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**Steering Committee Minutes**

**Friday March 7, 2014**

**7:30-9:00 AM**

**MOMS Conference Room**

**Tower Professional Park, 7906 Davenport Street**

Sharon Wade chaired the meeting

**Introductions**

**Members Present:** Sharon Wade, Sharon Plummer, Linda Ohri, Georganna Felts, Michael Owens, Jim Archer, John Pawlowski, Melanie Moore, Patsy Nowatzke, Jessica Moyle, Mandy Swanson, Cathy Carrico, Meera Varman, Rudy Kotula, Jane McGinty,

**Members Absent:** Vicki J. Sunderman, Laura Klug, Leslie Thiele, Katie O’Keefe, Shirley Delair, Pat O’Hanlon, Bridget Rolenc, Jeanne Burke, Jude Dean

**Announcements:**

1. Jessica and Mandy have completed their vaccine projects and will be graduating.
2. Modules last week of April, Dr. Varman will be doing a module about vaccines to area pediatricians. This will assist in their certification to increase vaccine compliance within their practice
3. The *Spirit of Advocacy* A*ward* is requesting submissions. The award is to honor those who have demonstrated exceptional public service and dedication to improving public health through immunization advocacy in their community. The awardee will be recognized at the Annual Immunize Nebraska Conference. Further details regarding the award and the application can be found at <http://immunizenebraska.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/2014-Conference-Award-Nomination-FormPDF.pdf>. A word document version is also available on the website. Please submit nominations to Laura Klug at [lauraklug@creighton.edu](mailto:lauraklug@creighton.edu) by April 28th 2014.

**Minutes** from the March 7, 2014 meeting approved.

**Treasury Report:**

1. March 13, 2014, Reimburse Sharon Wade for Conference fees, $260.00
2. March 13, 2014, Reimburse Vicki Sunderman for Conference, both pre-conference fees and both airfares $995.00
3. Plaque for outgoing Chair $ 55.00

Balance: $ 13,885.65

**Committee Reports:**

*Community Affairs: Georgia Felt and Bridget Rolenc*

1. Black Family Health and Wellness Fair was held Saturday March 29th 2014
   1. There was a very attendance at the event, several ITF member volunteers attended: Karen O’Brien, Sue Weston, Linda Ohri and 12 pharmacy students. Screened over 100 event participants. Have had a great response on volunteers with enough to assist at the event. Creighton Operation Immunization students will participate as well.
2. Live Well Council Bluffs Family Wellness Fair will be April 26th, 2014 9 to 1 at Thomas Jefferson High School
   1. Sharon and Bridget will be volunteering which should be enough but this is a fun event and everyone is welcome.
3. Homeless event was on March 28, 2014; immunizations were given to include Tdap, Twinrix and flu.
4. Tdap information (postcards or letters, the information will be directed to the website) to go to the daycares before June. Both Dr. Kotula and Dr. Varman are working with OB/GYNs to promote vaccination. Need to educate parents on choosing a daycare that the staff is immunized.

*Professional Affairs:* (Chairs-Cathy Carrico and Katie O’Keefe).

1. Conference scheduled for Friday, June 6, 2014
2. May 23, 2014 is the date for early bird registration; 40 registrants so far.
3. The call for posters continues.
4. Committee discussed alternatives to give scholarships for people who are not able to pay conference fees such as students. Linda suggested funding $200 for support this year to pay for conference calls. Dr. Kotula adds $300 from his practice funds to support this.
5. Consider doing a lay presentation to daycare workers in an evening and waive fees. Could even offer flu vaccine if that could be worked out. Education could partner with the daycare association.

*Legislative Advocacy:* (Chair-Linda Ohri)

**Results of Bills on this year’s agenda**

1. Did not leave committee. LB460 – Carryover bill that would require every student entering the seventh grade to have a meningococcal vaccine and at age sixteen to have a booster immunization containing meningococcal conjugate vaccine.
2. Did not get information on this bill. LB859 - This bill consolidated multiple bills.
   * + - 1. Addresses influenza vaccine and requires that providers in acute care facilities offer and record who received the influenza vaccine and who did not. It does not require the employee to get the vaccine.
         2. Clarifies existing statutes by stating that the offer of immunizations is not required when there are contraindications or nationwide shortages of vaccines.
         3. Pneumococcal is tied into the bill as well requiring it to be offered during the season.
         4. Extends to acute and long term care, as well as intermediate.
         5. Also requires offer of Tdap to residents.
3. This was defeated. LB887- Adopt the Wellness in Nebraska Act. The intent of the Wellness in Nebraska Act was to provide health care coverage to uninsured and under insured newly eligible individuals, age 19 through 65 between 0 and 133% of the Federal Poverty Limit, who are not otherwise qualified for Medicaid, through a Medicaid expansion demonstration waiver. Introduced by Kathy Campbell (with HHS) and is patterned off of Iowa’s program. Contains a wellness component where they pay up to 2% of income as premium which can be waived by participation in wellness programs.

*Website:* (Chair-Sharon Plummer)

1. Web site is live. The URL is [http://immunizenebraska.org/](http://immunizenebraska.org/%20)
2. Mindee has finished her Tdap education resource website and it looks great! Laura will work to get this link working.
3. Updated conference brochure is on the web
4. There has been some concerns from ITF members when using the website:
   1. There were some popup alerts that caused alarm in downloading content
   2. When trying to log on as an ITF member, a screen initially comes up that makes it seem like you do not have access.
5. Laura will check with to fix these concerns. If there are other concerns the committee is encouraged to contact Laura, she will be talking to Chip next week.

**Other Business**

Meeting adjourned

Next meeting scheduled for May 3, 2014, from 7:30 to 9:00 AM at the Metro Omaha Medical Society (MOMS) office at 79th and Davenport.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patsy Nowatzke

Metro Omaha Immunization Task Force