



## Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunization

### Meeting Minutes – Sept 11, 2019

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#### I. Attendees

**Members and Staff:** David Blythe, Travis Gayles (chair), Yen Dang, Toby Gordon, Victoria McIntyre, Alicia Mezu, Kurt Seetoo, Tiffany Tate

**Guests:** None

#### 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

Dr. Gordon moved to approve the May 8, 2019 minutes. Seconded. No amendments or discussion. Minutes approved.

#### IV. Commission Subcommittee Reports:

- Special Populations Subcommittee: Ms. Tate presented on challenges affecting special populations. Three challenges were identified.
  1. Implementing ImmuNet reporting requirements at the school level. Schools have challenges in satisfying reporting requirements for immunization compliance in schools. Would like to see families become more engaged to help alleviate some of the burden. Maryland Dept of Health (MDH) has implemented a new consumer portal called Maryland MyIR that allows families to check immunization records in ImmuNet. Directing families to MD MyIR would help to provide families with proof of vaccination for the students and relieve some of the burden of school nurses. In the Spring, most school districts send home exclusion letters informing parents that their student is not up to date for the upcoming school year. The Commission could recommend to school systems adding a link to MyIR to the exclusion letters informing parents.
  2. Supporting and promoting the “Vaccinate Before You Graduate” program developed by the Maryland Partnership for Prevention (MPP). Based on a system developed by Rhode Island, the program targets 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders to ensure they are up to date in vaccinations prior to entering their next phase in life. Program was launched earlier this year offering HPV, MCV4, Tdap, and Meningococcal B vaccines. Working to ensure all ACIP recommended vaccines are offered. The Commission could assist by educating providers to stock and offer the vaccines since ideally it would be the providers administering these vaccines in their offices, encourage school

districts that are not offering these clinics to begin offering them, and ensure state resources to support these programs. Commission could also work with payer to make it easier for providers to purchase and get reimbursement for these vaccines.

3. Supporting the implementation of new Hepatitis A recommendations. In June 2019, the ACIP updated Hep A vaccination recommendations including anyone between 2-18 years old should be vaccinated who have not yet been vaccinated. The Commission can work to raise awareness of these new recommendations and recommend adoption of these new recommendations.

Dr. Gayles asked how the Commission could support the operationalizing reforms?

Ms. Tate suggested drafting a sentence to include in exclusion letters. In the past, the Commission chairs have written letters to the MDH Secretary to raise the issue with the Secretary and suggesting some actions. Ms. Mezu also suggested a presentation to school health program at their October meeting. There is also a state exclusion letter that we can try to add language to regarding MyIR.

- Global Outreach Subcommittee: Dr. Dang reported on the three targets for this coming year.
  1. Educate providers about emerging vaccine issues using a social media campaign. Start with Facebook initially with a student run project with oversight by committee members. Would like to request MDH approval to use the MDH name and set up a site.
  2. Explore best practices for sharing information and increasing awareness. Will look nationally at what is done to promote awareness and call to action. Will also look at the literature to determine best practices.
  3. Be the point of contact to respond to public inquiries and be the subject matter expert. Other subcommittees can send inquiries to this subcommittee. Dr. Gayles asked Mr. Seetoo if he would be able to address the requests of the subcommittee. Mr. Seetoo would need to check with MDH Communications on the request. Mr. Seetoo requested a representative from the Global Outreach Committee send an overview with the request and he will follow-up with MDH Communications. Dr. Dang agreed.
- No other subcommittee updates.
- Dr. Gayles suggested that other subcommittees can send email updates.

#### V. **ImmuNet Reporting Mandate/MyIR**

- Mr. Seetoo provided an update on a new reporting mandate and MyIR. As of Oct 1, 2019, new legislation requires all vaccinations administered in the State of Maryland to be reported to the Maryland Immunization Information System, ImmuNet. Currently pharmacists and local health departments are required to report to ImmuNet and the Maryland VFC program has mandated that all VFC providers report to ImmuNet. This new legislation will expand on those required to report with the exception of long term care facilities, adult daycares, assisted living, and

continuing care retirement community. There is more information on the ImmuNet website ([www.health.maryland.gov/immunet](http://www.health.maryland.gov/immunet)). He asks that this information be brought back to the Commission member's associations to get the word out about this new requirement. Maryland MyIR (My Immunization Record) is a new confidential online portal that is HIPAA compliant where residents can directly access their immunization records and those of their minor children. The link to this portal is [md.myir.net](http://md.myir.net).

VI. **Open Discussion**

- Dr. Gayles mentioned that the Health Officers have noticed an increase in immigrants being seen at LHDs for immunizations required for school.

VII. **Public Comment**

- No public present for public comment.

VIII. **Meeting adjournment**

- Dr. Gordon moved to adjourn. Seconded.

Meeting adjourned 4:35 PM