

**New Jersey Immunization Network  
Meeting Minutes  
September 21, 2016**

**Attendees**

In-Person:

Diane Carroll  
Michael Cestare, MPH  
Jeni Sudhakaran, MPH  
Maureen Kelsey, MA  
Jennifer Smith, MPH  
Kristi Ominsky  
Emily Haines, BSN, RN  
Margaret Fisher, MD  
Alan Weller, MD  
Obiora Eze, MD, MScPH

Steven Bors  
Barbara Montana, MD, MPH  
Denise DeYoung  
Sandi Selzer  
Michelle Monnier  
Sindy Paul, MD, MPH  
Ron Grunstra  
Erica Lobe  
Kendra Julien  
Halima Dumas, MPH

Teleconference:

Patricia Kaiser  
John Moore, DO  
Vanessa Wills, RN, BSN  
Deborah Johnson-Rothe, MD  
Polly Thomas

**Welcome and Introductions**

Director, Diane Carroll opened meeting at 12:30pm. Introductions of those present were followed by those present via teleconference.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of August 17, 2016 meeting were approved as written.

**Director Update**

- Diane opened the meeting by discussing a recent news story on NPR, highlighting the PR strategy of Andrew Wakefield, and how he gained so much support for his false claims. Wakefield positioned himself as the victim, and portrayed a “me against the world” persona in his efforts. NPR is starting a website/blog about why people make choices contrary to logic, as with vaccine hesitancy.
- *I Raise the Rates* continuing to recruit additional internal medicine/family medicine practices to participate in the program, with many opportunities to learn, share data. If anyone is interested in participating or knows of any practices that would be interested, contact Mike.
- NJIN recently kicked off two DOH-funded projects: a communications/social media project, partnering with HMA Associates to build communication strategy and messaging around HPV immunization. The other is the online learning project focused on Hep B birth dose, partnering with Dr. Su Wang of the Hep B Coalition. NJIN recently featured a two-page HPV vaccine ad in *NJ Pediatrics*, featuring Dr. David Warshaw of Cooper Cancer.
- NJIN continuing to focus on combating vaccine hesitancy, improve communications, and measure effectiveness; seeking to find a niche for NJ audiences and for NJ info to be a “go-to” source.

## Committee Updates

### Adult

- Focusing on sustainability for *I Raise the Rates* (i.e., how to support champions, continue to grow networks, partner with ACP, and work with ACOG and NJAFP to meet needs of providers)

### Adolescent

- Seeking ways to nurture and support the new HPV immunization coalition; NJIN wants the coalition to make major improvements in immunization rates
- To date, conversations have focused on improved provider education; new strategies will be developed in the future
- Hep B learning module will make education and training more engaging for providers

## NJDOH Update

### Flu/NJIC:

- .5 currently out of stock but .25 open. Ordering for flu block is currently closed, with Flu Zone multi-dose vials available
- Allocation on all brands except for *FluVax*
- NJIC scheduled for 11/30 – registration opening soon

### Programing and Reporting:

- Staff attended NIC, received two CDC awards for influenza vaccination rates and major improvements in adolescent vaccine rates, including HPV
- Efforts of provider engagement, buy-in from public/private partners applauded
- DOH actively recruiting to fill Bhavani's position; staff moving on to different program areas
- VFC seeing an increase in storage and handling visits with providers, continuing to be sure providers are up to date on latest procedures
- Erika Lobe introduced as new adult/adolescent immunization coordinator at DOH
- Protect Me 3+ Infographics will be available in early October, DOH will share with network – submissions to be accepted later in year, selection in April '17 – last year's posters available
- Immunization status data available on VPDP website
- Good data coming from schools, 92% reporting rate; rates meeting all immunization requirements, upwards of 95%
- Religious exemption rates increased to 1.9%
- Jeni brought up idea of bringing on superintendents from schools to join NJIN, participate in efforts, address issue of school Nurses and vaccine hesitancy/refusal - NJIN to explore

Schedules and Materials:

- Childhood/adolescent recommended vaccine schedule – list of vaccine guidelines/antigens being developed
- ACIP – NJ requirements for children (11-12): New version for childcare and nurses; Jennifer and Jeni giving presentations around state
- Jennifer updating HPV materials/poster on Protect Me 3+ for school nurses and providers
- Also working on a fact sheet: statute requirement, nurses to include info on HPV vaccine
- NIVW coming up in December, ideas welcome for promotion

**Presentation:** Immunization Initiatives of the Partnership for Maternal and Child Health of Northern NJ

Presented by Emily Haines, MBA, BSN, RN  
Director of Public Health Initiatives

A discussion followed about HPV vaccine dosage requirements. Current recommendation is a three dose series, will likely be switched to a two dose series. Current language could suggest a “full series” instead of number of doses to preserve messaging of communication materials.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None

Meeting adjourned at: 1:30 pm

**Next meeting: October 19, 2016 by WEBINAR**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michael Cestare, MPH