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**Steering Committee Minutes**

**Friday August 7, 2015**

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

**MOMS Conference Room**

**Tower Professional Park, 7906 Davenport Street**

Cathy Carrico chaired the meeting

**Introductions**

**Members Present:** Linda Ohri, Pauli Nejezchleb, Cathy Carrico, Tracey Ginger, Bridget Rolenc, Ashley Self, Rudy Kotula, Laura Klug, Georganna Felts, Pat O’Hanlon, Jeanne Burke, Leslie Thiele, Emily Royer, Michelle Hokanson

**Members Absent:** Sharon Wade, Katie O’Keefe, Sharon Plummer, Jude Dean, Shirley Delair, Vicki J. Sunderman, Patsy Nowatzke, Michael Owen, Meera Varman, Jane McGinty, Roberta Martin, Mary Ann Rocha,

**Announcements:**

Ashley Self discussed the research project she will be working on. She is continuing a project started by a master’s student last year where they surveyed Creighton University employees regarding vaccine knowledge and hesitations. She will work on education initiatives for the university based on findings from this survey.

Emily Royer is a pre-medicine student at UNO and has received a grant from UNO to fund making a documentary about vaccines looking specifically at vaccine myths and debunking these. This will be a 5 minute video. She is at the meeting to make contacts with the ITF to help aid in the direction she wants to take with this video.

**Minutes** from the June 26, 2015 meeting approved.

**Treasury Report:**

Unavailable at time of the meeting

**Conference Report:**

The post-conference meeting and first planning committee meeting with be held August 31st at 3:30pm at MOMS.

**Committee Reports:**

*Community Affairs: Bridget Rolenc*

1. Juneteenth event was attended and reported that the event went well
2. Native Omaha event did not work out this year.
3. Health Fair; Joy of Life on July 11, 2015; completed about 40 screenings at this event. Larger attendance than in previous years.
4. Bi-National Health Fair will be October 17, 2015 women’s event on October 14, 2015 and the senior event October 13, 2015

*Professional Affairs*: *Cathy Carrico*

Nebraska Medical Association Journal’s summer issue is dedicated to immunizations. Katie O’Keefe, Cathy Carrico, Linda Ohri and Dr. Kotula all have articles that will appear in the issue. Also they have agreed to run the ITF logo along with the website url in the issue at no charge to the task force.

*Legislative Advocacy: Linda Ohri*

Linda has arranged a packet that she plans to deliver to representatives this year regarding LB18 meningitis bill. The packet contains a number of fact sheets. One regarding meningococcal infections, one regarding the meningococcal vaccine and use, benefits, safety and cost-effectiveness, one with anecdotes from Nebraska physicians that responded to the June NMA survey. She plans to possibly make one regarding the impact of exemptions to mandates as well. Senator Krist has indicated that he will make LB18 his priority bill this year and is willing to entertain co-sponsors. Linda will set a date to travel to the capital and deliver the informational packets directly to the senators. She would appreciate additional volunteers to join her.

Much opposition is that we do not need a mandate because we have good rates. Linda has collected the following numbers about our immunizations rates for meningococcal.

Teenage immunization rates (13-17 yo) for one or more meningococcal vaccine dose

2014: 74.1%

Caucasian population rate: 72%

Hispanic population rate: 76%

2013: 77.5%

Caucasian population rate: 79.3%

Hispanic population rate: 74.1%

2012: 75.5%

2nd dose vaccination rates not available on a state by state basis but national rates are

2014: 28.2%

2013: 29.5%

*Website: Laura Klug:*

1. The footer of the website was changed to say “Immunizations save lives! Get vaccinated for yourself, for your family and for your community!” Previously said something along the line of “we support immunizations, but the choice is yours” and this was used in a way we do not support.
2. Added a Spirit of Advocacy Page so that we could have a description of the award, a picture of the recipients and the application to nominate.
3. The home page was changed to add verbiage that August is immunization awareness month and to provide links to the toolkit made by The National Public Health Information Coalition in collaboration with CDC. This was also placed onto the resources page.
4. Our website gets a lot of traffic. Chip has assisted in getting the google analytics set up to track this. In the last 90 days, we have had 1500+ views.
5. Please send any suggestions for content changes to Laura Klug

**Other Committee Business**

Suggestion was made to add more about the organization and its history onto the website. Linda has a powerpoint that used to be used for new member orientation but it is out of date. She will send to Laura to use to make a page on the website explaining more about the coalition.

Discussion about adding a “public relations committee” to manage media coverage and events, as well as annual tasks such as the Governor’s Proclamation for immunization month, etc. Will discuss at the next quarterly meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9 AM.

Next meeting scheduled for September 4, 2015.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Klug

Metro Omaha Immunization Task Force