



Maine Vaccine Board – Board of Directors Meeting
May 17, 2023 – 9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
Location: Meeting held via Zoom video conference

I. Attendance – Participating in all or part of the meeting via Zoom video conference were the following individuals:

Directors:

- Peter Gore, Chair, Maine State Chamber of Commerce
Deborah Deatrck, Public Health Representative
Forrest West, Pediatrician
Larry Losey, Mid Coast Pediatrics
Gary Connor, Asclepius Research Services, Inc.
Rick Spiegel, Elevance Health
[Awaiting Appointment Letter]
Dan Demeritt, Maine Assoc. of Health Plans
[Awaiting Appointment Letter]

Others:

- Margaret Machaiek, AAG
Jessica Shiminski, Maine CDC
Sue Ball, GSK
Rich Aceto, AstraZeneca
Lauren Steblen, Pfizer
Brook Cordoso, Seqirus
Andrew Rennekamp, Seqirus
Jody Roberts, Sanofi
Olga Hennion, Moderna
Stacey Nightingale, Merck
Beth Ptak, Meritain
Joe Kewley, Merck
Michele MacLean, Capital Strategies
Julianne Coldiron, Elevance Health
John Powers, Moderna
Ali Lydon, Merck
Peter Lattanzi, Merck
Bill Hagan, Sanofi

KidsVax:

- Seema Mack
Tonya Philbrick-Labbe
Megan Conrad
Heather Veen
Fred Potter

II. Summary of Actions Taken and/or Recommended

A. Actions Taken (votes adopted)

- 1. To include COVID-19 vaccine and confirm continuation of the vaccine list as previously posted.
2. To approve the minutes of the January 11, 2023, Board meeting.

B. Pending Matters (follow up needed)

- 1. Ms. Shiminski to include a footnote in the vaccine list clarifying the reason for the exclusion of the manufacturer from the flu vaccines section.
2. Mr. Demeritt and Mr. Speigel to engage in discussions with their constituents and provide feedback to the KV team regarding their opinions on shifting the assessment rate setting meeting from September to May.

III. Public Hearing

Vaccine List Review - Chairman Gore commenced the Public Hearing at around 9:08 a.m. Ms. Mack informed the attendees that the meeting was being recorded solely for the purpose of the minute-taker and that the recording would be erased upon the final approval of the minutes. Maine CDC has put forward a request for the inclusion of Moderna and Pfizer COVID vaccines in the vaccine formulary prior to their commercialization. Ms. Shiminski suggests refraining from categorizing the vaccines as bivalent/monovalent due to uncertainties regarding their presentation.

Chairman Gore initiated the public comment period, allowing attendees to provide their input. During the discussion, the question arose regarding the absence of flu vaccines listed by manufacturer on the vaccine formulary. Ms. Shiminski clarified that Maine CDC pre-books flu vaccines in April for the upcoming fall season, considering the potential changes in vaccine composition each year. Ms. Deatrck proposed the inclusion of a note on the vaccine list, explaining the reason for not listing the manufacturer. She also mentioned the existence of Bill LB59, currently under consideration in the legislature, which would prohibit MVB from adding the COVID vaccine to the list. Ms. Deatrck further emphasized that having the vaccine on the list does not imply mandatory administration. She pointed out that any required vaccines for school entrance undergo a separate process outside the jurisdiction of the MVB. Ms. Shiminski mentioned that the estimated cost per dose for the COVID vaccine ranges from \$110 to \$130, while with the CDC discount, the Maine CDC

1 estimates their cost to be between \$100 and \$110 per dose. Mr. Connor requested that the Maine CDC inform the Board  
2 if an additional assessment becomes necessary, allowing stakeholders ample time to prepare.

3  
4 Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

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6 **VOTED:** To accept the vaccine list as proposed by the Maine CDC to include COVID-19 vaccine.

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8 The public hearing was closed at approximately 9:20 a.m.

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10 IV. **Welcome and Introductions** – Chairman Gore extended a warm welcome to all attendees at around 9:20 a.m. and invited  
11 them to introduce themselves. After confirming the presence of a quorum, Chairman Gore officially called the meeting to  
12 order. He then inquired if any Board members had additional matters to be included on the agenda. Ms. Shiminski  
13 requested the inclusion of a discussion regarding the potential shift of the assessment rate setting meeting from  
14 September to the May meeting under the "New Matters" section of the agenda.

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16 **Consent Calendar Items** – Chairman Gore invited Board Members to provide any additions, corrections, or deletions  
17 regarding the meeting minutes from January 11, 2023. No changes were suggested.

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19 Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

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21 **VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the January 11, 2023, meeting as presented.

22  
23 **Maine CDC Update –**

24 Ms. Shiminski provided an update on the progress of the Maine CDC's Vaccine for Children's (VFC) grant application for  
25 the fourth year of the ongoing five-year cycle. She mentioned that the Maine CDC is on track to meet its deliverables by  
26 June. Furthermore, Ms. Shiminski highlighted that the Maine CDC's primary focus this year has been on legislative  
27 matters. She informed the attendees that the Maine CDC has testified on 13 vaccine-related bills, and out of those,  
28 eight have been resolved in their favor.

29  
30 Ms. Shiminski also addressed the VRBPAC meeting and discussed the possibility of a COVID booster being recommended  
31 in the coming fall. In addition, she informed the audience that the federal DHHS (Department of Health and Human  
32 Services) recently released details about a bridge program designed to cover the cost of vaccines for uninsured adults  
33 across the United States.

