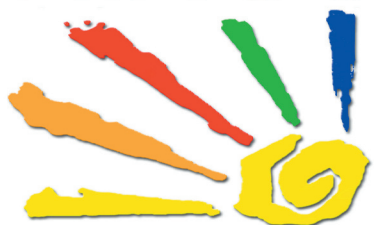


IMMUNIZE
OUR KIDS
VACUNEMOS
NUESTROS
NIÑOS



New Mexico
IMMUNIZATION
COALITION

NM Immunization Coalition *News*

Winter 2004,
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Welcome to the First Edition of the New Mexico Immunization Coalition Newsletter! The purpose of this newsletter is to keep Coalition members informed about NMIC activities and key developments in Immunizations in New Mexico and the world.

The NMIC is about to mark its second anniversary as a coalition and we have a great deal to celebrate. New Mexico's immunization rates have improved in the past two quarters from 64% to 75% according to the latest CDC National Immunization Survey. While we still have a ways to go to reach our goal of 90% of children immunized on-time by age two, we are making significant progress.

The NMIC has been extremely active, with an ambitious multi-pronged strategy. The full coalition met three times this past year with keynote speakers from different states and coalitions and the Centers for Disease Control. The Steering Committee meets monthly and determines the activities and direction for the NMIC. The details of the work of the NMIC are carried out by five subcommittees: Policy/Advocacy; Special Events; Public Education; Provider Education; and Local Coalition Development.

Some key accomplishments in the past year:

- Hiring staff for the NMIC
- Developing operating guidelines and strategic plan for the NMIC

- Advocating for legislation establishing a Statewide Immunization Information System
- Hosting Dr. Bill Atkinson, CDC, for a series of talks
- Holding a provider awards ceremony and reception for providers achieving high (>90%) immunization rates in their practices
- Assisting with the annual Shots for Tots to Teens event
- Providing over \$20,000 in mini-grants to twelve community groups statewide to increase immunization awareness
- Helping develop three television public service announcements around immunization
- Helping initiate the Hallmark Greeting Card project, where every new parent receives a greeting card from the Governor and First Lady with messages about the importance of immunization
- Coordinating the First Lady's Kid Shots at the New Mexico State Fair

The NMIC has been active on many fronts and is coalescing well into a productive and cohesive group. Attendance is excellent at meetings, and members are engaged and active. Momentum is high, and by continuing the good work we are doing, we should see further improvement in our immunization rates.

Please let us know if there are particular topics you would like to see in future issues of this newsletter, or if you have articles to share.

NMIC members

Honorary Chair:

First Lady Barbara Richardson

Co-Chairs:

Susan J. Eastman, MA, MPH
Norman White, MD

Executive Director:

Anna Levy, MPH, MBA

Participating Organizations:

AARP
Albuquerque Public Schools
Aventis Pasteur Vaccines
Blue Cross/Blue Shield of NM
Border Health Office/BEC/NMSU
Centers for Disease Control
Cimarron Health Plan
Dona Ana Immunization Coalition
GlaxoSmithKline Vaccines
Greater Albuquerque Immunization Network (GAIN)
Indian Health Service
Lovelace Sandia Health System
Merck Vaccine Division
Aging and Long-Term Services Dept.
NM Academy of Family Physicians
NM CYFD
NM Department of Health
NM Immunization Advisory Group
NM Influenza Vaccine Consortium
NM Human Services Department
NM Hospital and Health Systems
NM Medical Review Association
NM Medical Society/CPI
NM Nurses Association
NM Pediatric Society
NM Pharmaceutical Association
NM Primary Care Association
NM Public Health Association
NM School Nurses Association
NM State Dept. of Education
NM State PTA
Presbyterian Healthcare Services
Rotary Clubs of New Mexico
Santa Fe Immunization Coalition
Sierra Co. Immunization Coalition
University of New Mexico/Health Sciences Center
Villa Therese Catholic Clinic
Voices for Children
Wyeth Vaccines

Photo gallery

Images from the First Lady's Kid Shots event this summer at the State Fair.



