The New Mexico Immunization Coalition just celebrated its sixth anniversary with an informative speaker, great food, and a full house. On December 5, 80 coalition members and guests attended the meeting. John Lott, RN, MS, Director of Nursing and Chief Privacy/Security Office at Knox County Health Department in Knoxville, Tennessee gave the keynote presentation. Mr. Lott presented on Tennessee’s experience with school-based influenza clinics over the past four years and the success his department has had with the vaccination project. NMIC members learned valuable information and asked lots of questions during a lively question and answer session.

In the afternoon, five nurses from our own influenza pilot project in New Mexico talked about their experiences with the project. Over 70 schools around the state participated in this first-time effort, immunizing over 16,000 children against influenza. The nurses shared lessons learned and the details of coordinating this huge project. Panelists included Cheri Dotson, Carolyn Williams, Linda Rudeen, Beatrice Hurtado and Rebecca Trujillo.

The coalition has recently done a systems analysis to look at the core process of the immunization system. As follow-up, the coalition will conduct a few focus groups throughout New Mexico to better understand parents who are not up-to-date with their children’s immunizations. To facilitate this effort, Carol Pierce led a discussion about the proposed focus group activity with our group. Many members already know Ms. Pierce who has years of experience in public health. The group participated in a spirited brainstorming session to identify the questions and concerns that we’d like to uncover. The group also discussed the locations where the focus groups could take place and pinpointed the types of participants to include.

The event ended with updates on other efforts in which the coalition is involved. Jackie Cardona, our CDC Public Health Advisor, provided an update on NMSII; Anna Pentler talked about the 17 innovative NMIC minigrant projects that have been recently funded, totaling $20,000; and the group heard the results from the latest “Got Shots? Protect Tots!” statewide immunization event that took place in November, where over 700 shots were given to more than 300 kids. Altogether it was a lively and informative meeting. Thanks to everyone for participating.
The NMIC hosted its Sixth Year Anniversary meeting on December 5, celebrating in the Kokopelli Room of the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North. Clockwise from top left: Debbie Muscarella and Jacque Boothe; Ruby Bishop with Dennis Peña; Esther Erdei, John Lott and Anna Pentler; Sebrena Oliver with her little immunization helper; Kokopelli Room; flu pilot nurses: Cheri Dotson of Santa Fe Public Schools, Linda Rudeen of APS, Carolyn Williams of Monroe APS; Rebecca Trujillo, school health advocate, Anna Pentler, Beatrice Hurtado of Mora; John Lott with Lance Chilton; Kris Porcher with NMIC mascot Ricardo. Center photos: Martha Faor of Dzilth-NA-O-Dith-Hle clinic and Margaret Roberts, school nurse; Anna Pentler, Carol Pierce and Barak Wolff.
Welcome new staff

There have been some new hires to the Department of Health Immunization Program recently. We’d like to introduce you to them:

Rudy Balquin is the new Immunization Program Operations Manager for the NM Immunization Program. Rudy comes from the CO Immunization Program where he was the Vaccines Analyst for the VFC Program and later the VFC Operations Coordinator.

Marsha Rippetoe is the new Health Educator in the VFC program. Marsha was a Program Specialist in the TX Immunization Program. She is finding creative ways to reduce the costs of producing and distributing training materials for the VFC program.

Bobby Sanchez is the NM Statewide Immunization Information System (NMSIIIS) Training Specialist and also performs data management. Bobby comes from Region IV where he did health education.

Carrie Johannes is the new Vaccine Outreach Coordinator (VOC). She will work with providers to improve immunization rates and identify new strategies for outreach. Her background is in public health nursing, having worked extensively throughout NM and South Dakota, with Health Departments, IHS and UNM.

“School nurses and health advocates, healthcare providers, and Department of Health nurses collaborated to give influenza vaccine in about 70 schools across the state...”

School nurses and health advocates, healthcare providers, and Department of Health nurses collaborated to give influenza vaccine in about 70 schools across the state including elementary, mid and high schools in varied and geographically dispersed locations. In some areas, all schools in a community were included; in other areas only select schools were included. School nurses volunteered to participate. Planning meetings encouraged schools to partner with local pediatricians, health sciences students, Public Health Nurses and local volunteers to plan and hold the immunization clinics.

Department of Health Immunization Program personnel designed consent forms in English and Spanish for the pilot project. Forms were distributed at and after school registration, depending on the school. DOH allocated 30,000 doses of FluMist (LAIV) and injectable vaccine (TIV) to the pilot clinics. The participating schools held clinics between October and December. The majority of the planning and vaccine administration decisions were made by the school nurse and their partners; the Immunization Program provided some guidance, but schools were asked to develop their own methods in order to be able to learn what approaches worked best.

The pilot school clinics will be evaluated through a questionnaire and debriefing meeting. Organizers will share their approaches and the factors that contributed to success.

The Epidemiology Division is tracking influenza and influenza-like illness in some of the communities with a school pilot project to measure impact on school absenteeism and influenza-like illness. Results will be shared with the provider community to determine approaches to be taken in 2009-2010, when the ACIP recommendation takes full effect.

School Influenza Pilot Project 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>No. Shots</th>
<th>No. Kids</th>
<th>0-2*</th>
<th>3-6*</th>
<th>7-18*</th>
<th>No. providers participating</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>1126</td>
<td>736</td>
<td>71 (10%)</td>
<td>67 (9%)</td>
<td>591 (81%)</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>1107</td>
<td>457</td>
<td>105 (23%)</td>
<td>142 (31%)</td>
<td>209 (46%)</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>7424</td>
<td>2725</td>
<td>206 (8%)</td>
<td>692 (29%)</td>
<td>1526 (63%)</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>707</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>59 (30%)</td>
<td>65 (33%)</td>
<td>72 (37%)</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>10,364</td>
<td>4,214</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>966</td>
<td>2,398</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

* Age breakdown was not provided by all clinics, so total number of kids doesn’t equal total by age group.

Got Shots? Protect Tots!

2008 immunization events

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### Calendar of upcoming events

**December**
- 12/5   Full NMIC meeting and sixth anniversary celebration
- 12/24-1/2  NMIC closed for winter break

**January 2009**
- 1/15  NMIC Steering Committee meeting, 2:00-4:00

**February**
- 2/19  NMIC Steering Committee meeting, 2:00-4:00

**March**
- 3/19  NMIC Steering Committee meeting, 2:00-4:00
- 3/30-4/2  National Immunization Conference, Dallas TX

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**NMIC Executive Director Anna Pentler with NMIC’s Roadrunner mascot and John Lott, keynote speaker, at Sixth Anniversary meeting on December 5.**

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**Contact us...**

**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.