

**Washington Vaccine Association
Executive Committee Meeting**
October 12, 2023; 2:30-3:30 p.m. PT

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

Directors:

John Dunn, MD, Kaiser Permanente, Chair
Beth Harvey, MD, South Sound Pediatrics, Vice
Chair
Ed Marcuse, MD, Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics,
Secretary

Helms & Company, Inc.:

Patrick Miller, MPH, WVA Administrative Director
Ashley Ithal, MPH, WVA Program Support
Leslie Walker, CPA, Mason+Rich, PA

WVA:

Julia Walter Zell, MA., Esq., Executive Director
Cheri Cagle, WVA Stakeholder Liaison

Others:

Katie Kolan, Esq., Leonard & Kolan
Anne Redman, Esq., Perkins Coie, Outside Counsel

II. Summary of Actions Taken and/or Recommended

Actions Taken (votes adopted)

- i. To approve the August 17, 2023 meeting minutes.
- ii. To approve lobbying engagement.

III. Minutes

Welcome & Introduction

Ms. Zell called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. and provided the notice of recording. Ms. Zell introduced Ms. Cagle to the Committee. Ms. Cagle is the new Stakeholder Liaison for the WVA. Ms. Zell announced that the agenda items needed to be reversed so that Ms. Kolan could speak first after the Calendar Consent Items.

Calendar Consent Items

After hearing no comments, Dr. Dunn asked for a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the August 17, 2023 meeting minutes.

Lobbyist Proposal

Ms. Zell introduced Ms. Kolan, and stated that the WVA is working with the WA Department of Health (WA DOH) to engage a legislative lobbyist. Ms. Kolan provided information on her background and proceeded to outline her thoughts regarding legislative changes to WVA's governing statute.

Ms. Zell provided additional background and recommendations as to how Ms. Kolan's expertise could benefit the WVA. Dr. Dunn asked for a motion to approve engaging with Leonard & Kolan to provide lobbying services for updating WVA's governing statute. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve lobbying engagement with Leonard & Kolan.

Dr. Marcuse encouraged the WVA to consider statutory language input from additional resources in the policy space outside of the WA DOH and WA Attorney General's office.

Current Financial Position

Mr. Miller provided a summary of the unaudited financials through September 30, 2023. The current cash position, including investments and cash equivalents, is \$29.3M as reported on the balance sheet. Current reserves have been used to fund COVID-19 vaccines and the nirsevimab monoclonal antibody.

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Reserves Threshold Modeling

Mr. Miller provided an overview of the current reserves and proposed reserve goals. The forecasting model includes the RSV and COVID estimates provided by the WA DOH, however, there will be an updated forecast once there is some ordering history. The board has approved up to \$14.3M of its reserves for nirsevimab. With current assumptions, the model projects a \$45.5M reserve target by the end of FY2025. Helms is currently working on the FY2025 vaccine assessment grid model and has run initial scenarios to determine what will be required to attain a \$45.5M reserve target. The model assumes: lower-than-expected bond portfolio returns due to smaller portfolio balances, the need for additional reserves for new vaccines due to escalating vaccine inflation, and COVID and RSV budgets. It is expected that the FY25 and FY26 vaccine assessment grid increases will be 20-40% per year. Ms. Redman clarified that these grid increases would only occur if the statutory updates were enacted in the next legislative session.

A large, future concern is that CDC pricing for recent ACIP vaccine additions will be much higher on average than historical prices. Ms. Zell described the need to better understand what vaccines are in the pipeline, well in advance of being placed on the market. Dr. Dunn affirmed monitoring ACIP. Dr. Marcuse raised concerns about hiring someone to monitor ACIP progress when the resources from ACIP are posted, public, etc. Dr. Dunn suggested that this analysis could become a function of the WVA Vaccine Committee.

Future Assessments/Inpatient

Ms. Zell noted that if the statutory updates are enacted then the WVA will need to begin to assess nirsevimab in hospital and birthing center inpatient settings. This will be a significant change for the inpatient providers and will require a tiered approach to ensure the dosage-based assessments (DBAs) are submitted beginning July 1, 2024.

Direct Care Practices

Ms. Zell stated that direct care practices continue to be an area of sizable leakage. The WVA has requested the WA DOH provide an updated estimate of the leakage so that a WVA policy can be developed. There was support for Ms. Zell to work with the WA DOH to develop a policy for the board to review.

IV. Closing

The meeting concluded at 3:40 p.m.