



National Adult Immunization Coordinators' Partnership

August 30, 2011
Minutes

Present: Facilitator: Carlie Shurtliff, UT; Recorder: Sandy Allen, NC

Carlie welcomed participants and asked folks to identify themselves. Housekeeping: MUTE phones; invited call participants to join with comments/questions. We are eager to learn what is going on in other states.

ACTION: when you have an item you'd like to see addressed, please email your request or idea to Carlie Shurtliff at cshurtli@utah.gov or Debbye Rosen at Debbye.rosen@ct.gov – thank you!

CDC Update: Dr. Carolyn Bridges related that CDC and DHHS are actively working with the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) to reduce barriers for adult and adolescent vaccines. There is ongoing partnering with public health on a number of activities. APhA contacted their constituency to inquire who is particularly interested in partnering with their states and Immunization coordinators. The Immunization Program Managers are on a website to be contacted by pharmacists and Dr. Bridges asked if the adult immunization coordinators would be interested in having their contact information posted to the web and made available to pharmacists interested in partnering. If you agree, you may be contacted by pharmacy staff from your state.

ACTION: A survey will be sent out to the adult immunization coordinators where you can indicate if you are or are not interested in having your information made available.

Dr. Bridges reported that the awards for the **ACA grants** are being announced and there's been a press release. Nineteen proposals for an adult immunization award were submitted and three were funded. All proposals are ranked; if any additional funding becomes available, states will be notified and awarded as ranked.

Dr. Gary Euler, CDC, discussed the **BRFSS questionnaire**. A request was submitted to the BRFSS committee to rotate questions on where respondents received their flu vaccine, Tdap, and zoster, so that each question is asked every 3 years as part of the core BRFSS. CDC encourages the state immunization program staff to contact their state BRFSS folks to ask them to support this request. The state BRFSS staff will be more receptive to changing a question if they understand that the state Immunization Branch staff supports it. {Influenza and pneumococcal questions will remain as core questions}.

Gary Euler also provided an introduction to **FluVaxView**: Influenza Vaccination Coverage slides were provided with a website address: (<http://www.cdc.gov/flu>) to describe how to find this page. A good source for finding data sources (near real time estimates!), and a main feature of FluVaxView is an interactive influenza vaccination coverage report(s) using InstantAtlas. Check

it out! The National Foundation of Infectious Diseases will hold its annual press conference, September 21, 2011 about influenza vaccine.

Two recent MMWR articles released on August 18, 2011 shared information on: (1) health care surveys for pregnant women -- a salient point is the importance of having one's health care provider recommend vaccination ([MMWR — Influenza Vaccination Coverage among Pregnant Women in the United States for the 2010-2011 Influenza Season](#)); (2) a second MMWR article provided information on health care workers and their immunization rates ([MMWR — Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Health Care Personnel--United States, August 2010-April 2011](#)) onsite access to immunizing health care workers is pivotal, as are mandates for employee vaccination coverage.

ACTION: To access these and other MMWRs, please go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/>

Mitch Rothholz, Chief Strategy Officer, APhA, moved through an informative power point presentation entitled "Pharmacists as Partners in Adult Vaccinations". Pharmacists have been immunizing for many years, and see themselves as stakeholders in advocating and facilitating immunizations. Please refer to the powerpoint attachment for information on pharmacists' contributions, support of immunizing health care workers, outreach methods and state policies for vaccine administration in pharmacies.

ACTION: if you want assistance connecting to pharmacists in your state, send Mitch an email at: mrothholz@aphanet.org

Sandy Sommer, Virginia, discussed her state's relationship with pharmacists. Early cooperation and collaboration led to a 1997 law allowing pharmacists to immunize for influenza and pneumococcal vaccines for certain age groups. Additional information presented is bulleted below:

- VA surveyed people receiving flu vaccine in supermarkets and found many folks wouldn't have gotten a flu vaccine otherwise
- VA coalition has the active participation of pharmacists in their coalition
- "Tdap campaign" – pharmacists helped publicize and distributed shelf talkers and other materials
- In 2009, the law was amended to allow pharmacists to provide flu vaccine to minors and there is also an expansion to provide Tdap to adults

Carlos Quintanilla, Oregon, described his state's history of working with the Board of Pharmacy (there is Board representation on the Oregon coalition).

- In January, 2011, a law was passed allowing children eleven and older to be immunized by pharmacists
- His state is working to recruit pharmacists as VFC providers
- The state office has Oregon State University pharmacy interns, on a 6 week rotation, who are presently tasked to work with the VFC issue and on outreach materials and strategies to involve more pharmacists

Harry Allen, Pennsylvania, stated that when in 2007-8 Herpes Zoster vaccine was introduced, the state staff noticed there were storage and handling problems.

- Pharmacists here are allowed to vaccinate anyone eighteen years of age and older
- Maintaining the integrity of a medical home is crucial, and the staff works to encourage providers to use the registry.
- This state's biggest hurdle has been reimbursement
- The state office staff surveyed pharmacists regarding immunization satisfaction issues-- responses were positive

Please contact these state speakers with any questions.

Debbye Rosen, Connecticut, brought forward several items at the end of the meeting, as follows:

- In her state there is a loss of state funding that will affect the adult immunization program. She asked if other states are experiencing this issue.

ACTION: please email Debbye if your state program is being negatively affected by the current financial picture. Debbye's email address is: Debbye.rosen@ct.gov

Carlie wrapped up the conference call by mentioning that CDC will send out a survey using Monkey survey to all adult immunization coordinators when the minutes are sent. NAICP members are encouraged to complete it so that we can learn more about states' practices. Vicki Evans (CDC) and the Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) are looking for information on contacts for adult immunization coalitions.

Next NAICP Executive Committee meeting: Tuesday, November 8, 2011 from **2:00 – 3:30 PM**

Dates for the 2011 NAICP Executive Committee meetings (2:00 – 3:30 PM) are:

Tuesday, Nov 8

Tuesday, Dec 13