

Alaska Vaccine Assessment Program Council Meeting
May 18, 2017; 9:30-11:00 a.m. AKST
Location: Teleconference

I. Participating in all or part of the meeting were the following individuals:

Council Members

Joe McLaughlin, MD, Chairman – Division of Epidemiology
Derek Blomquist – Director of Underwriting, Premera Blue Cross
Sarah Bailey – Alaska Division of Insurance
Fred Brown, Esq. – Health Care Cost Management Corporation of Alaska
Lydia Bartholomew, MD – Senior Medical Director, Aetna
Jody Butto, MD – Anchorage Pediatric Group
Lily Lou, MD, FAAP – Executive Medical Director, The Children’s Hospital at Providence & Women’s Services
Kara King – Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Department of Health and Social Services

Matthew Bobo – Deputy Immunization Program Manager
Alicia Spillman

KidsVax®

Julia Zell, M.A., Esq. – Executive Director
Ashley Kittrell – Communications Coordinator
Emily McKenna – Support Staff
Fred Potter, MBA, Esq. – Managing Member
Nicole Price, Esq. – Northeast Region, CEO

II. Summary of Actions Taken and/or Recommended

A. Actions Taken (votes adopted)

1. To approve the February 14, 2017 Council meeting minutes.
2. To approve the revised Council Charter.

III. Minutes

Welcome and Introductions

At approximately 9:30 a.m., a quorum having been established, Chairman Joe McLaughlin called the meeting to order. Julia Zell announced that the meeting was being recorded for the benefit of the minute-taker and would be deleted following the final approval of the minutes. Following introductions, Chairman McLaughlin proceeded to the Consent Calendar Items.

Consent Calendar Items

Chairman McLaughlin asked for comments and edits to the February 14 meeting minutes. There being none, it was put to a vote.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

1 VOTED: To approve the February 14 Council meeting minutes.
2

3 DHSS Updates

4 Chairman McLaughlin began the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) Department updates
5 by announcing that Matthew Bobo has been named the new Immunization Program Manager following
6 Gerri Yett's retirement. The Council congratulated Mr. Bobo, who then continued with updates on the
7 regulations and provider opt in. Mr. Bobo informed the Council that the state legislature's special session
8 has caused delays in passage of the regulations, but he is meeting with a new representative the following
9 week. He noted that the representative is highly motivated to finalize the regulations, and he will keep the
10 Council updated as it progresses.

11
12 Regarding provider opt in, Mr. Bobo stated that the new annual billing cycle and the Payments and Interest
13 Policy has proven beneficial in ensuring timely payments and that the same procedures will be used for
14 future provider opt ins.

15
16 There being no questions, Chairman McLaughlin asked Ms. Zell to proceed with the KidsVax® (KV)
17 updates.

18
19 KidsVax Updates

20 Ms. Zell began by summarizing recent personnel changes. She informed the Council that Ashley Kittrell
21 was leaving KV and that Council members could contact her if they need anything. Referring to the
22 Executive Director's report in the meeting packet, Ms. Zell briefly reviewed the success of the provider opt
23 in and noted that there are no non-compliant payers. Finally, she welcomed Kara King as the new tribal
24 health representative and introduced DHSS staff member, Alicia Spillman, as an additional resource.

25
26 **Annual Report**

27 Continuing with updates, Ms. Zell noted that work on the 16/17 Annual Report has begun and will be sent
28 to the Council for their review before submitting it to the Commissioner of Health on July 1st.

29
30 **Audit**

31 Ms. Zell informed the Council that KV met in-person with DHSS in April to finalize the 15/16 audit and
32 begin the 16/17 audit. She noted that the same auditor contracted with DHSS to conduct the 16/17 audit,
33 which is expected to be less time-consuming now that accounting processes have been refined. Ms. Zell
34 then asked Fred Potter to continue with updates. Mr. Potter spoke about the challenges of the 15/16 audit
35 that arose due to having to prepare retroactive data from a program that had never been audited. Mr. Potter
36 also mentioned that past annual reports have been based on budgetary information. After concluding the
37 preliminary 15/16 report, Mr. Potter discussed plans to begin the 16/17 audit. Mr. Potter concluded that
38 future audits are expected to be completed in the first quarter of the calendar year for subsequent years.

39
40 After asking if there were any questions, the meeting proceeded to the next discussion topic.

41
42 **Council Charter**

43 Chairman McLaughlin directed the Council to the revised Council Charter regarding the meeting frequency.
44 Ms. Zell reminded the Council that the changes included moving from two telephonic meetings per year to
45 one. There being no questions or comments, Chairman McLaughlin asked for a motion to approve the
46 revisions.

47 Upon motion duly made by and seconded, it was unanimously

1
2 VOTED: To approve the revised Council Charter.
3

4 Chairman McLaughlin asked Ms. Zell to proceed with the TRICARE update.
5

6 **TRICARE**

7 Ms. Zell stated that the TRICARE initiative is proceeding as expected. She and Mr. Potter will be in
8 Washington, D.C. during the week of May 22 to meet with congressional representatives and TRICARE
9 General Counsel (GC) to discuss the arrears legislation and overdue vaccine payments in per-capita states.
10 Ms. Zell noted that the Washington Vaccine Association began receiving payments in late April, but that
11 TRICARE GC stated that there are added operational issues for beginning payments in per-capita states.
12 Ms. Zell thanked those on the Council who have written letters to the Alaska congressional delegation and
13 stated that they were instrumental in getting authorizing legislation in the 2017 National Defense
14 Authorization Act (NDAA). The arrears legislation for the 2018 NDAA is expected to pass near the end of
15 September. Chairman McLaughlin expressed thanks to KV for their efforts and asked if there were any
16 questions. Dr. Lily Lou asked if there was anything the Council can do to support current efforts. Ms. Zell
17 thanked Dr. Lou and said that she will have an update on any follow up items for the Council after meeting
18 with GC. Mr. Potter added that the pediatric groups and DHSS have been extremely instrumental in gaining
19 the support of the Alaska delegation.
20

21 Ms. Zell then proceeded to the next agenda item.
22

23 Council Development

24 Referencing the email sent to each Council member, Ms. Zell informed the Council that each member
25 expressed their willingness to serve another term. She noted that term rotations need to be established in
26 order to retain institutional knowledge of the program but to also give others an opportunity to serve. Mr.
27 Bobo added that the DHSS member and Division of Insurance members' terms do not expire. DHSS asked
28 that a provider and payer representative end their term in 2017. Chairman McLaughlin requested that
29 Council members contact him if they would like to end their term early, final decisions will be made at the
30 annual meeting in September.
31

32 Dr. Lou noted that it would be helpful to stagger terms in each representative group in a one, two, and three-
33 year sequence. Ms. Zell agreed that it would be beneficial for continuity and added that she had been asked
34 if a different representative from the same organization could serve on the Council. She answered that it
35 was possible, but the Health Commissioner makes the final recommendation and approval.
36

37 **Next Meeting**

38 Ms. Zell informed the Council that the annual meeting on September 21st will be held at Simon & Seaforts
39 in downtown Anchorage. The main focus of the meeting will be the 2018 assessment.
40

41 Public Comment

42 There was no public comment.
43

44 Closing

45 After asking if there were any final comments or questions Chairman McLaughlin adjourned the meeting
46 at 10:55 a.m. AKST.