Texas Immunization Stakeholder Working Group Meeting
The Goodwill Industries Conference Center Austin, Texas
Meeting Minutes – November 4th 2010

Participants:

Austin Travis County Health and Human Services, Coleen Christian, Isabel Hargrove, Kathy Cavin*;
Brazos County Health Department, Beth Fitzgerald;
Brownwood-Brown County Health Department Immunization Coalition, Jodie Hohertz;
Dan Walters and Associates Dan Walters, Jim Bates;
GlaxoSmithKline Vaccines, Angela Craig, Becky Jacks, Brian Buckles, Chris Hayworth*, Cindi Carr *, Erin Lasche*, Kelly Guedry, Michael Murray, Ryan Leff*, Scott Piper, Sharon Creig, Xavier Silva*;
Hays County Public Health, Amelia Flores;
Health and Human Services, Healthy Childcare Texas, Kathy Kramer;
Hill Co. Partners, Haley Cornyn;
Immunize El Paso, Dusty Warden, Edna Diaz;
Medimunne Vaccines, Lori Bush, Joel Hastings;
Merck Vaccines, Mike Rush*, Andrea Stricklin;
Milam County Health Department, Diane Flow;
Mollen Immunization Clinics, Alan Barnard*;
Novartis Vaccines, Ed Kothera, Dave Barker, Stephanie Campbell;
Office Eliminating Health Disparities, Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Melonee Carter;
Parent, Beth Null;
Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, Bianca Parr, Cathy White;
Randall’s Tom Thumb Pharmacies, Leslie Myers;
San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, Clark Petty, Sandra Hermosa;
Sanofi Pasteur Vaccines, Brad Bracken, Doug Rock;
Tarrant County Public Health Department, Anita Colbert, Fran Kirkley;
Texas Association Community Health Centers, Peggy Gibbons;
Texas Association of Health Plans, Barry Lachman MD;
Texas Education Agency, Glendelia Zavala;
Texas Medical Association, Emily Babcock, Tammy Wishard;
Texas Nurses Association, Laura Lerma;
Texas Osteopathic Medical Association, Neil Levy DO;
Texas Pharmacy Association, Kim Roberson;
The Immunization Partnership, LaTasha Hinckson, Maureen Moore, Nidhi Nakra;
The Jamie Group, Patsy Schanbaum;
Waco- McLennan County Public Health Department, Jacqueline Walker;
Walgreen Pharmacies, Alta Vista, Karen Reagan;
Wesley Nurse Association, Methodist Health Care Ministries, Sharon Skaggs;
Williamson Cities and County Health Department, Stacy Schweitzer;

dshs Immunization Branch: Anshu Bohra*-Volunteer, Amy Schlabach, Alma Thompson*, Becky Richburg*, Estella Garcia, Jack Sims, Ishah Coleman, Karen Hess, Kathryn Johnson, Melissa Samples Ruiz, Monica Gamez, Sara Kirk, Thomas Colvin, Tony Aragon, Tristan DelCanto, Vivian Harris
Health Service Region 7, Diane Romnes,
Texas CDC Public Health Advisors, Mark Ritter;

dshs Programs:
Center for Program Coordination, Jennifer Conroy*;
Child Health, Kim Wilson;
Children with Special Health Care Needs, Lillianne Goeders;
Communicable Disease Control Unit, Ruthie Benson, Sandra Morris;
Infectious Disease Control Unit, Gary Heseltine*, Rachel Wiseman;
Preparedness and Prevention, Debra Edwards;
*Represents New Attendee

Meeting Notes
Mrs. Vivian Harris convened a pre-meeting orientation for first time attendees. A short presentation on the history and accomplishments of TISWG since inception was provided.
Mr. Jack Sims called the meeting to order at 9:20 am. He welcomed everyone and introduced Mr. Dan Walters as the meeting facilitator.

