



Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations

Meeting Minutes – May 26, 2020

I. Attendees

Members and Staff: David Blythe, Aditya Chopra, 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), Joanne Walsh (Sequiris)

II. Welcome and Introductions

- Dr. Gayles called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM. Commission Members introduced themselves. Guests introduced themselves. Quorum was established.

III. Approval of May Minutes

- Dr. Soileau-Burke moved to approve the February 12, 2020 minutes. Seconded by Alicia Mezu. No amendments or discussion. Unanimously approved.

IV. Situation – Vaccination Decrease during COVID

- Dr. Gayles introduced the topic for the meeting: Addressing the need to get children back to provider offices to receive vaccinations during COVID and addressing concerns. The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) has recently disseminated information in accordance with the AAP recommendations. How to push forward. What messaging should go out from the Commission? What type of work needs to happen? What work needs to happen in the fall with flu and back to school?

V. Messaging Development and Dissemination:

- Dr. Soileau-Burke has been working on it with AAP. One thing on the top of AAP's list is to make sure that information is shared with the Governor to make it part of the Maryland reopening plan and encourage vaccination. Mr. Sadowski asked if the providers and community health centers could handle the catch up or would other plans be needed (e.g. school based vaccinations clinics)? Dr. Soileau-Burke thinks that most pediatricians are able to the resuming vaccinations. Planning for fall with influenza is more of a challenge. Dr. Gayles suggested the Commission draft a letter and send it to the Governor's Chief of Staff to encourage including vaccination as part of the reopening plan. Dr. Soileau-Burke thinks this is a good idea and she is willing to draft a letter as long as the Commissioners are willing to sign on. No objections from the Commissioners. Dr. Soileau-Burke may be able to have a draft

- this week. Dr. Gayles suggested review by Commissioners within 48 hours and sending to the Governor's office by next week.
- In a setting of physical distancing, how can we conduct high volume vaccination to get kids caught up? Strategies to remind parents about vaccines are important, how to get people back into the office, and how to conduct high volume compliance. Dr. Soileau-Burke reported that AAP was wondering if information could be sent out by the established school messaging process through school systems. Mr. Seetoo replied that often that type of messaging goes out through the local superintendents from the state superintendent. Ms. Mezu agreed. Dr. Vazer asked about messaging through ads on TV? Mr. Seetoo reported that MDH has developed and disseminated a PSA on TV, cable, radio, and social media to promote vaccination. Dr. Gayles asked about social media messaging. Dr. Vazer mentioned that there is the Commission Facebook page but needs to be updated. If we have the letter to the Governor, we can post it there as well. Dr. Soileau-Burke asked if Governor could post our letter on his page. Mr. Sadowski asked if pharmaceutical manufacturers would be able to support PSA? Dr. Gayles as chair posed a direct question to the manufacturers and opened the floor to vaccine manufacturers to respond. Merck does support community level education programs. Pfizer has a social media push currently to promote vaccinations. Dr. Velez reported that she can bring the Commission letter back to the NP board of directors to post on their facebook page and their organization can also send a letter out.

VI. **Open Discussion**

- Ms. Tate discussed a system that they have and use to organize clinics and maintain social distancing including a virtual queue. May be able to make this available to others. Will send information to Mr. Seetoo to disseminate to the Commissioners.
- Dr. Soileau-Burke asked if school-based clinics will be conducted this fall including flu clinics. Ms. Tate responded that she works with 10 counties (8 directly and 2 indirectly). She said that half intend to move forward whether schools are open or not. She said that it will be very important to control the flow of the clinic to maintain social distancing.
- Dr. Soileau-Burke stated that when COVID vaccine is available, she hopes that there is not a shortage of ancillary supplies. She has heard from their suppliers that they anticipate there will be a shortage of needles and syringes in the fall. Mr. Seetoo reported that CDC reports now that the ancillary supplies will be supplied with COVID vaccine. Ms. Tate asked if PPE will also be provided with the COVID ancillary kits. Mr. Seetoo does not know at this time since CDC has not addressed this.
- Dr. Soileau-Burke agrees that PPE will be a major issue. Dr. Gayles suggests putting that in the letter to the Governor as well so that he and his staff can consider this.

Ms. Tate suggest that we also provide a solution rather than just propose the problem.

- ACTION: Dr. Soileau-Burke will submit a draft letter within next couple of day. Please review as the commission and we will send to the Governor's office next week. We can use this letter as a building block for our social media and messaging campaign.
- Dr Gayles would like to come back sooner than 3 months. We can discuss this over email.

VII. **Public Comment**

- Sequirus provided an update on their flu vaccine status.

VIII. **Meeting adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned 4:55 PM