NMIC 2014 Provider Awards Dinner

By Anna Pentler, MPH, MBA
Executive Director, NMIC

The New Mexico Immunization Coalition held its 10th Awards ceremony in May. This year’s event was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Albuquerque and was a big success! We honored one hundred and one providers for having childhood immunization rates of 90% and above— the largest number of award winners we have ever had! Big congratulations to all of the providers who are working so hard to protect New Mexico’s children from vaccine-preventable diseases. In addition, NMIC honored fourteen providers for excellence in covering adolescent immunizations. These providers were selected based on their coverage rates for having meningococcal vaccine rates of 90% and above. Five New Mexico birthing hospitals were honored for having excellent rates for providing the birth dose of Hepatitis B vaccine, over 90%. We also honored 3 individuals and one group as “Immunization Champions” for New Mexico: Nadine Sena, Medical Assistant from Pecos Valley Medical Center, Tina McNeese, NMSIIS training contractor, Dr. Bebe Han, pediatrician, and Presbyterian Medical Group Pediatrics representing 8 clinics around New Mexico. See page 3 for the listing of this year’s award winners.

Dr. Lance Chilton, one of New Mexico’s preeminent immunization champions gave the keynote address, “Preaching to the Choir about Preaching (about Adolescent Immunizations).” For the past year, Dr. Chilton has been traveling around the state, helping to spread the word about the importance of completing all the vaccines in the adolescent platform. He has developed a “tool kit” with helpful ideas and resources for providers to use when talking about adolescent immunizations. During his keynote presentation, Dr. Chilton polled the audience using “i-clickers” to get instant feedback on various topics. This technology was popular with the attendees and was a new way to engage audience participation with such a large crowd.

Over 200 people attended the evening and celebrated with a delicious dinner and the distribution of awards. Ricardo Roadrunner, our Immunization mascot, made an appearance early in the evening and gracefully posed for many photos. Cathy Rocke, Deputy Director for Programs with the New Mexico Department of Health, helped to congratulate winners and distribute awards. NMIC is pleased to have the opportunity to recognize our state’s excellent providers and immunization champions.
Making sure that New Mexico students are up-to-date on immunizations and ready to learn is a collaborative effort. Every year, school nurses and providers across the state work hard to make sure students get their shots. And every year, New Mexico’s Vaccine Advisory Committee reviews and updates New Mexico’s school requirements.

Since 2007, the NM Department of Health has surveyed kindergartens and seventh grades to measure schools’ immunization rates and compliance with school entry requirements. To be considered compliant, students need to be up-to-date for required immunizations, or have a valid exemption or “in-process” note in their file. The survey pinpoints where New Mexico’s school populations might be most vulnerable to outbreaks.

Compliance varies greatly by school and is higher in public schools than private schools: Over 90% of public school kindergarteners and seventh-graders were compliant, compared with 88% of private kindergarteners and only 78% of private seventh-graders. Though some kindergartens had no non-compliant students, other private kindergartens had over 30% of their students non-compliant. These schools need better information or more motivation to become effective gatekeepers for state immunization requirements.

Students with exemptions make up less than a third of all students who are not up-to-date (NUTD) for required immunizations. Private schools have more religious exemptors than public schools. These students with religious exemptions are likely to be missing multiple vaccines: 86% of them were exempt from all required immunizations. Conversely, most non-compliant students who don’t have an exemption need only one vaccine dose to become up-to-date. Non-compliant seventh-graders, for example, are often missing only a single dose of Tdap.

Linking non-compliant or “in-process” students to expanded services like Tdap clinics for seventh-graders could be an efficient strategy for raising statewide compliance. The School Kids Influenza Immunization Project (SKIIP) has been a pioneer nationwide for delivering flu vaccines: let’s see if we in New Mexico can be a leader in making sure our school kids get other vaccines as well!
2014 NMIC Immunization Award Winners

Practices with rates greater than 90%

**Northwest Region**
- William Barkman, DO, Aztec
- Bloomfield Health Center
- Cibola Family Health Center, Grants
- Crownpoint Health Care Facility
- Northern Navajo Medical Center, Shiprock
- Pine Hill Health Center
- RMCHCS College Clinic, Gallup
- Western NM Med. Group, Thoreau
- Zuni Community Health Center

**Metro Region**
- ABQ Health Partners:
  - Carlisle
  - Coors
  - Gibson Pediatrics
  - Journal Center Pediatrics
  - Juan Tabo
  - Montgomery
  - Rio Bravo
  - Rio Rancho
- After Hours Pediatrics:
  - Holly
  - Montgomery
  - West Albuquerque Indian Hospital
  - Albuquerque Pediatric Associates
  - Scott Brown, MD, Albuquerque
  - Edgewood Pediatric Clinic
  - El Pueblo Health Services, Bernalillo
- First Choice Community Healthcare:
  - Alameda
  - Alamosa
  - Belen
  - Broadway
  - Los Lunas
  - North Valley
  - Southwest Valley
  - Isleta Indian Health Center
  - Jemez Health Clinic, Jemez Pueblo
  - Reginald Lord, MD, Albuquerque
  - McLeod Medical Center, Edgewood
  - Northside Family Medicine, Albuquerque
  - Parveen’s Pediatric Care, Albuquerque
  - Pediatric Associates, Albuquerque
  - Dr. Phil Pediatrics, Rio Rancho

