

Note for the Record

IKK Access Working Group Conference Call

June 20 2007

Persons attending: Laura Sanchez, Jo Ann Harris, Howard Rodenberg, Marlou Wegener, Dennis Cooley, Pam Shaw, John Rule, Harry Hull

The call began with a discussion of the Volume of Scale Purchase Action Item. Dr. Rodenberg briefed the group on conversations that he has had with representatives of Health Insurance companies in Kansas. He has been working with KDHE and KHI staff to determine the actual cost savings that might accrue from a volume of scale purchasing arrangements. The cost analysis excluded children who will be getting free vaccine from the VFC or 317 and focused only on children who are likely to be insured. The projected cost savings that would accrue from immunizing a birth cohort for the only the vaccines that are required for school entry would be approximately \$3 million per year. The insurance companies expressed interest in pursuing the concept. Dr. Rodenberg will have staff complete the analysis. He will then share it with the Access Working Group and set up additional meetings with the insurance industry to advance the idea. He felt it was important to discuss the idea broadly with all the players. Marlou Wegener would be holding internal discussion at BCBS to gauge the companies' interest in the concept. Dr. Rodenberg will keep Dr. Hull informed on progress. They will jointly keep the working group apprised of the status of the discussions.

Dr. Harris presented an action item form that she had prepared on Maximizing Office Based Immunization following discussions with Drs. Hull, Shaw and Cooley. All felt that MOBI was a good project that should be supported. There was considerable discussion on how the project would be evaluated and if additional funding would be available from KDHE in the future. The group recommended that the action item form be modified to emphasize the need for evaluation as a basis for future funding. Dr. Hull will revise the form in conjunction with Dr. Harris and then distribute it to the full working group.

Laura Sanchez reported that KFMC attempted to investigate the demographics of the 19 unimmunized children that they had identified in their last review for Medicaid. Their programmers were unable to link the data to maternal records. KFMC concluded that they were unable to make any further progress with currently available data, but will discuss with Medicaid if additional data might be collected so that future surveys might be able to provide a better characterization of who the unimmunized children are in Kansas. As an incidental finding, Laura reported that 2 of the 19 children were from families that refused immunization. One of the families began to get the children immunized after the mother contracted pertussis.