Special Events Subcommittee update

First Lady's Kid Shots

On Saturday September 11, 2004, the NMIC and Department of Health set up an immunization clinic and information/games booth at the New Mexico State Fair. We had three tents set up just south of the Children's Pavilion on the main street by the entrance to the Midway.

Saturday was an extremely busy day at the State Fair. The streets were packed with fair goers. Our tents were visited by a good number of people. Most people visiting the tents had children with them. Some wanted information, some wanted giveaways and some were there expressly for immunizations.

A total of seventy-seven children got immunized with 190 doses of vaccines. Rosie Clifford, R.N., a Shot Team nurse, served as the clinical coordinator and Naomi Kistin, M.D., M.P.H., was the physician on site. The DOH Immunization Program



staff provided the vaccine and supplies for the shot clinic.

In addition to providing shots and information, we had several face painters, a magician and a sticky "dart" game to entertain children while they waited. For children who received a shot, we gave out books (donated by Coca Cola) and ice-cream bars.

Volunteers were a key component of the event and we had over 60 signed up to help. Public Health Department and La Clinica de Familia Medical Center nurses were the lead immunizers, with student nurses and pharmacists serving as assistants. NMIC members, UNM students, school nurses, and DOH clerical staff served as triage, shot record readers, game players, information givers, etc.

The State Fair First Lady's Kid Shots was a fun event with great collaboration between the different agencies involved and the volunteers.

NM SIIS: Live in 2005!!

Earlier this year, the New Mexico State Legislature passed a piece of legislation establishing public health authority to develop a statewide immunization information system (SIIS). This project is a joint effort of the NM Human Services Department and the NM Department of Health. Three new staff were hired to spearhead the project: Richard 'Cleve' Bryant who serves as Project Director, and John Padilla and Deborah Dickerson who are responsible for systems/hardware issues and data exchange, respectively. All three are working diligently to make NMSIIS a reality.

Last year after undertaking a side-by-side assessment of functionality in the available registry products, the NMSIIS

Steering Committee recommended that New Mexico implement a customized version of the public domain Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR) software. This software is being used or is currently being installed in seven other states. It is a powerful system with many useful features that will be web-accessible. The baseline immunization data to populate the system will come from the NM VFC Vaccine Administration Part B forms that providers have been sending to Santa Fe for many years and the Medicaid-Medicare Information System. NMSIIS will allow providers to access immunization records for NM children, whether seen in their offices or elsewhere. In addition to providing an accurate up-to-date immunization record, the software will determine vaccines needed at each visit, help track vaccine inventory, be able to generate reminder/recall cards, and allow practices to assess their own coverage rates.

In mid-October, the NMSIIS team submitted the funding documents to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid

NM SIIS "is a powerful system with many useful features that will be web-accessible."

Steve Nickell, PhD
Immunization Program
Manager, NMDOH

Services (CMS). CMS approved the NMSIIS application in mid-November. Efforts are currently under way to purchase the necessary hardware and to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP)

for vendors to implement the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR) software. While the software is public domain, a contractor experienced with WIR will do the installation and customization.

Currently, a demonstration version of the software has been installed to assist the project team in testing and in data quality assessment. Timeframe for actual rollout of NMSIIS is next summer. Rollout will occur over several months with providers coming on board in stages.

NMIC and the Clinical Prevention Initiative are working together to help plan outreach and marketing to providers in the upcoming year. If you would like to participate in this effort, please contact Anna Levy, 505-272-5796.

For more information on NMSIIS, contact Cleve Bryant, 505-827-2430.

Calendar of upcoming events

December

12/3 NMIC annual meeting,
Sheraton Old Town , Albuquerque

January

1/20, NMIC Steering Committee retreat and planning session

February

2/17, NMIC Steering Committee meeting

March

3/17, NMIC Steering Committee meeting

April

4/21, NMIC Steering Committee meeting
April 24-30, National Infant Immunization Week



*Dorothy Danfelter and Steve Nickell,
NM Department of Health; Anna Levy, NM
Immunization Coalition; and First Lady
Barbara Richardson at the State Fair
"First Lady's Kid Shots" event*

NM Immunization Coalition News is published quarterly. Please contact Maggie June at 505-272-3032 or via email at mjune@salud.unm.edu if you have any questions or have an item to submit for the newsletter.



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