

**Virginia Health Commissioner's Pertussis Prevention Task Force
Minutes
September 28, 2011, 9:00 a.m.
109 Governor Street, Mezzanine Conference Room
Richmond, Virginia**

The Health Commissioner's Pertussis Prevention Task Force (HCPPTF) will discuss and develop pertussis prevention strategies and initiatives that will protect those most vulnerable to the spread of pertussis in Virginia. Recommendations are to be issued in a formal plan that addresses, at a minimum, the following areas: Public and private clinician outreach and education; targeted new parents/families and community vaccination campaigns; health care sector systems changes; and innovative models for vaccine delivery.

Members Present in Person

Dr. Dana Bradshaw (VDH-NW Region)	Rebecca Mendoza (Dept. of Medical Assistance Svcs.)
Michelle Charters (Project Immunize Virginia)	Proxy for Dr. Bill Moskowitz (Amer Academy of Ped)
Dr. Maureen Dempsey (VDH-Chief Deputy, Public Health)	Lisa Park (VDH-Healthcare Reimbursements)
Jim Farrell (VDH-Immunization)	Dr. Karen Remley (VDH-Commissioner)
Dr. Laurie Forlano (VDH-Deputy State Epidemiologist)	Laura Lee Viergever (VA Association of Health Plans)
Dr. Parham Jaberi (VDH-Central Region)	Jodi Wakeham (VDH-Public Health Nursing)
Jeff Lake (VDH-Deputy Commissioner, CHS)	

Members Present by Conference Call

Dr. Steve Arnold (VA Association of Health Plans)	Dr. Demetria Lindsay (VDH-Norfolk HD)
Dr. William Berg (VDH, Hampton HD)	Tim Musselman (Virginia Pharmacists Association)
Dr. Charles Devine (VDH-North Region)	Dr. Molly O'Dell (VDH-SW Region)
Dr. Heidi Kulberg (VDH-Chesapeake HD)	Dr. Nancy Welch (VDH-East Region)
Proxy for Dr. Donald Lewis (Eastern VA Medical School)	Dr. Sandra Zieve (Patient First)

Observers Present

Heather Crouch (GlaxoSmithKline) <i>conference call</i>	Ellen Shannon (Sanofi Pasteur) <i>conference call</i>
Lauren Bull (ACEP-AAP) <i>in person</i>	

Members Unable to Attend

Dr. Michael Ashby (Martha Jefferson Hospital)	Gwen Messler Harry (VA College/Emergency Physicians)
Chris Bailey (Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association)	Dr. Holly Puritz (American Congress of OBs/GYNs)
Dr. Shawn Borich (VA College of Emergency Physicians)	Jeniece Roane (Virginia Nurses Association)
Rebecca Early (VDH-Immunization)	Dr. Jay Schukman (Anthem BC/BS)
Doug Gray (VA Association of Health Plans)	

Welcome/Introductions – Remley

Dr. Remley encouraged members to continue taking action. Some suggestions:

- Reach out to emergency physicians to encourage them to make the change voluntarily.

- Suggest the VDH Office of EMS be contacted. Over 50,000 EMS providers in this state. Their Medical Direction Committee is composed of ED physicians:
 - Goal is to have ED physicians encourage VA College of Emergency Physicians.