Mr. Walters welcomed the TISWG participants. All meeting participants introduced themselves, identified what city they were from and what organization they were representing. A wealth of diversity and demographics was represented.

Mr. Walters then provided the meeting overview and introduced the first speaker.

Mr. Jack Sims opened the meeting discussing the purpose and importance of the National Immunization Survey (NIS) as the first agenda item.

**National Immunization Survey - ** Presentation by Tony Aragon, Epidemiologist, Assessment Compliance and Evaluation Group

Mr. Tony Aragon provided a slide presentation of the National Immunization Survey. The NIS is conducted quarterly by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to assess the vaccination coverage levels among children 19 through 35 months of age. The NIS utilizes a random digit survey to collect immunization information from households with eligible aged children. With the consent of the parents, verification of immunization data is queried from vaccination providers for completeness of the NIS. The results are released annually in the fall.

Mr. Jack Sims provided an update on the survey results for Texas. This set the tone for the working group activity and action item to follow. An informative discussion on the fourth DTaP vaccine dose followed. It addressed where Texas fell in vaccine coverage according to the 2009 NIS findings. According to the results, for the first time Texas along with the US has reached the Healthy People 2010 goals of 90% coverage levels of vaccines. Unfortunately, Texas like the US continues to fall behind in the area of the fourth dose DTaP in preschool and school entry aged children. See power point presentation attached.

**National Immunization Survey Discussion and Implementation - All**

Prior to the morning break, the facilitator outlined the discussion topic and activity for the participants upon their return.

Discussion question: Discuss what the barriers for fourth DTaP vaccine coverage levels are and as stakeholders, how can we overcome these barriers?

For this discussion, every table group of participants had one table host to facilitate the discussion and annotate the ideas generated by the participants of the table. See data attached.

**NIS Discussion continued-All**

After the break except for the table host, all participants were instructed to move to another group setting to exchange their ideas. At the end of the discussion, the table host presented the various proposals to overcome the barriers and submitted their written recommendations. See data attached.
Suggestions from this activity was varied identifying multiple barriers for low 4th DTaP vaccine coverage rates such as, the age of the child, timing of the vaccination (mothers usually start going to work and can forget the schedule), confusing schedules for vaccination, and confusing contraindications.

The participants recommended solutions, proposed more awareness programs or advertisements, and include local celebrities (Colt McCoy, Sandra Bullock or Lance Armstrong) to remind parents and caregivers to take their children for vaccinations.

**Understanding Exemption for Reason of Conscience Dispelling Myths -** **Presentation by Amy Schlabach, Assessment Compliance and Evaluation Group**

Ms. Amy Schlabach, Immunization Compliance Coordinator, gave a presentation on “Exemption for Reason of Conscience in Texas”. She discussed House Bill 2292, which has been in effect since September 1, 2003, and its key provisions that allow exemption for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief. During the presentation, she explained the affidavit forms required for exemption request and its validity regarding time and number of vaccines allowed per exemption. She also reviewed current changes to the rules regarding exemptions, as exemption requests from September 2003 through April 2004, were valid for five years. In 2004, the former Texas Board of Health ruled exemptions to be valid for two years. She also provided data on Exemption rates on different vaccines. In 2009-10, the annual report of immunization status, kindergarten and 7th grade exemption rates for DTP/DTaP was 0.53 and 0.35 percent respectively. In 2010, a total number of 19,050 students enrolled with the exemption. During a brief question answer session, she addressed the question regarding total number of affidavit forms allowed per child.

**Announcements**

Due to the late morning start, the agenda was adjusted to accommodate all presentations.

There were two announcements. Tammy Wishard announced the efforts made by the Texas Medical Association to increase awareness for immunization and added continuing education for physicians. LaTasha Hinckson and Maureen Moore from The Immunization Partnership provided an update on the recent Immunization Summit. They distributed the summary brochure and stated it was also located on their web site found at www.immunizeUSA.org.

