



Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunization

Meeting Minutes - November 8, 2017

I. Attendees

Members and Staff:

Dr. Anne Bailowitz (chair designee), Dr. Monique Soileau-Burke, Dr. Yen Dang, Heather Dunning, Victoria McIntyre, Alicia Mezu, Kurt Seetoo, Dr. Robert Sadowski, Dr. Roseann Velez.

Guests:

Shilpa Anderson (Merck), Cathy Kinder (Merck), Tom Bateman (Pfizer), Damali Totress (GSK)

II. Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Bailowitz, chair designee, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed meeting participants. All Commissioners and guests introduced themselves.

III. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the September meeting were presented. Dr. Bailowitz moved to approve the September minutes. Dr. Soileau-Burke seconded. Minutes approved.

IV. Flu Update

Dr. Bailowitz presented on a CDC influenza conference call that occurred on Nov 7. The call discussed vaccine efficacy for the 2016-17 season. For the 2017-18 season, one death has been reported this year and a variant strain of H1N1 related to pigs has been identified from county fair exposure. Two quadrivalent vaccines are available for children this year. Efficacy for immunizing pregnant women has been good as demonstrated by a scientific study from Bangladesh. Egg allergy is not a significant contraindication to flu vaccination. Research continues for a universal influenza vaccine.

Kurt Seetoo presented on influenza activity in Maryland as of the week ending on October 28. Influenza intensity is minimal with sporadic geographic spread. Clinical lab testing shows an almost equal split between Type A and Type B. Testing at the state laboratory has shown that most of the Type A specimens tested are H3. We have received all of the VFC flu vaccine ordered and have shipped approximately 78% of that vaccine to our VFC providers and local health departments.

V. Report from HPV Meeting

Dr. Bailowitz reported on the AAP HPV meeting in Philadelphia. The meeting focused on different approaches to increase HPV vaccination. There was one public relation model used to encourage vaccination (Teen Maureen). Campaign available on YouTube. Also presented was a print campaign using the analogy of bike helmets for HPV vaccination. Both methods looked “outside of the box” for encouraging HPV vaccination. We may want to consider drawing up legislation again to mandate HPV vaccination.

VI. **Review of Non-Branded Adult Vaccine Materials**

Merck, GSK, and Pfizer presented information and examples of non-branded vaccine materials that can be used to promote adult vaccine. Dr. Bailowitz asked if any of the manufacturers are looking into social media campaigns. Dr. Bailowitz mentioned that there is an opportunity to collaborate with AAP to develop social media. Dr. Soileau-Burke thought that this is an excellent idea and that campaigns need to be in a quick bulleted format. Kurt Seetoo will disseminate the electronic versions of materials presented to the Commission.

VII. **Development of Immunization Resource Page**

Kurt Seetoo spoke to Dr. Abney’s desire to develop a one-page resource that providers could give to patients. This resource would guide patients on where to receive more information on immunizations. We will need to discuss this again in a future meeting when Dr. Abney is available.

VIII. **Commission website**

Kurt Seetoo has worked to update the Commission website:

<https://health.maryland.gov/taskforces/pages/immunizations.aspx>

The website will include the date, time and location of the next meeting. The agenda for the next meeting will be posted on the website as well. Agendas from previous meetings are also located on this website. Dr. Bailowitz asked if the minutes were going to be posted on the website. Kurt Seetoo will do what the Commission decides. Alicia Mezu mentioned that the Open Meeting Act may require that we post the minutes on this website. Kurt Seetoo will add minutes to the website. Dr. Bailowitz suggest that we add some links to other immunization resources.

IX. **New Zoster Vaccine**

Dr. Bailowitz reported on the new zoster vaccine (Shingrix) that received FDA approval on Oct 20 and was recently approved by the ACIP. Data has revealed that this new vaccine is more effective than the prior shingles vaccine and has a longer duration. It is recommended that people receive this new vaccine even if they have received the live

vaccine. More recommendations will be coming out from the CDC. Ms. Totress will send information to Kurt Seetoo for dissemination to the Commission.

X. **Open Discussion**

Dr. Roseann Velez wanted to thank Heather Dunning for joining the Commission as the consumer seat. She is a NP student at the University of Maryland School of Nursing and is conducting research on flu vaccine.

Discussion on next meeting date. Suggested meeting date is March 14, 2018.

XI. **Meeting adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM