Despite the cold and snowy weather, almost 100 members of the New Mexico Immunization Coalition braved the elements to gather at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Albuquerque and attend our eleventh anniversary meeting.

Dr. Cheryl Walker, a professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology from University of California at Davis, was our keynote speaker. She gave an informative update on the latest data on human papilloma virus vaccine efficacy. Despite the less-than-hoped-for uptake of HPV, infections in teens have decreased markedly. Data from countries where uptake is higher (Australia, the United Kingdom and Denmark) have shown drops in genital warts and cervical dysplasia since the introduction of the vaccine. Dr. Walker gave a very thorough and accessible talk that was appreciated and well-received.

Dr. Gary Overturf, Medical Director for Tricore Laboratories, gave an update on adult vaccines focusing on influenza, but also touching on the latest recommendations for Tdap, Zostavax, and Pneumococcal vaccines.

Michel Disco, Director of Interprofessional Education and Assistant Dean for External Programs for the UNM College of Pharmacy, gave a presentation outlining the role of pharmacists in providing vaccines. New Mexico was an early adopter and one of the first states to allow pharmacists to both administer and prescribe vaccines. With the Affordable Care Act covering more adults with preventive services, such as immunizations, pharmacists will continue to play a vital role in providing this much needed service.

Dan Burke, NM’s Immunization Program Manager, gave a presentation on a possible way to continue to remain a universal purchase state by utilizing KidsVax.org as a way to order and pay for vaccines. New Mexico has been struggling with how to remain a universal purchase state when not all of the insurance plans are reimbursing adequately for the vaccine their members receive that has been purchased through the state immunization program. This presentation was given through a Webinar by representatives from KidsVax.org.

Anna gave a brief update on NMIC projects such as SKIIP — the School Kids Influenza Immunization Project, Got Shots? Protect Tots! and the minigrant program.

The meeting was well-attended and much-appreciated by the members for excellent presentations and an opportunity to network with other immunization folks from around the state.
NMIC members

Co-Chairs
Dan Burke, MPH
Norman White, MD

Executive Director
Anna Pentler, MPH, MBA

Participating Organizations
AARP
Albuquerque Public Schools
Blue Cross & Blue Shield of NM
Border Health Office/BEC/NMSU
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Doña Ana County Immunization Coalition
GlaxoSmithKline Vaccines
Immunization Practices Advisory Council (I-PAC)
Indian Health Service
La Clinica de Familia Medical Center
La Familia Medical Center
Lovelace Health System
Merck Vaccine Division
Molina Healthcare
NM Academy of Family Physicians
NM Aging & Long-Term Services Dept.
NM CYFD
NM Department of Health
NM Vaccine Advisory Committee
NM Human Services Department
NM Hospital and Health Systems
NM Medical Review Association
NM Medical Society
NM Nurses Association
NM Pediatric Society
NM Pharmaceutical Association
NM Primary Care Association
NM Public Health Association
NM School Nurses Association
NM State Department of Education
NM State PTA
Passport Health New Mexico
Pfizer Inc.
Presbyterian Health Services
Rotary Clubs of New Mexico
sanofi pasteur
Santa Fe Immunization Coalition
University of New Mexico, Health Sciences Center
Villa Therese Catholic Clinic
Voices for Children

Photo Gallery, December meeting

Clockwise from top left: Donna Drapeau, Lorraine Johnson, Cecelia Kee, Dolores Wauneka, Olowan De Herrera, Leanne Cruz, Susan Jenks, Hubert Allen, Cheri Dotson, Cindy Greenberg; Bernadette Padilla, Bernadette Pacheco, Angela Jimenez, Juanita Saiz, Karen Duran, John Polinko; Toni Berg and Maggie June; Todd Watkins, Gary Overturf, Melissa Martinez, Gary Simpson; BR Holbrook, Ronnie Campos, Janine Garcia, Karyn Skipp, Jane Dillon-Hermann, Kelly Keswater; Jacque Boothe and Tina Cutler; Sylvia Lopez and Jesus Baca.
In November, the NMSIIS Program hired Jamie Baca as the NMSIIS Training Coordinator. Jamie replaces Peggy Cooke, who is now the Manager of the NMSIIS Program. Jamie’s background in clinical pediatrics and technology—including NMSIIS—allowed her to jump into her new role easily and take on all of its related tasks.

NMSIIS training requests continue at an escalated rate, although as we approach the holidays, there appears to be a reprieve. Trainers (NMDOH staff and contract) used to complete an average of 100 trainings per month. After the 2013 Amendment to the Immunization Act making data entry in NMSIIS mandatory, the average number of trainings peaked at 256 per month. With 286 trainings in October and 186 trainings in November, the 2013 monthly average is now down to 206 per month.

The rest of the NMSIIS team continues to manage the many projects associated with NMSIIS, for example, an enhancement to the NMSIIS application that adds “deduct from inventory” functionality for data exchange sites; continued efforts to onboard New Mexico immunization providers so that they can convert to automated data exchange with NMSIIS; and processing of the RFP that will result in a contract for another four years of support and maintenance for the New Mexico immunization registry.

Using its CDC grant for adolescent vaccine promotion, New Mexico’s Department of Health contracted with the NM Immunization Coalition to conduct physician detailing on adolescent immunization. Lance Chilton, who had assisted with physician detailing regarding vaccine rate improvement once before with success, was hired to do the job.

Lance has now gone to five practices in Albuquerque, Gallup, Edgewood, and Taos, toting his Powerpoint presentation, his smile, his expertise, his literature, including a homemade, New Mexico-specific Adolescent Vaccine Toolkit (available through NMIC Headquarters), and lunch for staff who attend. He’ll make at least five more visits before June. The visits are scheduled during the lunch hour to maximize the number of clinic staff who can participate.

We have surveyed the first five practices visited to determine the effectiveness of the detailing and have found that the physicians appreciate the information, especially how to talk to parents about teen vaccines including HPV. Lance has been pleased that following his presentations, several of the practices have developed new methods for encouraging vaccine uptake, from giving vaccines at sick child and injured child visits to finding new ways to encourage adolescents to come back for the subsequent doses of certain vaccines.

It has been said that “a pediatrician will do anything for a free lunch,” even listen to a Powerpoint presentation. It’s also been said that “there’s no such thing as a free lunch.” Practices have listened attentively and made changes, leading to both the practices and their patients receiving the benefits of increased vaccine coverage.
2014 overview calendar of events

1/16    NMIC Steering Committee meeting, 2-4pm
4/17    NMIC Steering Committee meeting, 2-4pm
4/26-5/3 National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW)
5/1-5/2 DOH Immunization Training, Crown Plaza Abq.
5/2     NMIC Provider Awards Dinner, Crown Plaza Abq.
5/21-5/23 National Immunization and Health Coalitions Conference, Seattle WA
7/17    NMIC Steering Committee meeting, 2-4pm
8/2-8/16 Got Shots? Protect Tots! statewide campaign
8/15    August NMIC meeting, tentative date, details TBA
10/16   NMIC Steering Committee meeting, 2-4pm
12/5    December NMIC meeting, details TBA

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

SHOT BRIEFS

Universal Immunization Symbol

Through a project spearheaded by the Immunization Action Coalition (IAC), immunization advocates and Coalition leaders from around the United States have come up with a universal immunization symbol that can be used by anyone. The umbrella, representing protection of the community, tells the story of the power of immunizations.

Here is the link to download if you would like to use the symbol:

http://blog.pkids.org/2013/11/05/universal-immunization-symbol/