**Northeast Region**
- Arroyo Chamiso Pediatrics, Santa Fe
  - Children’s Clinic:
    - Los Alamos
    - White Rock
    - Dulce Health Ctr, Jicarilla Svc. Unit
    - El Centro Family Health:
      - Bond, Española
      - Embudo
      - Española
      - Peñasco
    - Family Practice Associates, Raton
    - Family Practice Associates of Taos
    - La Familia Primary Care, Raton
    - La Familia Medical Center, Santa Fe:
      - Alto Street
      - South Side
    - Las Clinicas del Norte, Abiquiu
    - Meadow City Family Clinic, Las Vegas
    - Pecos Valley Medical Center
    - Rio Arriba Hlth Commons, Española
    - Rodeo Family Medicine, Santa Fe
    - Santa Fe Pediatric Associates

**Southeast Region**
- BCA Medical Associates, Artesia
- Cottonwood Pediatrics, Carlsbad
- Lea County Children’s Clinic, Hobbs
- Memorial Family Practice, Artesia
- Raney Pediatrics, Carlsbad
- White Mountain Medical, Ruidoso

**Southwest Region**
- Ben Archer Health Center, Deming
- Blue Skies Primary Care, Deming
- Maria Crawley, MD, Las Cruces
- First Step Pediatrics, Las Cruces
- Full Bloom Pediatrics, Las Cruces
- Hidalgo Medical Services, Lordsburg
- Memorial Medical Center, Family Medicine Clinic, Las Cruces
- Mescalero PHS Hospital
- Allen L. Paul, MD, Alamogordo
- Pediatrics of Alamogordo
- Silver Health Care, Deming

**Special category awards**

- **Excellence in Adolescent Immunization**
  - Cottonwood Pediatrics, Carlsbad
  - Maria Crawley, MD Las Cruces
  - Crownpoint Health Care Facility
  - Full Bloom Pediatrics, Las Cruces
  - Hidalgo Medical Services, Animas
  - Isleta Indian Health Center
  - La Familia Primary Care, Raton
  - Mescalero PHS Hospital
  - Mora Valley Community Hlth Svcs
  - Pueblo of Sandia Hlth Ctr, Bernalillo
  - Santa Fe Pediatric Associates
  - St. Anthony Pediatrics, Anthony
  - Western NM Medical Grp, Thoreau
  - Zuni Community Health Center

- **Hospital excellence in Hepatitis B birth dose**
  - Cibola General Hospital, Grants
  - Memorial Medical Ctr, Las Cruces
  - Mountain View Regional Medical Center, Las Cruces
  - RMCHCS, Gallup
  - San Juan Reg. Med Ctr, Farmington

- **Immunization champions**
  - L.-P. Bebe Han, PhD, MD
  - Tina McNeese, CTT+
  - Presbyterian Medical Group Pediatrics
  - Nadine Sena, MA
120 award winners were honored for their excellence in vaccinating at the NMIC Provider Awards Dinner! The awards were presented by Cathy Rocke, Deputy Director of Programs, NMDOH Public Health Division. (Ms. Rocke is noted as CR in the photos below).
Valery Henderson,  
**VFC Program Manager**

Valery Henderson has worked in public health, experiencing professional development with a variety of programs including Children’s Medical Services, Health Promotion, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) along with local tribal organizations including Santo Domingo, ACL and San Felipe Pueblos. She is a committed advocate of breastfeeding, the very first immunization. Her daughter received one of the first HPV series vaccines offered in New Mexico, and her son has received all his recommended immunizations, too. Valery is excited to learn and expand her knowledge of the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC), while building strong relationships with VFC staff and providers. Valery enjoys many aspects of living in New Mexico, especially the culture, landscape, mountains, and winter skiing in Taos.

**Desiree Valdez,  
VFC Health Educator**

Desiree Valdez is new to public health and immunizations and is excited to be of service as the Health Educator for the New Mexico VFC Program. Initially starting out in the Immunization Program as the Regional Immunization Health Educator for the Northeast Region in April of 2013, Desiree learned firsthand through community outreach events about the important role immunizations play in the overall health of our communities and how we are all responsible for educating the public about vaccines. When she isn’t hard at work assisting the state with conquering vaccine-preventable diseases or talking someone’s ear off about making sure they received their pertussis booster, you can usually find Desiree slaying dragons, reading eldritch tomes of forbidden lore, and commanding armies of Amazons.

**NM VTrckS: New Online Vaccine Ordering system**

NMDOH is implementing a new process for ordering and managing state-supplied vaccines. Beginning this summer, vaccine ordering will be done online, and providers will have the ability to submit orders, track order status, and manage inventory through an online, integrated state system. These new changes will cut down on staff time and resources, both at the clinic and the state level, while giving the convenience of managing and tracking orders more easily. The new online system will also help New Mexico cut down on paper and go greener! Assessment surveys, trainings and instructions will be offered in the coming months to assist providers with the online registration process and to begin ordering.

More information, including training schedules for providers, is on the state’s immunization web site, www.immunizenm.org.

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**NMIC has developed HPV Reminder “clings” for practices to give to their patients as a reminder of when the patients need to return in order to complete the HPV series of 3 vaccinations. The clings can be put on a refrigerator, window, and other surfaces. Write in the date when the first dose is administered and the next two dates when your patient will need to return for the other two doses. Help us spread Community Immunity!**
## 2014 calendar of events

### July
- 7/10: IPAC: IZ Practices Advisory Council mtg., 1:30-4pm
- 7/17: NMIC Steering Committee meeting, 2-4pm

### August “Immunization Awareness” month
- 8/2: Got Shots? Protect Tots! 8/2 thru 8/16
- 8/14: IPAC: IZ Practices Advisory Council mtg., 1:30-4pm
- 8/15: NMIC Meeting, Abq. Marriott Pyramid, 10am

### September
- 9/11: IPAC: IZ Practices Advisory Council mtg., 1:30-4pm

### October
- 10/9: IPAC: IZ Practices Advisory Council mtg., 1:30-4pm
- 10/16: NMIC Steering Committee meeting, 2-4pm

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**NM Immunization Coalition News**

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**HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER**

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