

**Washington Vaccine Association
Board of Directors Meeting
June 17, 2021; 2:00-4:00 p.m. (PST)**

I. Attendance. Due to COVID-19, this meeting was conducted solely by webinar. Participating in all or part of the meeting were the following individuals:

Directors

Chad Murphy, PharmD, Chair, Premera
Beth Harvey, MD, South Sound Pediatrics, Vice Chair
Patricia Auerbach, MD, MBA, FACP, Treasurer,
UnitedHealthcare
Ed Marcuse, MD, Emeritus Professor of
Pediatrics, University of Washington, Secretary
Helen Chea, MD, Molina Healthcare
John Dunn, MD, MPH, Kaiser Permanente
Cathy Falanga, Aetna Life Insurance Company
Jason A. Farber, Esq., Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
Steve Lam, PharmD, Regence BlueShield
Washington

WVA

Julia G. Zell, MA., Esq., Executive Director

Helms & Company, Inc.

Patrick Miller, MPH, WVA, Administrative Director
Lisa White, MS, JD, Customer and Financial Support
Specialist
Leslie Walker, CPA, Mason+Rich, PA
Alyssa McKeon, Project Support Leader

Others

Lydia Bartholomew, MD, Aetna
Sandy Biggers, Senior Regional Account Manager,
Public Health, West Coast, Seqirus
Rick Hourigan, MD, MHA, Market Medical
Executive, PNW (Seattle), Cigna
Janel Jorgenson, Washington Department of Health
Anne Redman, Esq., Perkins Coie, LLP

II. Summary of Actions Taken and/or Recommended

Actions Taken (votes adopted)

- i. To approve April 22, 2021, meeting minutes with the changes suggested at the meeting.
- ii. To approve the Plan of Operation as presented at the Board meeting.

III. Minutes

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. Ms. Zell announced that the meeting would be recorded for the benefit of the minute taker, to be deleted once the minutes are approved. Mr. Miller took roll call. Mr. Murphy reviewed the agenda.

Consent Calendar

Dr. Harvey suggested edits to the minutes. Mr. Murphy asked for a motion to approve the minutes with the changes suggested at the meeting. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve April 22, 2021, meeting minutes with the changes suggested at the meeting.

Financial Update

Ms. Zell introduced the WVA financials for the eleven months-ended May 31, 2021. The WVA has seen a cash reduction as planned. Mr. Miller reviewed the WVA financials. In May, the WVA remitted more money to the state of Washington than it collected. Administrative expenses for the eleven months-ended May 31, 2021, are under budget. The year-end financials will be prepared in July. Preparation has begun for the annual audit that will conclude by September.

Department of Health Update

Ms. Jorgenson delivered the Department of Health (DOH) update. In the previous six months, the DOH has delivered 7.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine, which is equivalent to 2.5 years of vaccines given in the Childhood Vaccine Program (CVP).

Ms. Jorgenson reviewed two new vaccines that will be available for purchase beginning July 1, 2021: MenQuadfi and Vaxelis. The DOH will monitor uptake of MenQuadfi before determining if a scheduled end date for Menactra is needed.

There has been a rebound in catch-up immunization as seen in an uptick in doses ordered and doses administered. Immunization is not yet at pre-pandemic levels. The DOH will continue to promote back-to-school campaigns. The DOH is resuming the “Immunize Washington” campaign, which was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Flu Fighters Facility Award program is active with facility recognition taking place in July. The DOH is beginning to plan for the next flu season by analyzing flu vaccine wastage rates.

Mr. Murphy asked if Ms. Jorgenson knew of any work to help payers receive easier access to immunization data. Ms. Jorgenson shared that the DOH has a matching process for the managed Medicare plans, but that they are looking to improve the process to make it less manual and more automated. Mr. Murphy asked that Ms. Jorgenson share feedback that payers desire help in targeting their communication through access to data.

Ms. Zell asked if Ms. Jorgenson will continue in her position. Ms. Jorgenson shared that she is scheduled to end this position in August, but it is looking more likely she will continue.

