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Immunization Assessment Board Report to the Health Care Task Force

by Richard Rainey, MD, Board Chair

August 22, 2011

The first Idaho Immunization Assessment in 2010 of \$47 per program-eligible child successfully collected \$10.1 million to fund vaccines for children with insurance coverage of vaccines during fiscal year 2010-11.

The Assessment Board determined the 2011 assessment to be \$58.18 per program-eligible child based on survey responses indicating 201,000 children with insurance coverage of vaccines. The Board considered the numbers and costs of vaccines, including a vaccine price variation adjustment factor, and a \$1.9 million carry-over surplus from 2010-11. The 24% increase from the 2010 assessment was primarily due to an additional covered vaccine, the human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine, and also due to increased vaccine costs. All vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) are now funded by the assessment.

It is estimated that the 2011 assessment will collect a total of \$11.7 million during 2011-12. To date, \$6.7 million of that amount has been collected. Four of the carriers with the largest numbers of children have elected the option of quarterly payments, and all have made their first payments with their second payments due at the end of this month. All 4 of these carriers paid their 2010 assessments in full, and the board expects that these 4 will also pay their 2011 assessments in full.

Tricare is the only large carrier that is not paying assessments. Other than Tricare and 3 other carriers, all surveyed carriers are current in their payment of the 2011 assessment. The total assessment amount for the 3 carriers which have not paid is less than \$43,000, and the board anticipates that nearly all of that will be paid. For both 2010 and 2011, carriers not paying assessments are out-of-state carriers.

The board is operating in a manner consistent with the amendments made earlier this year:

- contracting for administrative services permitted
- consultations permitted
- coverage of ACIP-recommended vaccines

The board will meet next month and will review its Plan of Operation to incorporate these amendments. The board also anticipates fine tuning its schedule of calculating the assessment amount, and also will elect a new slate of officers.

The board is mindful of its July 2013 sunset date. It appreciates the Task Force's continuing interest in the board, and intends to mention this sunset date in future reports to the Task Force, and to legislators prior to the 2013 session.