; Morgan Walthall, March of Dimes; Leonard Cash, Texas Education Agency; Fran Kirkley, Tarrant County Public Health; Dave Barker, Glaxo Smith Kline Vaccines; Anita Soto, Tony Aragon, Julia Moreno, Charles Yowell, Dr. Cynthia Morgan, Rita Espinoza, Debra Saxton, Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

**DSHS Staff**

Kathy Clement, Texas Health Steps; Nicole Minor, Office of the Elimination of Health Disparities; Angela Hobbs-Lopez, Family Health Research & Program Development; Carol Harvey, Purchased Health Services Unit; Anita Freeman, Christine Contreras, Claude Longoria, David Scott, Jack Sims, John Gemar, Karen Hess, Monica Gamez, Tim Hawkins and Vivian Harris, Disease Prevention and Intervention Section.

New Member orientation was held from 8:30 am through 9:00 am. General session was called to order at 9:12 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. Scott asked for any feedback/comments regarding the last meeting's 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/tiswg.shtm>

**Agenda Review and Expectations:** Mr. Dan Walters reviewed the agenda and discussed meeting expectations with participants. He distributed an *Idea Sheet* for participants to write down thoughts as each topic is presented.

**Adolescent Business Plan Update:** Mr. John Gemar provided a presentation, "*Adult and Adolescent Immunization Program Update; TISWG August 2007*". Mr. Gemar received input from the March 2007 TISWG meeting/brainstorming session and included this information in the Adult & Adolescent Immunization Program (AAIP) Business Plan, as well as the 2008 Immunization Grant Objectives. The draft AAIP Business Plan is being developed, and is due mid-September. Mr. Gemar thanked everyone for their input.

**• Next Steps/Ideas:**

- Develop creative ways of educating the adolescent peer community on the purpose of

- o vaccines and why they are important.
- o Engage Specialty Societies such as:
  - Texas Pediatric Society: Infectious Disease, Adolescent Health
  - Texas Medical Association: Child & Adolescent Health
- o Engage Providers: Non-tradition Providers (minimal care neighborhood walk-in clinics)
- o Provide education opportunities at upcoming professional meetings:
  - Texas Osteopathic Medical Association -December Meeting
  - Medicaid HMO - Immunization Education & Awareness September Meeting
  - Academy of Family Physicians - March '08 Public Health
- o Maintain development and production of OB/GYN Education Tool Kit

**Legislative Update:** Mr. Jack Sims provided a handout *Immunization Summary – 80<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session*. Complete summaries can be found on Upshot webpage at the following link: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/upshot/>

- o **Senate Bill 11** - Allows first responders and their families to store immunization data in the registry during an emergency event. The registry will be able to store adult information and information on antivirals as it pertains to the emergency. Rules should be in place by June/July '08. Programming will be conducted in phases over a period of time.
- o **Senate Bill 140** - Addresses a joint feasibility study for free or low cost vaccination for disadvantaged students enrolled in health professional degree programs at institutions of higher education. The kick-off meeting is planned for December 2007 between DSHS and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
- o **Senate Bill 204** - Addresses electronic medical record software packages interfacing with immunization registries and generating reports. There are no national standards in place yet for the national program. There is a belief that immunization standards will be prioritized within the next year or two. Once these standards are in place, DSHS will develop a rule on how to report to ImmTrac.
- o **Senate Bill 811** - Addresses Two issues: (1) TVFC health care providers will be given brand choice when ordering influenza vaccines through the TVFC. These requests will be honored as possible within the vaccines allocated to Texas by the CDC. (2) Effective September 4, 2007, DSHS will be required to procure equal amounts of equivalent vaccines when the cost of the vaccine is within 110 percent of the lowest priced product. This affects four products DTaP, TDaP, Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B.
- o **House Bill 1059** - Requires DSHS to make immunization requirements available through every school district's website (both in English and Spanish). If anyone wishes to have a copy of the recommended immunization, they may call 1-800-252-9152.
- o **House Bill 1098** - Requires an education program to accompany the requirement of the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine.
- o **House Bill 1379** - Requires DSHS to work with Texas Cancer Council to develop educational materials for parents and minors regarding HPV and preventive measures.
- o **House Bill 3184** - Requires DSHS to work with the Texas Department of Family Protective Services and child care facilities to distribute brochures regarding annual vaccinations against influenza. Information packets will be mailed out to child care facilities in late August/early September.

