

Idaho Immunization Assessment Board
Board Meeting, Monday, April 10, 2022, 2:00 PM MST

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

And Webex Meeting number (access code): 2460 557 8609

Meeting password: fJuSBX4fJ46 Phone: 1-415-655-0001

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
- Adrean Cavener for Mark Ruszczyk – Regence BlueShield of Idaho
- Dr. Perry Brown – Family Medicine Residency of Idaho
- Jayson Ronk – Blue Cross of Idaho

Board Members Absent:

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

Others Present:

- Wes Trexler – Idaho Department of Insurance
- Shannon Hohl – Idaho Department of Insurance
- Zac Chejanovski – Idaho Department of Insurance
- Kathy McGill – Idaho Department of Insurance
- Tamarie Olson – Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
- Sarah Leeds - Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 2:02 pm by the Chair, Norm Varin. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes from January 30, 2023 meeting:

Review of minutes from the meeting of January 30, 2023. *Motion to approve by Mr. Ronk; seconded by Dr. Brown; approved unanimously.*

Financial Report: as of 12/31/2022 – Wes Trexler

Mr. Trexler reviewed the financial report as of 3/31/2023 for Assessment Year 2022 and State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023, highlighting the following:

- Total assessment collected is \$18,040,100, based on 277,540 lives.

- The final quarterly payments from the two large carriers that pay quarterly were received in March 2023, totaling \$1,942,200.
- Refunds totaled \$4,420.
- The IDHW fund balance was \$5,807,356.66 as of 3/31/2023; this does not reflect the two quarterly payments received by the IDOI in March 2023.
- A total of \$12,350,845.00 has been collected and transferred to IDHW since 7/1/2022.

Mr. Varin asked whether we are on track as far as having the needed funding for the remainder of state fiscal year 2023. Ms. Olson answered the question, stating that there should be sufficient funding for the vaccines through June 2023, plus a little extra.

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

New Business:

- a. Status of 2023 Immunization Assessment Surveys – Ms. McGill.

All companies have completed the survey at this point. A total of 283,407 children under age 19 with vaccine coverage was reported to Ms. Olson last week; since then, the total has risen slightly to 284,195. Mr. Varin asked about the level of confidence in the numbers from the survey; Ms. McGill replied that she has a high level of confidence in the data and does not expect it to change, although there is a slight possibility that a few more children could be added.

- b. Assessment Determination - Ms. Olson.

Prior to Ms. Olson’s presentation, Mr. Vain reviewed the purpose and operations of the Idaho Immunization Program, as well as the function of the Immunization Assessment Board.

Ms. Olson presented her recommendation for the amount per child to be assessed for SFY2024. That amount was \$76.35, which would be a considerable increase from \$65 per child for SFY2023. This increase was mainly driven by a decrease in children covered by Medicaid and a decrease in uninsured children, both of whom are covered by federal rather than state funds. Under this proposal, 47.1% of the vaccine funds for SFY2024 would be covered by the assessment; for SFY2023, only 32.8% was covered by the assessment.

Estimated cost for vaccine needed for SFY2024 is \$44,955,586. This is based on vaccine distribution over a period of 24 months (3/1/2021 – 2/28/2023), which are then averaged for a 12-month period. Vaccine costs were updated by the CDC April 1, 2023, and went into effect on that date.

Dr. Brown asked Ms. Olson whether her proposal took into account children that might be losing Medicaid due to the Medicaid Unwinding that is taking place; Ms. Olson replied that it did not.

Mr. Ronk pointed out that there was an increase in the number of children covered by commercial plans of only about 5,000 and that such a steep increase in the assessment amount seemed inconsistent with that.

Director Cameron wondered if the estimate and the 47.1% ratio for the assessment was truly realistic, as not all eligible children receive the vaccines.

After further discussion, the Board consensus was that a less drastic increase in the amount per child assessed should be sufficient to cover the vaccines for SFY2024.

Motion to approve an assessment of \$70 per child for SFY2024 was made by Mr. Ronk; seconded by Ms. Fudge; passed unanimously.

The DOI's Deputy Attorney General staff will be asked to look at whether a second assessment would be allowed under Idaho statute, if need be, to cover the last few months of the state fiscal year – or whether the assessment for the upcoming state fiscal year could be increased by a few dollars to make up for any shortfall in the current state fiscal year's funding.

Next meeting date:

The next meeting date was set for Monday, July 17, 2023, to begin at 3:00 MST and to last for 90 minutes.

Mr. Varin stated that the July meeting will be important as one topic for discussion will be the 7/1/2024 sunset of Title 41, Chapter 60, which provides for immunization assessments as a means of funding the Idaho Immunization Program

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 MST.