



Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations

Meeting Minutes – February 12, 2020

I. Attendees

Members and Staff: David Blythe, Aditya Chopra, Yen Dang, Travis Gayles (Chair), Toby Gordon, Victoria McIntyre, Alicia Mezu, Kurt Seetoo (staff) Monique Soileau-Burke, Tiffany Tate, Sara Vazer, Roseann Velez

Guests: Damali Totress (GSK), Jim Kerr (GSK), Tom Bateman (Pfizer), Shilpa Anderson (Merck)

II. Welcome and Introductions

- Dr. Gayles called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM. Commission Members introduced themselves. Quorum was established.

III. Approval of May Minutes

- Toby Gordon moved to approve the September 11, 2019 minutes. Seconded by Tiffany Tate. No amendments or discussion. Unanimously approved.

IV. Commission Attendance Policy

- Kurt Seetoo reviewed the new Commission Attendance policy for Boards and Commissions that was recently instituted by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Secretary of Health.

V. Subcommittee Reports:

- Global Communications/Outreach Subcommittee:
 - Yen Dang reported for the committee. Dr. Dang has developed a Facebook page for the Commission. The first message has not been posted as she would like the Commission to agree on a message. She can also add members to the page that would like to be able to edit. Commissioners who would like to have editing access should email their Facebook username to her.
 - Dr. Gayles suggested working with partners such as the Horowitz Center for Health Literacy at the University of Maryland School of Public Health. Dr. Gayles does sit on the board there. Working with partners to help better develop messaging/strategies and they have graduate students looking for projects.

- Dr. Gordon asked if we should consider Instagram and other social media platforms. Sara Vazer said that is part of the overall plan. Dr. Vazer reported that it would be good to educate patients on immunization history. It would be good to see who uses the sites. Dr. Gayles asked if thoughts on adding links to CDC website. Dr. Dang says that there is a way to track hits and she can add links.
- Special Populations Subcommittee:
 - Alicia Mezu reports that they have not met since the last meeting. Ms. Tate reports that there has been progress on activities previously mentioned. Discussion on the use of Maryland MyIR by schools was shared. REDIConsent and Clinic Wizard are having updates so that it can connect to ImmuNet and direct families to MyIR. Ms. Tate has been working with schools using these technologies. Ms. Mezu reported that the MDH Center of Immunization presented on MyIR at the school health coordinator meeting in October and the School Based Health Center Administrator meeting in December.
- Legislative/Advocacy Subcommittee: No report.
- Innovations/Technology Subcommittee: No report. Ms. Tate provided an update on REDIConsent and Clinic Wizard. Ten (10) counties currently use the software for school located clinics. There is a user group to discuss enhancements to make the system more useful to local health departments (LHDs). Dr. Vazer asked if the provider offices participate with the system. Ms. Tate says that it can be used in provider offices. Tiffany would be willing to provide a demonstration at a future meeting. Dr. Vazer asked if it is used by other states. Ms. Tate reports that it was developed for Maryland but other states are requesting to be able to use. Potential to be used and share data with other states. Dr. Gayles suggest Ms. Tate present on the system at next meeting.
- Dr. Gayles asked if the subcommittees are working and if they are beneficial to the Commission. Ms. Tate agrees that the subcommittees are beneficial. She would like a reminder (monthly) to meet. Mr. Seetoo will send out a monthly reminder. The Commission agreed to continue to support subcommittees.

VI. HPV Engagement

- Dr. Gayles received letter from MDH Deputy Secretary Phillips addressed to the Health Officers to advocate/promote HPV vaccination. How can we as a commission leverage resources to enhance the message? Ms. Tate suggested that the data shows that most effective way to promote HPV is from a strong provider recommendation and maybe the emphasis should be on educating providers. Dr. Burke has a few concerns about the HPV data available in ImmuNet. They had a

Vaccines for Children (VFC) site review a few months ago and their coverage levels were shocking low. When they looked at the list that was used to survey the office, many were patients that were not currently patients. Ms. McIntyre responded that this is one of the challenges of ImmuNet and we are working to improve upon it. Mr. Seetoo stated that the published HPV rates are from the National Immunization Survey (NIS) and not directly from ImmuNet. Ms. Tate asked if MDH was still generating the HPV ordering report card? Mr. Seetoo reported that MDH has moved away from those report cards with the change in the HPV vaccination schedule and are looking to use data from ImmuNet. Look at other ways that we can look at more state specific data? Dr. Gayles suggest that we revisit data at a future meeting.

- Roseann Velez reported that last year there was a HPV bill introduced that the Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland testified against. They are involved with that bill and any other vaccine related bills. Please let her know if there are any other vaccine related bills that we would like the Associations Legislative Committee to be involved with.
- Dr. Burke reports that the AAP conducted a statewide HPV educational CME program for providers. There were a number of lectures over a number of months. One problem they encountered was that a former president (MAAP) that was running the program received numerous attacks from anti HPV groups. This would be an opportunity for Commission to provide support. Dr. Gayles agrees and also reports that based on the letter from Deputy Secretary Phillips, MDH also supports this effort.
- Ms. Tate also recommends emphasizing the adolescent platform as a whole and all of the vaccines bundled together and not just focusing on HPV alone.

VII. **Open Discussion**

- Dr. Gordon had a question about coronavirus and if the Commission should use this as an opportunity to encourage other vaccines like flu? Dr. Gayles agreed that this is a good opportunity to continue to promote flu vaccine. Dr. Blythe agrees with Dr. Gayles especially with the flu activity still high in Maryland at this time.
- Dr. Vazer asked who maintains the Immunization registry? Mr. Seetoo states that ImmuNet is maintained by the MDH Center for Immunization. Mr. Seetoo reported on new legislation effective October 1, 2019 requires all doses of vaccine administered in Maryland be reported to ImmuNet. MDH is working to ensure providers are connected to ImmuNet.
- Commission had a discussion on ImmuNet. Dr. Vazer asked if we knew how many providers are reporting to ImmuNet. Mr. Seetoo responded that we do not know how many total providers are administering vaccines in the state so we do not know what percentage we have reporting. Dr. Blythe reported that many of the providers

seeing children are reporting as due to VFC requirements and pharmacists and LHDs are required to report based on law. Mr. Seetoo reported that we are working to clean the data as best we can but also need providers to assist by inactivating patient that are no longer seen by the practice and updating information in their EHRs. Mr. Seetoo offered to have the ImmuNet Coordinator present at a future meeting.

- Ms. Tate asked if there could be legislation changes to made to the ImmuNet reporting requirements? Dr. Blythe stated that MDH cannot do this but if outside parties would like to do this then that would work. Ms. Tate suggested that the Commission send a letter to the Secretary stating that the Commission thinks there needs to be more consideration to how to enforce the law or support providers to abide by it. Dr. Gayles stated that this would be appropriate if the legislation/ advocacy subcommittee would be able to draft a letter to discuss at the next meeting.
- Dr. Burke added to the discussion about how to entice providers to do HPV and recording more. In her practice, the signing of the VFC provider agreement (that it was not optional to offer HPV) was helpful to for those other providers less motivated to offer HPV vaccine.

VIII. **Public Comment**

- No public comment.

IX. **Meeting adjournment**

- Dr. Velez moved to adjourn. Seconded by Dr. Gordon.

Meeting adjourned 5:12 PM