**Social Media and Networking Opportunities for Public Health – ** **Presentation by Alma Lydia Thompson, Public Information, Education, and Training Group**

Ms. Alma Thompson from DSHS Immunization Branch gave a presentation on “Social Media and Social Networking Opportunities for Public Health”. She spoke on the social marketing history of the Department of State Health Services from 2005 to 2009 and changes in organizational strategies with the advancement of technology. In 2005, TV and radio ads were the main sources to deliver immunization information in the large metro areas in Texas. By 2008 and 2009, the organization started offering online interactive immunization schedules, reminder
tools, targeted online network banner ads and added web videos to the site. She emphasized the power of different social media in reaching the target audience, interacting with them, providing information and education. She provided interesting data trends on social media/networking strategies. For instance, Facebook has more than 500 million active users and more than 2 billion times per day view YouTube. Online networking tools increases the reach and decreases the cost. During the presentation, she also described different steps, barriers and ethics involved with social media planning.

**Perinatal Hepatitis B Rule -** Presentation by Sandra Morris, Manager, Communicable Disease Control Group

Ms. Sandra Morris gave a presentation on the “Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program”. This program is to protect babies from Hepatitis B infection for life. She described the current goals of the program, which also included their proposal, statutory requirements and definition of rules. She emphasized the importance of providers conducting pregnant women screenings, and providing education and information regarding Hepatitis B infection. She also asked participants to provide feedback on the proposed rule changes before November 19.

**Update on Texas Mumps Outbreak -** Presentation by Rachel Wiseman, Epidemiologist, Infectious Disease Control Unit

Ms. Rachel Wiseman from DSHS Emerging and Acute Infectious Disease Branch gave a brief presentation on the “Mumps Outbreak”. The information provided updates from last meeting’s presentation on the outbreak, which occurred in two correctional facilities in Texas. She briefly spoke on the case history of the inmates who had mumps and discussed the measures taken by local health officials to curtail the spread of illness. She was pleased to announce that there was no new case of mumps and the outbreak is controlled.

**Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices ACIP Updates -** Presentation by Mark Ritter, Public Health Adviser

Mr. Mark Ritter provided the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) meeting updates from the October 27 meeting. He began with providing information on flu vaccine availability. The first distribution has occurred and 90% of the vaccine has gone to Texas flu vaccine program for children. The second round flu distribution is ongoing and so far, most of the information is positive.

Updates from the ACIP meeting discussed topics that included meningococcal vaccine, pertussis vaccine, evidence based recommendations, harmonized child/adolescent schedule, adult immunization schedule and rotavirus vaccines. He briefly gave information on the ACIP recommendations for meningococcal conjugate vaccine and pertussis vaccine. Please view the
attached PowerPoint presentation for specific discussion outcomes. During the question answer session of the presentation, members discussed vaccine licensing and the difference between requirements and recommendations regarding vaccination.

**Immunization Branch Updates - Presentation by Jack Sims, Branch Manager**

Mr. Sims gave the final presentation on the Immunization Branch Update. He discussed these topics.

- Immunization schedules, statute and rules
- Legislative rounds
- Simplifying consents
- Requirement for clarification of disaster codes regarding registration and withdrawing
- Rotavirus vaccine promotion campaign
- Budget management

Mr. Sims concluded his updates with a thought of the day. He also asked members to bring their vaccination records to the next meeting for input into the Adult ImmTrac registry.

**Meeting Wrap Up - by Dan Walters, Facilitator Dan Walters and Associates**

Mr. Walters surveyed the participants for future TISWG agenda items. Listed below are the suggestions.

- Legislation Update
- Flu Season (how did we do?)
- Update on 4th DTaP
- Adult vaccine funding update
- EVI system update
- Insurance /payer group addition
- Coalition activities

Participants also provided feedback to today’s meeting to include the venue, meal and other arrangements of the day.

**Meeting adjourn**
The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

**Indicates an accompanying handout or PowerPoint Presentation can be found on the web page associated with this topic.**