



Letter from the Idaho Chapter President
Summer 2010



Greetings! Along with pediatricians Jack Trotter of Twin Falls and Perry Brown of Boise, I am on a Medicaid Physician Advisory Committee. We had a telephone conference call recently concerning the proposed state budget short fall of \$72 million and a potential physician payment shortfall of \$29 million. Several proposals, none of which have been implemented by State Medicaid, include:

- A 5.5% provider tax on Medicaid payments to physicians
- No Medicaid reimbursement higher than the Medicaid rate except for health supervision visits, which would stay the same (this has been a blessing for a number of years for Idaho pediatricians and family practitioners)
- Several proposals for wasted state monies by psychosocial rehab (PSR) companies:
 - Freeze new PSR providers and cancel those who are substandard
 - Eliminate PSR for school-based services
 - Eliminate or place a hard cap on care-coordination through PSR & psychosocial rehab
 - Eliminate collateral contact reimbursement and eliminate partial care
 - Keep annual history and physical requirement to allow pediatricians and family practitioners to decide if psychosocial rehab services are truly indicated
- Don't cut case management fees to providers. If anything, this should be increased and could save money in the long run
- Other possibilities include increasing management fees for those who have extended hours (i.e. evening and weekend clinic hours)
- If you have any comments, please contact Leslie Clement at (208) 334-5747 or email clementl@dhw.idaho.gov or Paul Leary at (208) 287-1179 or fax (208) 334-4979 or email at learyp@dhw.idaho.gov

The Idaho Chapter AAP Executive Committee had an excellent summer meeting in Nampa. Members in attendance included myself, Tom Patterson, MD (Vice-President), Kenny Bramwell, MD (Secretary/Treasurer), Sherry Iverson, RN (Executive Director), and MacKenzie Ravlin (Executive Assistant). We are in a healthy financial state. We have our highest membership ever at 113 (there are 125 general pediatricians and specialists in Idaho). We are still trying to get Dr. Paul Miles to come to Idaho Falls to give a CME presentation on maintenance of certification sometime in late summer or early fall.

The Idaho Chapter is in a very strong position with excellent Chapter Committee Chairpersons:

- CATCH Facilitator – Naya Antink, Boise
- Immunizations – Tom Rand, Boise
- Foster Care – Joyce Gilbert, Sand Point
- Asthma – David Parry, Pocatello
- Reach Out & Read – Susan Kim, Boise
- Breastfeeding – Else Lee, Boise
- EMS Representation – Kenny Bramwell, Boise
- Newborn Hearing & Screening – James VanLooy, Boise
- Disaster Preparedness – Kathy Stevens, Boise
- Early Years Learning Council Representative – Steven Felix, Boise
- Child Abuse Prevention – Susan Bradford, Pocatello
- Robert Wood Johnson Grant (Teen Dating Violence Prevention) – Mike Sexton, Boise
- Mom 2 Mom Blogger – Ann Overy, Boise
- Oral Health – Chris Loveland, DDS, Nampa

I visited the pediatricians in Twin Falls this spring, to discuss ICAAP activities, what they are doing locally, and ways to improve ICAAP for its members and for the children we serve.

The Idaho Immunization Coalition met on June 28, 2010. There is an article in the Summer Newsletter detailing IIC activities and contact information. I would encourage all of you to go to the Idaho Immunization Coalition website (www.idahoimmune.com) and join the Coalition and encourage others in your community to do the same. Idaho is still ranked 49th in the country, partly because HIB vaccine was in short supply. If this wasn't counted, we would be close to 70%. Of note, of those parents who are exempting out of immunizations for kindergarten, 84% cite a personal exemption, 7% cite a religious exemption, and 7% cite a medical exemption. It was stressed at the meeting that we, as pediatricians, should be firm with parents to keep on the immunization schedule and withhold immunizations only for those with true contraindications. It is important to have standing orders for nurses and medical assistants so they can immunize whenever possible and not just at health supervision visits.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact me at hardcrei@cableone.net or Sherry Iverson at iversons@slhs.org.

Creighton Hardin, MD

President, Idaho Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics