

1 **Meeting Notes**
2 **Vaccine Committee Meeting**
3 **April 21, 2022; 12:00-1:00 p.m. PT**
4

5 **I. Attendance.** This meeting was conducted solely by webinar. Participating in all or part of the meeting
6 were the following individuals:
7

8 <u>Members</u>	22 <u>Helms & Company, Inc.</u>
9 Ed Marcuse, MD, Emeritus Professor of	23 Patrick Miller, MPH, WVA, Administrative
10 Pediatrics, University of Washington, Chairman	24 Director
11 Amy Person, MD, Benton-Franklin Health District	25 Ashley Ithal, MPH, Project Support Leader
12 Jeff Gombosky, Pharmaceutical Research and	26 Lisa White, MS, JD, Customer and Financial
13 Manufacturers of America	27 Support Specialist
14 Janel Jorgenson, Washington Department of Health	28
15 James Chattra, MD, FAAP, Allegro Pediatrics	29 <u>Other</u>
16 Helen Chea, MD, Molina Healthcare	30 Rick Hourigan, MHA, MD, Market Medical
17 Kristi A. Rice, MD, Providence	31 Executive, PNW, Cigna
18 John Dunn, MD, Kaiser	32 Breelyn Young, GSK
19	33 Carrie Jenner, MD, Pierce County Immunization
20 <u>WVA</u>	34 Coalition (PCIC)
21 Julia G. Zell, MA, Esq., Executive Director	

35
36 **II. Summary of Actions Taken and/or Recommended**
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38 Actions Taken (votes adopted)

39 i. To approve the November 4, 2021, meeting minutes.
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41 **III. Minutes**
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43 Welcome and Introductions

44 At 12:03 p.m. Dr. Marcuse called the meeting to order and took roll call. Ms. Zell announced that the meeting would
45 be recorded for the benefit of the minute taker, to be deleted once the minutes are approved. Dr. Marcuse previewed
46 the agenda. He then recognized and thanked Dr. Chattra for his service as this is his last Committee meeting. Dr.
47 Chattra recruited his successor, Dr. Amy Carter, who will be introduced during the next meeting.
48

49 Calendar Consent Items

50 Dr. Marcuse asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

51 **VOTED: To approve the November 4, 2021, meeting minutes.**
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53 **IV. 2022-2023 Vaccine Assessment Grid**

54 Ms. Zell presented the proposed 2022-2023 Vaccine Assessment Grid (Grid) to the Committee. She reported that no
55 CPT code changes will occur this year, and there are only a few NDC code updates. Ms. Zell noted that the Grid
56 amounts will not increase in July, but next year we expect to make a modest increase due to inflation. Ms. Zell stated
57 that the Board and Finance Committee determined that the WVA's reserves are sufficient to keep rates steady; this
58 reduced the operational burden on providers to load new rates, and it helps to reduce assessment errors. Mr. Miller
59 noted that one more version of the Grid will be created to address formatting issues before it is presented to the
60 Operations Committee for approval next week.
61

62 **V. Department of Health (DOH) Leadership Updates**

63 Ms. Jorgenson provided a DOH staffing update. Ms. Michele Roberts has moved permanently into the Assistant
64 Secretary for the Division of Prevention and Community Health role. This staffing change leaves the Office Director
65 role vacant. The DOH is soliciting feedback from partners about this open position and Ms. Jorgenson will share a
66 survey link for Committee members to provide feedback. Ms. Jorgenson reported that Ms. Roberts will continue
67 serving on the WVA Board and Committees while delegating duties to Ms. Jorgenson, as needed.
68

69 **VI. Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccines**

70 Ms. Jorgenson reported that the DOH has been fielding questions about the status of COVID-19 vaccinations for
71 babies. She reported that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided the DOH an update that
72 these vaccinations could be available beginning in June 2022, as both Pfizer and Moderna have submitted paperwork
73 to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for review. Dr. Dunn reviewed a map from the American Academy of
74 Pediatrics (AAP) highlighting COVID-19 vaccine uptake for children. For Washington, 35% of children ages 5-11
75 and 67% of children ages 12-17 have completed a 2-dose series of the COVID-19 vaccine as of April 13, 2022
76 ([https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/children-and-covid-19-vaccination-](https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/children-and-covid-19-vaccination-trends/)
77 [trends/](https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/children-and-covid-19-vaccination-trends/)). Dr. Dunn reported that boosters are being considered for children ages 5-11. He reminded the group that
78 children ages 12-17 are already eligible for COVID-19 boosters.

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80 **VII. Status of Childhood Vaccine Coverage**

81 Ms. Jorgenson provided an overview of the coverage data that the DOH assessment team gathered over the past year
82 and a half. She reported that current vaccine doses administered in children is 13.1% lower compared to pre-pandemic
83 levels. The largest decrease is in 19-35 month olds that have seen a 9.6% overall decline in coverage for 4:3:1:3:3:1:4
84 series; although trends are unclear. In 4-6 year olds, a 3.9% overall decrease in coverage has been reported. Dr.
85 Marcuse pointed out the DTaP and MMR rates as they are critical to prevent community spread. In 11-12 year olds,
86 a 3.6% overall decrease in coverage has been reported. In 13-17 year olds, a 1.3% increase in coverage was reported.
87 Ms. Jorgenson shared that these data, in more detail, will be included in the *2022 Washington Childhood Immunization*
88 *Report* which should be posted to the Washington DOH website soon. Ms. Jorgenson also shared the following link
89 to the Washington DOH Data Dashboard: <https://doh.wa.gov/emergencies/covid-19/data-dashboard#Vaccination>.

90
91 Dr. Rice summarized the joint efforts between the DOH and the Washington Chapter of the American Academy of
92 Pediatrics (WCAAP) as it relates to the efforts of the Washington Immunization Learning Collaborative. Dr. Rice and
93 Dr. Marcuse both highlighted that children have not been seen in the office for long periods of time for a variety of
94 reasons.

95
96 Dr. Jenner, of the Pierce County Immunization Coalition (PCIC), shared membership information as well as upcoming
97 PCIC events, including the *What's Up Doc?* webinar series. To attend any of these events, please send an email to
98 piercecountyimmscoalition@gmail.com for an invitation. The PCIC focuses on provider education and advocacy.

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100 **VIII. Closing**

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102 The meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.