

Idaho Immunization Assessment Board
Board Meeting, Monday, October 2, 2023, 3:00 PM MST

Idaho Department of Insurance, Conference Room A, 700 W. State St., Boise, ID 83702

And Teams Meeting ID: 247 981 166 415

Meeting passcode: DYXcuH Phone: +1 208-985-2810

Phone Conference ID: 972588703#

Board Members Present:

- Norm Varin, Chair – PacificSource Health Plans
- Chase Ropelato, Vice Chair – Idaho Power
- Susan Fudge, Secretary – Idaho Associated General Contractors
- Christine Hahn, M.D. – Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
- Dean Cameron – Idaho Department of Insurance
- Dr. Perry Brown – Family Medicine Residency of Idaho
- Jayson Ronk – Blue Cross of Idaho
- Adrean Cavener, Regence BlueShield of Idaho
- Representative Dori Healey – Idaho House of Representatives

Board Members Absent:

- James Pegram – J.R. Simplot Company
- Senate – position vacant

Others Present:

- Wes Trexler – Idaho Department of Insurance
- Shannon Hohl – Idaho Department of Insurance
- John Keenan – Office of the Attorney General
- Tamarie Olson – Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
- Sarah Leeds - Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
- Martin Bilbao – Bilbao & Company
- Niko Lostra – Bilbao & Company
- Nate Fisher, Jr. – Idaho Power
- Karen Sharpnack – Idaho Immunization Coalition

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 3:00 pm by the Chair, Norm Varin. A quorum was present.

Dr. Brown questioned whether we could bring up the RSV vaccine during this meeting; per the Chair, it will not be discussed today as it is not on the agenda. The next meeting would be an appropriate date and time.

The Chair introduced the newest Board member, Representative Dori Healy, who spoke a few words on her background. As well as being a member of the Idaho House, she is an advanced practice nurse. She spent 10 years as a pediatric nurse and has a wide background in childhood vaccinations.

Approval of Minutes from July 17, 2023 meeting:

Review of minutes from the meeting of July 17, 2023. No changes made and minutes were approved unanimously.

Financial Report: as of 8/31/2023 – Wes Trexler

Mr. Trexler reviewed the financial report as of 8/31/2023 for Assessment Year 2023 and State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024. Since this meeting was held so close to the end of September, information for the quarter ending 9/30/2023 was not available. Highlights of the presentation included:

- Additional dependent lives totaling 169 were reported by the carriers and TPAs after the April meeting, bringing total dependents to 284,364 and resulting in additional assessment funds.
- Total assessment amount due for CY2023/SFY2024 is \$19,905,480.
- A total of \$13,761,775 was collected for CY2023/SFY2024 through 8/30/2023.
- \$15,680 was collected in July 2023 and \$25,060 was collected in August.
- Refunds totaled \$195.00; another refund of \$70 still needs to be processed.
- The IDHW fund balance was \$6,183,695 as of 7/1/2023 and \$14,992,122.35 as of 8/31/2023.
- In July, \$8,998,500 was transferred to IDHW; transfers for future months have not yet been made due to issues with Luma, the state’s new software program.
- IDHW spent \$190,073.60 during the first quarter of SFY2024, which ended 9/30/2023.

Ms. Olson reported that despite the delay in the transfer of funds, IDHW should be good until the beginning of the new calendar year in purchasing vaccines.

Dr. Brown asked about the difference between the forecast funding need and the as-voted amount and actual amount. Mr. Trexler explained that the original “ask” from IDHW at the April 10, 2023 Board meeting would have resulted in a dollar amount per dependent higher than the \$70 approved by the Board.

Motion to approve financial report by Dr. Hahn; seconded by Mr. Ronk; passed unanimously.

New Business:

1. Status of SFY2024 Assessment Payments – Ms. Hohl.

All assessments paid with the exception of the two carriers that pay quarterly. One TPA is owed a \$70 refund after overpaying; the refund has been delayed due to Luma.

Discussion of Immunization Assessment Program Sunset – Norm Varin, Chair

The program will sunset next year, so legislation is needed to extend the sunset. The Board needs to look for a sponsor for the legislation, perhaps Representative Healey?

IDHW put together an exhibit to show that the program saves insureds 35% in vaccine costs as opposed to what they would need to pay in the program’s absence. This represents about \$8 million per year, or \$80 over the past ten years.

We would probably want to extend the sunset date another five years, and perhaps consider changing the name of the Board so as to clarify that vaccines are not mandated.

These issues will be discussed at the next meeting in January. Ms. Olson and Ms. Leeds will look up what names other such programs go by, and will prepare and send to DOI a list of vaccines.

Dr. Hahn brought up the topic of vaccines which are not covered by the program and which may need to be paid for. Ms. Olson and Ms. Leeds will prepare and send to DOI a list of vaccines. Dr. Hahn proposed that she work with Ms. Olson and Ms. Leeds to draft some language of what is covered.

Dr. Brown brought up the possibility of changing the Board's name to the Therapeutics Assessment Board and possibly taking on some broader functions.

Next meeting date:

The next meeting date was set for Tuesday, January 16, 2024, to begin at 3:00 MST.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 MST.