Executive Director Updates

Ms. Zell presented the proposed Interest and Late Assessments section changes to the Plan of Operations that had been made since the Board of Directors meeting in April 2021. The changes allow for payers to inform the WVA if the payer had not received the assessment in a timely fashion and provides for a longer, 180-day period before an assessment is considered late. Ms. Falanga requested a clarification as to when this would be applied. Ms. Zell clarified the interest rate would be applied on an ad hoc basis when a payer will not engage with the WVA to resolve the issue in a timely manner.

Mr. Murphy asked for a motion to approve the Plan of Operation as presented at the Board meeting. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the Plan of Operation as presented at the Board meeting.

Ms. Zell stated that the Plan of Operation will be forwarded to the Secretary of Health for signature.

Ms. Zell presented a draft WVA mission statement and key messaging. The goal is to have clear and concise language that can be used externally to explain the purpose of the WVA. Dr. Auerbach inquired if the draft mission statement and the authorizing statute used the same language. Ms. Zell said the language was similar but expounded upon the language used in the WVA bylaws. Ms. Redman explained that the statute has explicit language on collecting funds while the proposed draft mission statement was more general. General discussion ensued. Mr. Farber and Dr. Auerbach suggested rethinking the use of the word “equitable” as it may be read to mean health equity for children. Ms. Falanga stated she would need others from her organization to weigh in on the draft mission statement. Ms. Zell clarified that as a private 501(c)(3) the mission statement would not need to be approved by the various organizations involved with the WVA. Ms. Falanga cautioned against the use of the word “all” in the draft mission statement as the WVA is not providing funding for all children. Mr. Murphy summarized, based on the feedback, that the mission statement should ideally match what the statute said. He suggested that the key messaging language was the place to use more general language. Ms. Zell will bring this back to the Board of Directors in November with further refinement.

Ms. Zell presented an update on two provider compliance issues the WVA has been working through. The first issue involved a provider group that was submitting all their DBAs with the WVA TIN. This issue was caught and corrected. The second issue involved a provider group who has been submitting zero-dollar DBAs since 2017. The WVA will likely need to go to each large payer to resolve the issue. Ms. Zell highlighted the work the WVA has begun in provider monitoring that will help avoid these types of issues in the future.

Ms. Zell presented an update on payer compliance efforts. The WVA has been receiving patient payments for assessments owed. The WVA has worked with several payers to refund patient payments; however, other payers have stated that it is not their responsibility to cover the vaccine costs for beneficiaries with limited preventative coverage

or co-insurance/co-pays. Ms. Redman stated that it is a complicated legal issue. She has drafted a memo that is being sent to payers stating that they are responsible for remitting DBAs to the WVA in full, irrespective of plan design. Ms. Zell requested that the Board discuss the matter. Ms. Redman added that the CDC will not allow for patient billing for the cost of the vaccines that they sell. Mr. Murphy agreed that there should be one set of rules applied to all payers. He asked for comments from the Board of Directors as to how the WVA should be approaching this. Mr. Lam asked if there was an opportunity to have the Operations Committee explore this issue. Ms. Zell shared that while the Operations Committee did get an update, she is seeking direction from the Board of Directors. Ms. Falanga shared that the Board could take a position but that this is a legal issue and should be worked out according to the statute and the laws. Mr. Lam concurred. Mr. Miller pointed out that patients get caught in the middle and that having a consistent policy would create a smoother experience for them. Ms. Zell suggested going to the state to have them weigh in. Ms. Redman shared that in initial conversations with the state, there was an alignment on how payers should be charged regardless of plan design. Mr. Murphy summarized that the Board now has awareness of the issue, and that Ms. Zell should leverage outside counsel to engage with the state.

Ms. Zell reviewed the WVA quarterly goals. The Board of Directors will be receiving a Board Governance Survey during which they can provide feedback. The WVA is moving forward with the Payer Certificate of Compliance Program. The flipbook for the new brochure has been finished and will be on the website soon.

IV. Executive Session. Confidential.

V. Closing.

With no further business before the Committee, Mr. Murphy closed the meeting at 4:11 pm PST.