

**Meeting Notes**  
**Vaccine Committee Meeting**  
**November 4, 2021; 12:00-1:00 p.m. PT**

**I. Attendance.** This meeting was conducted solely by webinar. Participating in all or part of the meeting were the following individuals:

<p>8 <u>Members &amp; Guests</u></p> <p>9 John Dunn, MD, FAAP, Acting Chair</p> <p>10 James Chattra, MD, FAAP, Allegro</p> <p>11 Pediatrics</p> <p>12 Jeff Gombosky, Pharmaceutical</p> <p>13 Research and Manufacturers of America</p> <p>14 Janel Jorgenson, Washington</p> <p>15 Department of Health</p> <p>16 Libby Page, MPH, King County Public</p> <p>17 Health</p> <p>18 Amy Person, MD, Benton-Franklin</p> <p>19 Health District</p> <p>20 Kristi A. Rice, MD, MultiCare</p> <p>21 Deaconess Hospital</p> <p>22 Michele Roberts, MPH, MCHES,</p> <p>23 Washington Department of Health</p> <p>24 Sherri Zorn, MD, Pediatrician</p>	<p>26</p> <p>27</p> <p>28</p> <p>29</p> <p>30</p> <p>31</p> <p>32</p> <p>33</p> <p>34</p> <p>35</p> <p>36</p> <p>37</p> <p>38</p>	<p><u>WVA</u></p> <p>Julia G. Zell, MA, Esq., Executive</p> <p>Director</p> <p><u>Helms &amp; Company, Inc.</u></p> <p>Patrick Miller, MPH, WVA,</p> <p>Administrative Director</p> <p>Alyssa McKeon, Project Lead</p> <p><u>Other</u></p> <p>Rick Hourigan, MD, MHA, Market</p> <p>Medical Executive, PNW, Cigna</p> <p>Breelyn Young, GSK</p>
---	---	---

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

At 12:02 p.m. Dr. Dunn, substitute Chairman for Dr. Marcuse, called the meeting to order, provided a notice of recording, and took roll call.

**II. Calendar Consent Items**

Dr. Dunn directed the Committee’s attention to the consent item submitted for approval. There being no questions or comments, the following items were put to a vote:

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To approve April 8, 2021, meeting minutes.

**III. Committee Charter Review**

Ms. Zell reviewed the Vaccine Committee Charter. The section on committee purpose has been updated with the required statutory reference. The formatting of the key activities section has been updated to create uniformity across committee charters. There have been no changes to the committee meeting frequency and notice or reporting frequency. Committee membership positions have been clarified. Ms. Zell is requesting the Vaccine Committee approve the charter before it is sent to the WVA Board of Directors for final approval.

Ms. Jorgensen requested that the term “Child Profile” be removed from the title of the Director Department Immunization Program position due to program rebranding. The Vaccine Committee discussed the nuances of committee membership and voting vs. non-voting members. Ms. Zell will engage with outside counsel to seek further guidance on committee voting.

64  
65 Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

66  
67 **VOTED:** To approve the changes to the Vaccine Committee Charter with the one  
68 suggested change.

69  
70 **IV. Department of Health (DOH)**

71 Ms. Jorgenson presented updates regarding staffing, childhood vaccine uptake, vaccine choice, influenza,  
72 and COVID-19 vaccination. Ms. Jorgenson will continue in her role as Acting Vaccine Section Manager,  
73 Ms. Coiteux will continue as Acting Office Director, and Ms. Roberts will continue as Acting Assistant  
74 Secretary. Ms. Jorgenson shared that her team is in the process of staffing position vacancies while  
75 additional staff are returning from maternity leave. There are plans to increase the size of Ms. Jorgenson's  
76 team.

77  
78 Ms. Jorgenson reviewed a presentation document. She began with a chart showing the monthly vaccines  
79 administered for individuals 0 through 18 years old in Washington State, comparing the average number in  
80 2015-2019 with 2020 and 2021. While there has been an improvement in monthly vaccines administered  
81 from 2020 to 2021, they have not yet reached pre-pandemic levels. Children ages 4 to 6 saw a large  
82 improvement in monthly vaccines administered during August, likely due to the school rule requiring  
83 vaccination for in-person and remote learning. The Committee discussed potential root causes of the lower  
84 rates of vaccination for younger children. Data was unavailable as to changes in size of population or  
85 number of children engaging in remote learning. The Committee also discussed the impact of vaccine  
86 hesitancy on childhood vaccinations.

87  
88 Ms. Jorgenson updated the Committee as to the process of vaccine choice. Ms. Jorgenson offered to share  
89 market data with the Committee once it is compiled. Dr. Zorn inquired as to why there is vaccine choice.  
90 Ms. Zell clarified that vaccine choice is part of the statutory requirements of the WVA.

91  
92 Ms. Jorgenson shared an update on flu vaccination inventory. Currently, 100% of the pre-booked order is  
93 now available. Only 40% of the inventory has been requested by providers. This is lower than previous  
94 years when by November, provider requests amounted to closer to 60% of the allocation.

95  
96 Dr. Dunn asked Dr. Rice and Dr. Chattra to share flu uptake at their practices. Dr. Rice shared that overall  
97 flu uptake is much lower than last year at her practice. Dr. Chattra shared that overall flu uptake has been  
98 strong with three opportunities to offer vaccination: well child checks, other appointments, and drive-thru  
99 clinics. COVID-19 has presented logistical challenges that make flu uptake difficult. Dr. Dunn shared that  
100 he has seen a decline in flu uptake as well. Dr. Zorn said that staffing has presented a logistical challenge  
101 for scheduling flu vaccinations. She also stated that a decrease in the number of family members attending  
102 a doctor's appointment was impacting their ability to distribute flu vaccination.

103  
104 **V. Public Comment**

105 No public comment was given.

106  
107 **VI. Pediatric COVID-19**

108 Ms. Roberts provided an update on pediatric COVID-19 vaccination. Vaccination for 5- to 11-year-olds is  
109 in the process of rolling out. Standing orders from the CDC should be arriving tomorrow. Supplies of the  
110 vaccine will stabilize in the coming weeks. The DOH does not yet know their weekly allocation of pediatric  
111 COVID-19 vaccine. Ms. Roberts reviewed the data on the state dashboard detailing vaccination rates by  
112 age group as well as by county. This data is available to the public. Dr. Dunn noted that vaccination rates  
113 have leveled off. Dr. Rice shared that Providence is still figuring out the logistics of in-office vaccination.

114 Dr. Zorn noted that she cannot track completed vaccination rates through the dashboard. Dr. Chattra said  
115 his practice is seeing high demand with large vaccination clinics filling up. The school districts in the area  
116 are also booking up quickly. Dr. Chattra stated that the old model of hosting vaccine clinics within the  
117 building would not enable his practice to meet demands. Dr. Dunn concurred and said that staffing was the  
118 largest hurdle faced. Ms. Roberts added that after this initial surge in interest, trust will need to be built  
119 through well-child visits.

120

121 **VII. Closing**

122 The meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.