

Minutes for the Immunize Kansas Kids
Steering Committee Meeting
May, 2, 2006
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Members Present

Sec. Roderick Bremby, Ms. Karla Finnell, Ms. Martha Froetschner, Dr. JoAnn Harris, Ms. Julie Holmes, Ms. Terri Roberts, Mr. Tom Kean, Ms. Kay Kent, Ms. Brenda Kuder, Mr. Jim McLean, Ms. Deborah Merrill, Mr. Bruce Miyahara, Ms. Kim Murphy, Dr. Marci Nielsen, Dr. William Pankey, Ms. Sandy Perkins, Dr. Gianfranco Pezzino, Dr. Howard Rodenberg, Mr. John Rule, Ms. Jean Rumbaugh, Mr. Michael Runau, Ms. Laura Sanchez, Ms. Elaine Schwartz, Ms. Judy Selzer, Dr. Pam Shaw, Ms. Edie Snethen, Dr. Robert St. Peter, Ms. Nancy Tausz, Ms. Marlou Wegener, Mr. Sheldon Weisgrau, Mr. Chip Wheelen, and Ms. Carolyn Williams

Members Absent

Mr. Gary Brunk, Ms. Deborah Clements, Ms. Connie Hubbell, Ms. Melissa Ness, Ms. Allison Peterson, Mr. Jim Redmon, Ms. Christie Steege, and Mr. Robert Wittler

Welcome & Introductions

Dr. Pezzino gave an update from the questions raised during the first Steering Committee Meeting.

Overview of the Agenda

Tom Kean, Facilitator, gave an overview of the agenda and reviewed the plan for upcoming meetings.

Website Demonstration

Jim McLean, Vice President for Public Affairs presented a demonstration of the Immunize Kansas Kids website. Mr. McLean stated that the website is currently a “work-in-progress.” Mr. McLean opened the floor to take various suggestions on different topics that may be added to the website. Discussion took place regarding the availability of the website to the public.

Major Goals for the Action Plan

Mr. Kean presented the Action Plan 'Straw person' Goal and Purposes - (see handout).

A few minor suggestions were made and Mr. Kean said he would redraft the Goals and Purposes for the next meeting. (See revision below based on May 2, 2006 Steering Committee discussion.)

The **goal** that the *Immunize Kansas Kids Action Plan* promotes is to increase and sustain the proportion of children in Kansas who are fully vaccinated by age 18 months from 77.5 percent (2004) to at least 90 percent by 2010.

The **purposes** of the *Immunize Kansas Kids Action Plan* are to:

- Document the current state of immunization for children in Kansas including data trends and current events that impact on that rate;
- Identify current assets for and challenges against improving the immunization rate among Kansas children;
- Identify priority strategies for improving the immunization rate among Kansas children consistent with the goal, including the outcomes expected from their implementation;
- Specify the key action steps that must be taken to implement the priority strategies, including the timelines and resources required;
- Document commitments made to participate in implementation of the plan;
- Assure a monitoring and evaluation system for assessing progress is specified; and
- Inform and engage health practitioners and the public in implementation of the plan.

Proposed Strategies for the Action Plan

Mr. Kean reviewed the proposed strategies for the action plan. These strategies are not the action steps. A suggestion was made that the language in the five strategies be more exploratory in nature. Discussion took place regarding the strategies and the following changes were made:

- 1) Expand opportunities for clients of health department programs (e.g., WIC, Family Planning) to obtain referrals to and more easily access immunization services for their children.
- 2) Expand opportunities for children to receive immunizations through a 'medical home.'
- 3) Accelerate implementation of the statewide immunization registry.
- 4) Promote policies, regulations and environmental changes that increase access to utilization of immunization services.
- 5) Increase community and parental demand for immunization services.

Updates Related to the Strategies for the Action Plan

Michael F. Runau, Kansas Department of Health and Environment presented the *Kansas Immunization Program Immunization Registry KSWebIZ*.

Questions were asked and clarifications were made regarding the immunization registry. A request was made for a presentation of the *KSWebIZ* at the June 14 meeting.

Sheldon Weisgrau, Kansas Health Institute, presented *Enhancing Access to Vaccination Services by Reducing Financial Barriers*.

Mr. Weisgrau provided information regarding universal purchase states.

Dr. Gianfranco Pezzino, Kansas Health Institute, presented *Improving Access: Issues Around Private Providers in Kansas*.

The following topics were discussed related to Dr. Pezzino's presentation:

- County-by-County Comparison – some comparisons are possible but not too many.
- Range of services offered by local health departments and private providers could help explain differences between some counties' immunization rates.
- We need to support the things that are working and change the things that are not working.

Framework for the Action Plan

Tom Kean presented the *Framework for the Action Plan*.

- The boundaries for each workgroup must be clearly laid out in the charge to the workgroup.
- We need to develop specific measurable outcomes so we can evaluate each strategy.
- We need to have outcomes that are reasonable that we believe can actually increase the immunization rates.

Update on Related Projects

Sheldon Weisgrau, Kansas Health Institute, presented *Mechanisms of Financing Immunizations for Kansas Children*.

John Rule, Kansas Health Institute, presented *Receiving Vaccinations in Medical Home: Barriers, Attitudes and Impact on Immunization Coverage Rates*.

The program Survey Monkey could be used to acquire responses from providers.

Input on Small Group Charges

Tom Kean stated that he will provide specific charges for each workgroup along with a “workbook” to help develop the action steps.

Input on Public Comment Need and Process

The following comments and questions were discussed during this session:

- We began the conversation with a discussion to find out who our audience is.
- It was agreed upon that we want public “buy-in” near the end when we have a draft plan put together.
- Members should be sure that their respective organizations have “buy-in” to the plan throughout the entire process.
- Should we create a survey to find out if the public is concerned about immunizations? The survey results would be used to support the publicity of the final plan. The plan may call for a survey, but one could probably not be completed prior to the plan completion date.
- Discussion took place regarding the possibility of holding a town hall meeting to allow for public comment:
 - In the end of this process, we will need to market the recommendations laid out in the plan, to do so we will need “buy-in” from the public.
 - A town-hall meeting would allow us to receive feedback and generate publicity around the initiative.
 - The public meeting would need to be framed as to avoid common pitfalls.
 - Perhaps another place for public input would be through the website, and then have publicity around the website to drive people to go and review the plan online. Perhaps an alliance with the local library system would assist with this.
 - Public input sections are not always well attended or attended by those who can make a substantial difference later.
- Due to the mumps outbreak, we have an opportunity to bring forward the issue of immunizations.

Future Meeting Dates

Wednesday, June 14, 2006 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka

Wednesday, August 23, 2006 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka

Wednesday, September 20, 2006, Kansas Health Institute, Hayden Conf. Room