

## **Breakout Session Notes: Local IIS Program Issues**

### **TOPIC A: ASSESSING AND IMPROVING LEVELS (Brenda Lemke, Dr. Melvin Joki)**

#### **Current Issues/Challenges**

- Opt in vs. opt out registries
- Non-communication between systems. All provider systems are not compatible.
- Private provider participation (e.g, resource intensive, prioritize private settings over public health, lower than average reimbursements for vaccinations in Texas than other states). Many providers do not realize it is the law to comply.

#### **Current Activities**

- San Antonio Immunization Registry (SAIRS)
  - SAIRS can register “hits” on their system which helps track levels of participation by providers.
  - Education of new mothers about the importance of immunizations
  - Collaboration with local businesses (e.g., Time Warner, Volkswagen, etc.)
  - Nursing homes enter data into the registry
  - SAIRS enters provider information into the registry (which is then “dumped into TWICES”)
- Tarrant County
  - Three local task forces developed targeting low compliance zip codes. Trying to achieve more connectivity, outreach and education to families, collaboration with local stakeholders.
  - Focus groups with parents (facilitated by nursing students)

#### **Suggestions for Future Work**

- Grassroots efforts – knocking on doors, visiting offices, etc.
- Coalitions are a necessary strategy for making improvements on the local level

### **TOPIC B: INCREASING LOCAL PROVIDER PARTICIPATION IN IMMTRAC**

**(Anna Dragsbaek, Julie Boom)**

#### **Current Issues/Challenges**

- Easy to get public health providers on board, but not private providers
- Raising awareness of the significance of vaccines
- Providers are way too busy with minimal staff; we try to offer an electronic alternative through interfaces
- It takes a lot of staff time to look up records
- Variations in people’s comfort level using the technology that we have
- Lack of knowledge about PRAISE
- Staff time for data entry (be it one time, or multiple times)
- Staff time to look up records (change in work flow)
- Lack of appreciation for the potential value

- Computer and internet access (rarely an issue)
- Staff turnover and re-training staff
- Variations in computer literacy
- ImmTrac has their hands tied in terms of data sharing.
- Value of cost savings not emphasized enough

### **Current Activities**

- Texas Children's Hospital
  - Outreach workers through the City of Houston

### **Suggestions for Future Work**

- Grassroots efforts, knocking on people's doors and letting them know it's the law, and simply, the right thing to do.
- Incentives for providers:
  - Immunization records all come in to one place
  - Prevents duplicate immunizations
  - Incentives for participation: efficient for the practice, access to their private records online, informing people about the law (a lot of people don't know this), good for HEDIS reporting (a system most HMO's have to follow by law; it is a quality assessment tool)
  - Health plans found it so useful that they will pay private providers for every immunization records in its possession
- Build electronic interfaces so that it is compatible with their systems
- Reminder recall – reminding parents to come back in the next 6 months, etc. We just don't do many reminders for children (questions such as who is due, who is over due?). Reminders will increase revenue.
- Insurance plans can do your HEDIS reporting through an immunization registry
- Get the head physician to buy in to it
- Developing mechanisms for schools to get on the bandwagon. Aldine I.S.D. (Houston) has gotten on board.
- VFC program expansion
- Communicate with other electronic school records they currently use (school districts to put this in use)
- Integration with other systems

## **TOPIC C: PANDEMIC PLANNING AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (Adolfo Valadez)**

### **Issues/Challenges**

- Coordination of vaccine distribution and handling – We know there will not be enough vaccine available.
- Do we know how many vaccines we need on a local level?
- Raising awareness – limited knowledge about the impact/potential impact on our population.

### **Current Activities**

- Tarrant county stores adult immunizations records
- Engaging partners in planning (e.g. schools and universities, social service agencies, children's groups, local businesses)

- Regionally coordinated responses
- SAIRS and HHCIR are able to talk to ImmTrac
- HITAC Committee

### **Suggestions for Future Work**

- Track the vaccine, track any adverse events, follow up, look at the effectiveness of the vaccine.
- Expand registries across the lifespan – How do we do this? Discuss benefits, use agreed upon language
- More community involvement – Work closely with hospitals and other groups, work with FEMA, community education is key.

## **TOPIC D: MANAGING IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION SYSTEM DATA QUALITY** ***(Brenda Lemke, Melvin Joki)***

### **Current Issues/Challenges**

- Duplicate records

### **Current Activities**

- San Antonio Immunization Registry
  - Record checks (duplicated records, etc.)
  - Track timeliness and accuracy of reporting by providers
  - Back up systems
  - Data entry required within 30 days
- Tarrant County Immunization Registry
  - QA for data entry training needs

### **Suggestions for Future Work**

- Have people who are data entering the information vested in what they are entering
- Record checks and auditing