

January 8, 2013 from 2:00-3:00 EST
Meeting Minutes

2:00-2:20 Welcome and Housekeeping – Sandy Allen, Co-Chair (NC)

Sandy expressed the NAICP's gratitude to Carlie Shurtliff and Debbye Rosen, former co-chairs, for their advocacy, patience, and diligent work during the inception of the NAICP and during their time as chairs. Carlie and Debbye organized a face-to-face adult immunization coordinators meeting at the end of the 2012 Adult Immunization Summit in May.

Sandy introduced the new, geographically diverse Executive Committee (EC) members; members answered where they work, background/experience, what portion of their job is adult immunization-related, and why they were interested in serving on the EC. The new members are:

- Sandy Allen (NC), Co-Chair, 2013-2014
- Karen Donoghue (NH), Co-Chair, 2013-2014
- Laura Baus (MT), Recorder, 2013-2014
- Courtney Londo (MI), Recorder, 2013-2014

2:20-3:00 State Medicaid Project and Medicaid Bump-up Presentations

In 2012, the NAICP EC surveyed all adult immunization coordinators regarding issues they would like to discuss during quarterly calls, and Medicaid was a topic of interest identified in the survey.

2:20-2:45 Medicaid Bump-Up - Kathy Talkington, ASTHO

The Medicaid bump-up is a provision of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) with the goal of increasing access to health care services and participation in primary care services. This bump-up was included because of concerns of inadequate reimbursement to providers, thus creating a disincentive to provide immunizations. This two year provision, which goes into effect on January 1, 2013, permits the use of federal funds to cover the difference between the state Medicaid reimbursement rate and the regional Medicare rate, and it updates the regional maximum fee for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, which was last updated in 1994.

ASTHO held stakeholder meetings with immunization managers, Medicaid staff, and provider groups, in Massachusetts, Washington, Utah, and Mississippi to determine the impact of this provision as well as discuss suggestions for evaluating its effectiveness. In general, most states thought this would have an impact and might be an enticement for more providers to participate in adult immunizations.

Eligible providers include primary care providers, family practice, and pediatricians, while pharmacists and independently practicing physicians are excluded. Local health departments (LHDs) were initially excluded, but the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is re-exploring the issue (if LHD uses an eligible provider code and bills on a fee schedule, may be eligible).

This provision is one of many new provisions that state Medicaid programs will have to implement in very short timeframe, which could create some delays in implementation. Another challenge is that systems will need to be developed for identifying who is eligible.

A new requirement has been added regarding data collection which requires states to collect information on the impact of this bump-up on provider participation. Data will assist Congress in determining whether or not to extend the provision beyond 2014.

ASTHO has developed a white paper on the topic which is available at: <http://www.astho.org/Programs/Immunization/>. This white paper includes a summary of the state meetings, suggestions for evaluation, and a letter to assist in reaching out to adult providers.

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During the question and answer segment, Donna Lazorik from Massachusetts mentioned a survey conducted by the Massachusetts Academy of Physicians which asked physicians if they thought this provision would be beneficial.

2:45-3:00 Working with Medicaid: Overcoming the Barriers - Donna Lazorik, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Approximately 6.4 million people live in the state of Massachusetts, which has 360 cities and towns each with their own board of health, of which approximately 160 administer vaccines to adults. In 2006, Massachusetts passed comprehensive health reform to provide near universal health care to residents; by 2010, the uninsured rate of non-elderly residents dropped to 6%. While most residents (63%) support Massachusetts' universal health care, this bill has been silent on the issue of vaccinations.

Since 1998, LHDs have been billing for the administration of state-supplied vaccine (LHDs can bill Medicare Advantage plans for flu and pneumococcal vaccines), and in 2009, ARRA funds were used to reimburse schools and LHDs for flu vaccine. The Center for Health Care Financing (CHCF), part of UMass Medical School, was set-up as a centralized billing system, where LHDs send paper claims for administration of flu vaccine (to individuals 6 months and older) and the cost of purchasing vaccine for individuals 19 years of age and older. Using this model, the LHDs and health plans only have to have one contract with Commonwealth Medicine. This model was also used during the 2009 influenza pandemic, where H1N1 flu vaccine was reimbursed under a special waiver. Massachusetts received the 2011 Public Health and Prevention Fund (PPHF) Adult Immunization Grant, and chose Medicaid as one of the four project areas.

Next steps are to expand CHCF and MassHealth programs to include all ACIP routinely recommended adult vaccines, recruit national health plans, and increase the number of LHDs enrolled. Barriers are that MassHealth is very involved in the implementation of ACA and this project is just a small piece of what they do. Further, the application process for LHDs is very time-consuming, and some LHDs do not have \$523 to enroll in the program (CMS fee).

For more information on the MassHealth Flu Vaccine Program:

www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/newsroom/masshealth/providers/mh-flu-vaccine-program.html

For more information on Commonwealth Medicine: <http://commed.umassmed.edu/flureimbursement>

During the question and answer segment, Donna Lazorik clarified that MassHealth is essentially their state's Medicaid program. Other states mentioned that LHDs are being licensed as out-patient clinics and are able to bill for their services, however, practice vary from state to state.

3:05-3:25 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Announcements and Updates

Sandy thanked Carolyn and LaDora for all of their work on adult immunization issues.

General Updates – LaDora Woods, CDC

The Adult Immunization Summit will be held on May 14-16, 2013 in Atlanta, Georgia. CDC is still working on the agenda and will be asking the work groups to update on what they've accomplished this past year. Work groups include: Provider Education (focus on educating and engaging providers), Quality Measures (focus on identifying and promoting measures to increase uptake), Patient Education (focus on educating and promoting vaccines to the general public), Patient Access and Collaboration (focus on ensuring increased access to adult vaccines), and Policy and Decision Makers (focus on new ways to educate decision makers on adult vaccines). If you are interested in participating in any of these workgroups, contact LaDora Woods at lwoods1@cdc.gov



January 8, 2013 from 2:00-3:00 EST Meeting Minutes

The 2013 Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule will be published electronically on January 28, 2013 and the print publication will be released on February 1, 2013. Updated adult coverage levels (via the National Health Interview Survey) are expected to be posted at the beginning of February.

HealthMap Vaccine Finder - Susan Farrall, Health Communications Specialist, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases

The HealthMap Vaccine Finder website is currently “live” and helps consumers find flu vaccine (simply enter the zip code and it will find flu vaccines in that area): <http://flushot.healthmap.org>. At the end of January, a new feature will be added where consumers can search for all adult vaccines. A message will be sent to groups of providers, encouraging them to list the vaccines available at their clinic/office. Currently, most of the providers entering data into HealthMap are pharmacists. Susan will send a promotional blurb to LaDora to be distributed to the NAICP listserv, along with a letter from the National Vaccine Program Office Director, Bruce Gellin. For more information, contact Susan at sof3@cdc.gov.

3:25-3:30 Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) Programmatic Committee Revising Recommended Adult Immunization Practices – Anu Bhatt, AIM

Anu invited others who are interested in joining the AIM programmatic committee to send a message to abh@immunizationmanagers.org. This committee is currently collecting interesting adult immunization activities that various states and project areas are involved in.

Upcoming 2013 NAICP Meeting Dates:

- March 5, Quarterly Call
- May 14-15, National Adult Immunization Summit Meeting
- July 2, Quarterly Call
- October 1, Quarterly Call