

**Idaho Immunization Assessment Board**  
**Board Meeting, Monday, July 17, 2023, 2:00 PM MST**

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

And Webex Meeting number (access code): 2462 261 6758

Meeting password: YhPRYJ3TQ76 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
- Dean Cameron – Idaho Department of Insurance
- Dr. Perry Brown – Family Medicine Residency of Idaho
- Mike Reynoldson (for Jayson Ronk) – Blue Cross of Idaho

**Board Members Absent:**

- James Pegram – J.R. Simplot Company
- Christine Hahn, M.D. – Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
- Senate – position vacant
- House of Representatives – position vacant
- Carrier representative - vacant

**Others Present:**

- Wes Trexler – Idaho Department of Insurance
- Shannon Hohl – 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
- Representative Megan Blanksma
- Adrean Cavener, Regence BlueShield of Idaho
- Elizabeth Criner

**Call to Order:**

Meeting called to order at 3:02 pm by the Chair, Norm Varin. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes from April 10, 2023 meeting:**

Review of minutes from the meeting of April 10, 2023. *Motion to approve by Dr. Brown; seconded by Mr. Reynoldson; approved unanimously.*

## **Financial Report: as of 6/30/2023 – Wes Trexler**

Mr. Trexler reviewed the financial report as of 6/30/2023 for Assessment Year 2023 and State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024, highlighting the following:

- Total assessment collected is \$ 13,721,035.00 over the months of April, May and June of 2023.
- A total of 6,172,810.00 is still outstanding (this includes the quarterly payers).
- Refunds totaled \$195.00.
- The IDHW fund balance was \$ 6,183,695.95 as of 6/30/2023.

The financial report was not available in advance of the meeting, but was sent out during the meeting for the Board's review.

*Motion to approve financial report by Mr. Ropelato; seconded by Dr. Brown; passed unanimously.*

## **New Business:**

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

There are six companies that have not yet paid, not counting the two carriers who pay in quarterly installments (they have both paid the first quarterly payment). The total owed from these six companies is \$11,1130. Of the six, one is an insurer and the others are TPAs. The next step in our collection process will be to have the Department's legal counsel send letters demanding payment.

2. Renewal of MOU with WA Department of Health - Ms. McGill.

Idaho has an agreement with the Washington Department of health. There are some WA children who receive immunizations in Idaho. WA reports the number of these children to Idaho on an annual basis, and is then invoiced for an amount based on the dollar amount per child determined by the Board. The MOU runs for two years, and then must be renewed. The latest renewal was just completed and runs from 7/1/2023 through 6/30/2025. The only change to the MOU is that the cap on the dollar amount that WA can be assessed was raised from \$120,00 to \$200,00 based on the anticipated rise in the cost of childhood vaccines.

3. Election of Officers

A motion was made by Mr. Reynoldson to keep the same individuals in place as Board officers. The motion was seconded by Dr. Brown and passed unanimously.

4. Review Estimated Program Savings – Ms. Olson

Ms. Olson provided an analysis of the last eight years of the program. From state fiscal year 2026 to state fiscal year 2023, the state saved approximately \$79,411,040 through the purchase of the childhood vaccines through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as opposed to purchasing the vaccines through the private sector. This comes to an average savings of 38% annually.

Dr. Brown stated that the true savings were probably greater due to opportunity costs. Not having to have two refrigerators to store the vaccines purchased through the CDC and those for the private sector makes it much easier for the smaller providers to provide the vaccine services. Dr. Brown mentioned a survey that was done in the past that indicated that almost 40% of Idaho family medicine physicians said that they would not be able to offer the childhood vaccines except for those administered through the federal Vaccines for Children program without the Immunization Assessment Program. This included most of rural Idaho's family medicine physicians.

Mr. Ropelato will reach out to some of the larger self-funded employers concerning the program to discuss the program savings to them.

### **Discussion of Immunization Assessment Program Sunset – Norm Varin, Chair**

Mr. Varin met with Representative Blanksma to discuss a bill to extend the program beyond the current sunset date of June 30, 2024. Representative Blanksma carried the previous bill that extended the program an additional five years.

The Board members discussed various options going forward to improve the likelihood of the program's being extended. Among the possibilities discussed were:

- Changing the name of the program to emphasize that this is truly a purchasing cooperative as opposed to a program that advocates for vaccinations,
- The possibility of removing a sunset date from the legislation to make it a permanent program,
- Adding types of services other than vaccinations to the program to be purchased cooperatively,
- Revising or removing the legislative intent section of the new bill, and
- Emphasizing that no state funds are spent for this program or its administration.

Representative Blanksma will send an initial draft bill to Mr. Varin, who will then work with Director Cameron on the bill's text.

### **Next meeting date:**

The next meeting date was set for Monday, October 2, 2023, to begin at 3:00 MST.

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 MST.