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35 **Relationship Manager (RM) Updates –**

36 Ms. Mack expressed gratitude to Ms. Shiminski and the Maine CDC for their ongoing collaboration. She also extended  
37 appreciation to the payer community for their exceptional compliance. Ms. Mack enthusiastically announced the  
38 addition of Tonya Philbrick-Labbe to the KV team as a contractor. Ms. Philbrick-Labbe's primary focus will be securing  
39 Board appointments for MVB, leveraging her extensive knowledge and connections within Maine.

40  
41 Within the governing documents of MVB, the relationship managers are currently identified as Fred Potter or Seema  
42 Mack. KV is seeking approval from MVB to have Ms. Philbrick-Labbe assume the role of relationship manager. Ms.  
43 Deatrack requested a recap of the responsibilities and duties associated with the KV relationship manager to MVB. Ms.  
44 Mack clarified that Ms. Philbrick-Labbe will provide comprehensive support in governance matters, financial  
45 administration, and serve as a key point of contact for the Board. She will assist in preparing meeting agendas and  
46 materials for the four annual MVB meetings, as well as facilitating the smooth progression of the Board appointment  
47 process. Ms. Philbrick-Labbe's role within KV is to ensure efficient operations in supporting MVB. Currently, there are  
48 two designees, and KV is requesting the addition of a third designee. Therefore, KV is seeking MVB's approval to appoint  
49 Ms. Philbrick-Labbe as the lead for MVB.

50  
51 Mr. Connor inquired with Ms. Machaiek to confirm if there were any restrictions or conflicts that could prevent Ms.  
52 Philbrick-Labbe from assuming the Relationship Manager position. Ms. Machaiek affirmed that there were no such  
53 restrictions or conflicts. KV further clarified that there were no prior discussions with Ms. Philbrick-Labbe while she was  
54 still employed by the State of Maine, and KV does not actively recruit immunization managers who are currently in their  
55 roles.

56  
57 Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

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59 **VOTED:** To approve the recommendation of Ms. Philbrick-Labbe as the KV Relationship Manager to the  
60 MVB.

1 Ms. Conrad provided an update on the financials, confirming that everything is proceeding as planned for the year. She  
2 also noted that a comprehensive financial report is included in the meeting packet.

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4 ***New Matters –***

5 Ms. Shiminski proposed a request to move the assessment rate setting meeting, currently slated for September, to the  
6 May meeting. She highlighted that the assessment rates approved in September do not take effect until the following  
7 July. By scheduling the assessment rate setting meeting in May, Ms. Shiminski emphasized that it would ensure the MVB  
8 has the most up-to-date data available when determining the assessment rate that will be implemented on July 1.  
9

10 Ms. Machaiek conducted a review of the statute and shared that it mandates the annual setting of the assessment rate.  
11 She noted that the vaccine list must be finalized by January 1st. Based on her findings, Ms. Machaiek recommended that  
12 public comment be sought before making any changes, to ensure there are no unforeseen issues or legal concerns  
13 raised. She suggested inviting input from the regulating community prior to any alterations to the assessment rate  
14 setting meeting.

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16 Ms. Machaiek then asked Ms. Shiminski about the potential impact of changing the date of the assessment setting  
17 meeting. In response, Ms. Shiminski reported a 10-15% increase in vaccine costs over the past few years, and she  
18 mentioned that the Maine CDC was nearing a point where they might have had to request additional funds from the  
19 MVB. Mr. Potter added that KV strongly encourages boards to align their assessment cycle with the natural cycle of  
20 immunization managers' data. He further stated that the assessment rate takes into account an estimated increase and  
21 provides reasonable estimates of expected cost increases. The MVB maintains a reserve to balance these estimates. Mr.  
22 Potter assured the Board that reserves are fully funded, and pricing estimates have not presented any issues thus far.  
23 Dr. West asked about the process that would be followed if the assessment rate setting meeting was rescheduled to  
24 May. Ms. Shiminski explained that it would involve shifting the decision-making on the assessment rate from September  
25 to May, resulting in a change from a 10-month notice period to a 30-45-day notice period. July 1 would continue to be  
26 the effective date for the new assessment rate. Ms. Shiminski also mentioned the possibility of a separate assessment  
27 rate meeting focused specifically on COVID in September, which could potentially be requested.  
28

29 After extensive deliberation, Chairman Gore directed KV to incorporate a public hearing at the commencement of the  
30 September meeting, with notices to be published 30 days in advance. Chairman Gore proposed that Mr. Demeritt and  
31 Mr. Spiegel engage with their constituents and provide a report to the KV team, who will subsequently relay the findings  
32 to the MVB. Chairman Gore expressed a keen interest in understanding the concerns of the carriers and the potential  
33 impact they may face if this change is implemented.  
34

35 Ms. Deatrck conveyed the Board's gratitude for the favorable testimony provided by the Maine Department of Health  
36 & Human Services on various vaccine bills, including LB59. She expressed appreciation for the Commissioner's support,  
37 as well as legislative staff, government relations staff, and Ms. Shiminski in advocating for these bills.  
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39 ***Executive Session –*** None.

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41 ***Public Comment –*** Ms. Deatrck requested KV keep the Board updated regarding the MVB appointments.  
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43 **The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:00 a.m.**  
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