

**Idaho Immunization Assessment Board
Board Meeting, Wednesday, April 7, 2021**

JRW Conference Room East, 700 W. State St., Boise, ID 83702
And Webex Meeting number (access code): 133 121 9183
Meeting password: aUNmMpzJ352

Board Members Present:

- Director Dean Cameron – Idaho Department of Insurance
- Ted Epperly, M.D., Chair – Family Medicine Residency of Idaho
- Norm Varin, Vice Chair – PacificSource Health Plans
- Ralph Woodard, Secretary – BlueCross of Idaho
- Chase Ropelato – Idaho Power
- Christine Hahn, M.D. – Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
- Susan Fudge – Idaho Associated General Contractors

Board Members Absent:

- Senator Fred Martin – Idaho Senate
- Carrier representative – position vacant
- House of Representatives – position vacant

Others Present:

- Reneé Iverson – Idaho Department of Insurance
- Pamela Murray – 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 3:05 pm by Chairman Dr. Ted Epperly who reviewed the agenda. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes from November 16, 2020 meeting:

Review of minutes from the meeting of November 16, 2020. *Motion to approve; approved by unanimous voice vote.*

Financial Report: as of 3/31/2021 – Reneé Iverson (see attached)

Reneé Iverson reviewed the attached financial report as of 3/31/2021 for 2020 and the 2021 State Fiscal Year (SFY) highlighting the following:

- All assessments for the state fiscal year 2020 totaling \$18,883,060 had been received.
- Cash balance of the Idaho Immunization Dedicated Vaccine Fund was \$4,386,827.63 as of 3/31/2021.
- Revenue was higher than budget due to higher covered lives while total expenditures are anticipated to be on budget

Motion to approve financial reports passed unanimously.

New Business:

1. Status of 2021 Survey – Kathy McGill gave an overview of the Idaho Immunization Assessment Survey that opened 1/15/2021 and closed 3/15/2021. Survey results showed total covered dependent lives was 275,501, which includes the number of Washington resident children who received vaccines in Idaho. One TPA had not responded; however, last year this TPA reported two dependents, so that should not affect the amount of the assessment.

Dr. Epperly asked whether children from states other than Washington are considered. Ms. McGill was unsure of that but stated that Idaho only has a Memorandum of Understanding with Washington at this time. Tamarie Olson added that it is likely that the number children from states other than Washington who receive vaccines in Idaho is negligible. Also, unlike other neighboring states, WA has an immunization assessment program similar to ID.

2. Tamarie Olson presented a proposal for the SFY2022 vaccine assessment amount. The proposal was based on the same process as previous years using the two prior years as the basis to estimate the amount of vaccine that will be needed for FY2022. The amount using this approach was a \$55.44 assessment per covered child.

Ms. Olson also proposed an alternative or optional proposal that used the year prior to the COVID-19 pandemic beginning in Idaho - March 1, 2019 through February 29, 2020. This alternative proposal was presented since vaccines administered during the pandemic decreased. The amount using this approach was a \$56.77 assessment per covered child.

Norm Varin stated that while the proposal using the year before the pandemic year was a better approach, he believed the approach might still understate actual vaccine demand during SFY2022 due to parents catching up on childhood immunizations missed during the pandemic. He proposed an assessment of \$60 per child to cover the potential understatement of the proposal. Board members discussed increasing the 2022 assessment to \$60 per child, noting the recommendation was prudent but not overly conservative. *It was noted any surplus amounts would be rolled over and used in the next assessment time period.*

There was some discussion as to the possibility of a children's COVID-19 vaccine being added to the recommended children's vaccines during SFY2020, and thus having to be included in those

purchased from the CDC and distributed to providers. There was general consensus that if that were to happen a special assessment would be considered by the Board to cover the additional cost.

Dr. Christine Hahn was asked to opine as to whether it appeared likely that a children's COVID-19 vaccine would be added to the recommended pediatric vaccines. Dr. Hahn said that currently the emphasis was on getting adults vaccinated against COVID-19; a childhood vaccine was not on the foreseeable horizon.

Dr. Epperly stated that it will be important to meet quarterly this year and to monitor the vaccination rate to ensure that the Board will have advance warning if it appears that the assessed amount is insufficient to cover the vaccines for FY2022.

Motion to approve an assessment of \$60.00 per child for FY2022 was unanimously approved.

Next meeting date:

The next meeting should take place around the middle of July 2021. A Doodle poll will be sent out to select a date.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 4:10pm, MDT.