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NOTES FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT Winter 2010



Please join us for the Idaho Chapter Winter Business Meeting on Thursday February 18, 2010 at 6:00 pm at the Nampa Civic Center in Nampa, Idaho. Lance E. Rodewald, MD, Director, Immunization Services Division, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, and Tiffany Tate, with the Maryland Immunization Coalition will talk about how to improve immunization rates. Unfortunately, Idaho is ranked 49th in the nation in having our two year olds completely immunized. John Rusche, MD, chapter member and state legislator, will also give us a legislative update.

Dr. Rodewald will be a keynote speaker at the conference, sharing his lecture “Immunization Challenges and Opportunities: From Vaccine Financing to Vaccine Myths.” Ms. Tate will also be a keynote speaker at the conference with her talk “Be All That You Can Be: Achieving and Maintaining Higher Immunization Rates.” A third keynote speaker will be Ron Barr, MD, “Preventing Shaken Baby Syndrome and Infant Abuse in the Community: The Evidence Base for the Period of PURPLE Crying.”

To register for the Chapter meeting, please go to our web site at www.IdahoAAP.org. Our Winter Meeting is being held in conjunction with the Idaho Perinatal Project Winter Conference February 18-19. You can register for this outstanding CME conference by going to www.IdahoPerinatal.org.

Idaho's immunization funding conundrum has Tom Patterson, MD representing our chapter. He is chapter vice president and co-chair of the Idaho Immunization Coalition. He has been working with private payors, the state VFC program, and legislators to try to solve the underfunded VFC program. Due to state revenue deficits, the usual state VFC-Select program that has worked well for 11 years can't be fully funded by the state. One option being studied would have private payors paying into a state pool to continue to allow the state VFC to run as it has in the past (private pay flu vaccine and, of course, Gardasil vaccine would not be covered). More on this at the winter meeting.

The Chapter Executive Committee, which has monthly phone conferences and twice yearly meetings, has added Perry Brown, MD as our Legislative representative for the chapter. Also, the summer executive committee meeting and dinner CME meeting will rotate around the state. Our first stop will be in Idaho Falls (more on this soon).

The Utah and Idaho AAP Chapters, in conjunction with the Utah Pediatric Partnership to Improve Healthcare Quality (UPIQ), and state Health and Welfare, have applied for a large grant through CHIPRA (Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Program) to link EHRs between General Pediatricians and, ultimately, Family Practitioners in Idaho with specialists in Boise and Salt Lake City to improve exchange of information and scheduling. Also, trained and financially funded health care coordinators embedded into practices would help us organize care for our children with special healthcare needs. Much more on this if we obtain this grant in February.

Lastly, a thank you and fond farewell to Meghan Sainsbury, Executive Assistant to our Executive Director, Sherry Iverson, for her invaluable help with financial details, organization of meetings/events/conferences, and her amazing computer skills (check out the new chapter website!). We welcome MacKenzie Ravlin who has recently joined us as the Chapter's new Executive Assistant. MacKenzie comes to us with a great wealth of experience, including having previously worked as the Administrative Assistant for the Idaho Perinatal Project. She is also a certified car seat technician and a car seat instructor, which will be valuable assets in working with our car seat grant and also with our public messaging regarding car seat safety. MacKenzie can be reached by email at idahoaap@gmail.com or by phone at (208) 514-7661.

See you at the Winter Meeting,

Creighton Hardin
Pocatello Children's Clinic
President Idaho Chapter AAP