

**NH Vaccine Association – Teleconference
Combined Board / Assessment Equity Task Force
February 06, 2013
Presiding Officer: Susan Tenney, Chair**

I. Attendance. Participating in all or part of the meeting in person (P) or by telephone (T) were the following individuals:

Directors

Scott Beaudette
Susan Tenney
Dr. John F. Modlin
Dr. Jose T. Montero
David Sky

DHHS

Kate Frey

KidsVax.org™

Fred Potter
Claire Roberge
Emily McKenna

Other

Dr. William Kassler
Janet Monahan

II. Summary of Actions Taken and/or Recommended

A. Actions Taken (votes adopted)

No votes were taken.

B. Follow up

1. Ms. Tenney will research and contact someone from the self-insured market and see if they are interested in testifying.
2. KidsVax.org will schedule another teleconference once the hearing date has been announced.
3. Dr. Montero will follow up on DHHS testimony and coordinate with other state agencies concerning possible elimination of the fiscal note.
4. Mr. Sky will follow up to see whether or not someone from NHID will testify in favor of the bill.

III. Minutes

Kate Frey gave the Board a brief status update on HB 664. The bill has been assigned to the Health and Human Services Committee. No hearing has been scheduled at this point, but should be scheduled within the next week or two. It needs to be out of committee by March 7. The bill has very good bi-partisan sponsorship. The next big step will be the hearing, where there will be a chance for NHVA to testify. If there are any issues with the bill it will go to sub-committee where the chair will assign a smaller group to work through the details who will report back to the full committee with their recommendation. The committee will then “load” the bill and it will then go to the full house. The policy aspects will be discussed in the HHS Committee, and the financial aspects will be discussed in the Finance Committee. The focus of the Board right now should be on providing background information on the bill for Representative Harding in case she has any questions. Representative Harding already has been given the whitepaper and background materials for the bill prepared by KidsVax.org™.

Dr. Montero mentioned that he spoke with Representative Harding about the bill last week and reviewed what problems or opposition might arise and how they can be minimized. Dr. Kassler acknowledged the tremendous amount of work Janet Monahan did on behalf of the Medical Society to get the bill through legislative session, and gather appropriate sponsorship. He then asked if it was possible that after the Insurance Department weighs in that the bill would carry a zero fiscal note, since the bill does not entail any cost to the State. Ms. Frey stated that that was very possible. David Sky from the Department of Insurance said that when they do fiscal notes it only speaks to premium tax; it doesn’t speak to any other aspects of the general fund. The only impact on the State is paying for the members covered under its own insurance plan. Mr. Potter pointed out that the State will actually save money since the assessment base will be broadened. Dr. Kassler asked if there is any value in having Administrative Services weigh in before the hearing. Ms. Monahan and Ms. Frey agreed that it would be helpful. Dr. Montero said that he would get in touch with Commissioner Hodgdon so that she is aware of it and is prepared to handle it.

Mr. Potter also thanked Ms. Monahan and asked for guidance on who should be available to offer testimony either at the hearing or otherwise and that way assignments can be made and everyone has time to get comfortable. Ms. Monahan said that because

there are a lot of new legislators, the first speaker needs to explain how the association works in detail. Representative Harding will do some of it, but there needs to be someone who is prepared to answer detailed questions. Two or three speakers would be great. Dr. Montero suggested one of the speakers be from the insurance world, he said that that would lend a lot of credibility. He suggested that the Medical Society choose someone, and said that he would go as well. Ms. Monahan said that Dr. Kassler would be great to represent the Medical Society. Mr. Potter suggested that Susan Tenney could go for the insurance representative; Ms. Monahan stated that would be great especially if Harvard Pilgrim's costs will be going down. Ms. Tenney asked if anyone else thought that having someone from the insurance side testify would make the legislature feel that the insurance companies are trying to push a hidden agenda through and would take away from the credibility of the bill. Dr. Kassler stated that from his perspective if the insurance companies were the only ones testifying it might be a problem, but with Public Health and the Medical Society also testifying reflects better the broad consensus that, in fact, exists. Dr. Montero agreed that having the State, the providers, and the payers all trying to advance a bill together and showing how successful it has been will carry a lot of weight. Dr. Kassler stated that he was not sure that Mr. Potter needed to speak. He said that he thought a board member as a stakeholder rather than an administrator would carry more weight. Ms. Tenney said that she is happy to testify, but would need some guidance since the process is not a familiar one to her. Dr. Kassler stated that if Mr. Potter is not going to be there that there should be a staff person with a command of the details is there for consultation when questions arise. Mr. Potter stated he could be there or make sure that there is some back up there.

Ms. Frey said that in the past when there has been testimony regarding vaccine related bills the thing that has won over a lot of the representatives is the partnership that has been formed and how New Hampshire is a model state. Mr. Potter pointed out too that the legislature itself had a key part in it bringing about the Association.

Ms. Monahan said that she would contact Paula Rogers about possible testimony. Mr. Potter indicated that she would be a very effective spokesperson if available. Dr. Kassler said that it is important to understand what the public health people are saying so that the clinical folks don't replicate. He stated he would be happy to testify, or that Travis could also do it, he is a family doctor who has more personal experience with childhood vaccination. Mr. Potter clarified that DHHS and the Medical Society would present the clinical side and that the finance side would be presented by Ms. Tenney and, hopefully, Paula Rogers with Mr. Potter being available as a resource. Ms. Monahan agreed that that was a good team. Mr. Potter asked if someone from the Department of Insurance should be there as well. Ms. Monahan said that that would be fine, but repetition should be avoided and each testimony should be short and interesting. David Sky said that he would pass the idea on to the Department of Insurance legislative liaison team. Dr. Montero asked if any of the organizations that will be subject to this legislation and have to start paying it support it, and if so would it be possible to get someone from one of them to testify. One example might be someone from one of the large self-insured hospital. Dr. Montero said he would try to figure out who would be best person to contact and reach out to them. Dr. Kassler suggested that he contact Steve LeBlanc. Ms. Tenney asked if she could research this item because Harvard Pilgrim administers several employer groups for large hospitals. She said she could find out who doesn't pay and can reach out to them and see if anyone is interested in helping out.


Ms. Monahan suggested that if anyone testifying had a handout or statement they should make 25 copies 3 hole-punched. Her advice was not to just read the written testimony, but to use a brief outline if need be to glance at as a reminder. Ms. Tenney asked if there were any other topics that people wanted to discuss. Mr. Potter mentioned two topics that were left open: 1) should there be additional representation on the Board for the self-insured market 2) should the system be switched to a quarterly assessment rather than an annual assessment. The bill says quarterly currently. Ms. Monahan said that as long as they anticipate getting questions on these topics there is no need to decide them now. Dr. Kassler pointed out that is good to have some flexibility and be able to yield on things that are not core. M. Frey said that the bill will go to subcommittee if there are items that need to be tweaked.

Ms. Tenney said that as the hearing date draws closer NHVA should probably have another one of these meetings to talk about coordinating who is going to say what.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:34 a.m.

At true record.

Attest,



Fred L. Potter
Secretary, Pro Tem