**VMBIP:** Ms. Karen Hess provided a presentation on “*Implementation of Nationwide Vaccine Distributor*”. Vaccine Management Business Improvement Project (VMBIP) is a CDC sponsored project to improve vaccine management. CDC awarded a contract to McKesson Biosciences to ship all Vaccine for Children (VFC) vaccines nationally. Texas will begin using McKesson Biosciences on September 4, 2007. A letter was distributed explaining the new process, along with a survey to determine storage capacity. Providers will be scheduled to place orders monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly. Maximum vaccines stock levels were assigned based on past usage. A new ordering form was created. Shipping containers have changed. They are now in a Kool Temp cardboard box, with “Temperature Sensitive Product” and “Refrigerate upon Arrival” written on the box. Temperature monitors will be provided within the box to check upon arrival to determine if vaccines were shipped properly and are not warm when received.

• **Next Steps/Ideas:**

- Partial Shipments
- “Vaccines” written on box
- Monitors – not clear, improve instructions

**Upcoming Flu Season and Business Plan:** Mr. Jack Sims distributed handout, *Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) Program 2007-08 Influenza Vaccine Dosages and Information*. A large distribution is forthcoming regarding information on vaccine availability. Sanofi is ready to start shipping vaccines in August. This is good news for public health since providers should be receiving their vaccines early this year.

• **Next Steps/Ideas:**

- Find creative ways of promoting the flu vaccine
- Conduct a “Faces” Campaign – stories of families that lost loved ones

**DSHS Continuity of Operations Planning:**

Mr. David Scott gave a brief description of the DSHS Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP). COOP focuses on how DSHS should respond in the event that its own organization was severely impacted by a disaster. Likewise, the planning includes discussions of the essential personnel, programs, and facilities required to operate during the time of emergency (i.e., orders of succession; delegation of authority; etc.) in order to best serve the interests of the public despite having to operate during a time of emergency. DSHS is currently in the planning stages, which includes activities such as cost analyses, researching the planning efforts within other agencies, and researching software. DSHS is in the data collection phase, identifying what systems and/or functions are critical to the organization and would need to be maintained and operated should a natural disaster occur.

**Meningitis Video:** Mrs. Frankie Milley presented a promotional video of her organization, Meningitis Angels. The video, which focuses on the importance of the vaccine, consists of a compilation of testimonies from victims and family members who were severely effected by the devastation caused by meningitis.

**TISWG Anniversary Recognition /Group Photo:** In recognition of TISWG’s third year anniversary, Mr. Jack Sims distributed Certificates of Appreciation to all members for their exemplary commitment, contributions and dedication to the workgroup and service to the people in Texas. A group photo was also taken.

**Branch Update:** Mr. Jack Sims distributed a handout, *Immunization Branch Updates*

- National Immunization Survey - August 31, 2007, is the scheduled release date. Survey will

include a national teen rate (13-17 years old) for the first time for Hepatitis B, Varicella, two MMR, Td/TDaP, and Meningococcal.

- Customer Satisfaction Survey of the Immunization Branch completed - 750 responses, data analysis underway, presentation at next TISWG meeting.
- Vaccine University – 22 educational modules on different immunization topics are currently in development and will be ready in October for implementation. These modules will not consist of Continuing Education Units (CEU); however, the next phase in 2008 will include CEUs.
- Materials and Forms Distribution Contractor Implemented – DSHS internal warehouse IT system was not capable of providing quick turnaround nor were they adequately staffed. Literature and form orders that previously took up to two months to fill will now be turned around in three days.
- Grant completed and submitted - new focus areas: adult/adolescent immunization, program evaluation, significant additions to registry requirements. Service delivery (act of giving shots) has been dropped.
- Adult Vaccine Expansion in Public Health Clinics (safety net) - Zoster, Hep A, Hep B, TDaP, Td, MMR, Varicella, HPV, Pneumococcal, Meningococcal (high-risk)

**Pandemic Flu State Plan:** Dr. Cynthia Morgan provided a presentation on “*Pandemic Influenza Activities Update*”. She gave a brief overview of pandemic flu and goals of pandemic preparedness. DSHS developed the Pandemic Influenza Plan Operating Guidelines. DSHS to have the plan finalized within the next month.

**New Items/Next Steps:**

- Present Customer Service Survey Results
- Adolescent Business Plan Final Draft
- National Immunization Survey released -What do they mean?
- Best Practices -Local Initiatives
- VMBIP-Vaccine Shipment Status

**Meeting Feedback:**

- Positives
  - Location
  - Lunch
  - Content- lots of ideas
  - Use of Idea Sheet
- Negatives
  - Microphone needed
  - Table lay out - prefer looking towards each other
  - Balance meeting - work session and lecture

**Adjourn:**

- The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.