Updates on Priority Items

- **Education:** Feedback from last meeting included emphasis on educating nursing staff (ED, OB/GYN, pediatric, family physicians) to make Tdap information sharing part of their routine with the patient.
- **Additional Tdap Doses:** One initiative that started a month ago: VDH received 24,000 doses of Tdap from CDC, half were sent in mid August to local health departments (LHDs) for uninsured clients, and 900 doses have been administered. Remaining half were shipped this week.
- LHDs have requested additional Tdap doses to combine with flu vaccine.
- **Additional Tdap Doses at No Cost:** VDH responded to an opportunity to acquire additional Tdap doses from CDC unspent resources (another 20,000 with an expiration date of 2013), which were shipped to VDH central pharmacy. Need to look at other ways to use this vaccine (e.g., free clinics—reach daycare workers with a letter sending them to free clinic); A discussion ensued regarding free clinics with the mention of getting them to sign up with VIIS.
- **Free Clinics:** O’Dell reported that free clinics in SW Virginia have proven to follow reporting requirements very well; and Farrell noted those were sent from manufacturer directly to free clinics.
- **Daycare Providers:** Mendoza noted that YMCA daycares at one point were the largest daycare provider and tend to have both rural and inner city families.
 - Remley suggested a flu/Tdap vaccination exercise partnership with YMCA.
- **Chesapeake Area Successes:** Lindsay and Welch reported as follows:
 - **School system** is paying for ALL school employees to receive flu and Tdap vaccine at October clinics; contracted with an outside organization to operate the clinics.
 - Remley would like to work with Lindsey, et. al on a letter commending Chesapeake school system. Lindsay noted they are working on getting them local publicity.
 - Jaber presented a similar story in Chesterfield HD, and Remley suggested we find out which districts are working along the same lines and pursue.
 - **Hospitals** are participating (e.g., 45% - 50% of mothers getting vaccinated).
 - Chesapeake HD is working with private and public providers to get hospitals to agree to presentations for their staff.
 - Working with **Project Immunize** to disseminate information;
 - Created fluid **library with ACIP**, which provides updates for community groups, civic groups, medical professionals
 - **Reimbursement Information** was raised as a topic at the Chesapeake Medical Society meeting on 9/27/11. Can we prepare an information page as to what insurance companies will pay? Medical professionals are interested and willing to promote Tdap vaccinations to patients, but reimbursement is always their first question.

- Farrell can provide assistance to gather that information.
 - Harrison (VAHP) was working on this list, and Viergever (VAHP) will follow up.
 - Anthem is running clinics in California, and most plans cover it as a required preventative measure.
- Patient First is starting initiative to have staff immunized.
 - **Draft of Co-signed Letter the Healthcare Professional Colleagues:** Please collaborate outside the meetings and work on this letter.
 - Remley requested that reimbursement information is added.
 - Recipient suggestions included: emergency physicians and infectious disease physicians.
 - **VIIS Discussion:** It was noted that VIIS training for physicians (similar to H1N1) enthusiasm is waning since the H1N1 experience. Other related concerns:
 - Physicians' concern: need past data frontloaded; Farrell confirmed system is loaded primarily from health plans and he would need to talk with VIIS about loading data from physicians.
 - Remley noted that many physicians assume the information is not there and are surprised to discover health plans have loaded it already; it is, therefore, important to have that discussion with the physicians. It was also recommended that this information be added to the letter.
 - Lake will add that topic to the November VDH Health Districts meeting.
 - **Task Force Recommendations to the Commissioner:** Forlano noted these recommendations comprise the ultimate product and that formal recommendations will be presented to Dr. Remley within the next 9 to 10 months
 - **Policy-Level Interventions:**
 - Local HDs have been able to give free Td
 - **VDH immunization policy updated** on Tdap as of 9/28/11—a new core policy that addresses adults age 65+ and pregnant women. It also addresses a special initiative referred to in Lake's 8/3/11 memo
 - Forlano emphasized that we want to ensure we are setting the example by following ACIP recommendations.
 - **Current VA Code regulations** include language referring to the 5-year interval:
 - Should a relevant immunization bill be introduced to the General Assembly that VDH supports, the most prudent action would be to support that bill with an amendment recommending the change to the 5-year interval language. This would be more consistent with ACIP recommendations.
 - **Hospital Survey:** A draft survey was presented on paper for review, and the link to this survey was provided in an earlier email. The final product will be distributed electronically. Everyone was encouraged to review the survey online and provide feedback.
 - The online version of this draft survey is available now without the results being tallied.

- It was decided the task force will present the survey to VHHA to see if they will move it forward to membership and to not wait for VHHA to respond before taking this to local community.
- All agreed that these questions should be asked at the local level.
- The upcoming Chief Medical Officers meeting will have an immunization policy focus; a VDH representative will attend.
- It was suggested there is a “guilt factor” when answering these questions if the healthcare provider has to answer no to any question.
- All agreed the survey should be sent to the following:
 - Hospital infectious disease preventionists
 - Mental health hospitals
 - Long-term care facilities
 - Daycares generally don’t require it and maybe a version of this for daycares should be created; important to check Department of Social Services to see what is required of daycares. Project Immunize VA can provide material for daycare conferences.
 - Private doctors’ employees
 - Urgent care centers
 - Forlano indicated the survey will be finalized Monday or Tuesday, October 3 or 4.
- Mendoza suggested the survey be made more educational to share at the upcoming early childhood statewide meeting (Office of Family Health).
- Forlano presented examples of flyers and asked all to review and respond with their first and second choice in each category. These will be distributed as pdf files via email.

Adjournment—Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:20 a.m.