

Immunization Priorities of Local Health Departments

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

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National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Vaccine Advisory Committee
Washington DC

NACCHO Background

- National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
- Goal: Improve the public's health
- Core values: Equity, excellence, participation, respect, integrity, leadership, science & innovation
- Represents > 2,800 local health departments
 - Immunization champions within their communities
- Leader, partner, catalyst, and voice for change for local health departments
- Committees and 27-member board oversee programs

Immunization Work Group (IZ WG)

- 13 Members; Group Composition:
 - 5 RNs, 4 MDs, 2 Master's, 1 PhD
 - Directors:
 - 3 Department, 3 Immunizations, Health Promotion, Policy, Medical
 - 12 states:
 - MD, WV, KY, FL, NY, OH, MI, WI, MN, 2 MO, CO, CA
- Monthly phone meetings, annual in-person meeting
- Review and propose NACCHO policy statements
- Bring experience & challenges from field to NACCHO
- Request assistance, services, and guidance from NACCHO

NACCHO IZ WG Priorities

Intentional Collaboration and Coordination

- Local, state, federal organizations and agencies
- ASTHO
- CDC
 - NACCHO liaison to Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP):
Jeff Duchin, MD, MPH & Matt Zahn, MD
- NVPO
 - NVAC NACCHO Liaison: Tiffany Tate, MHS
- Medical Specialties: AAP, AAFP



NACCHO IZ WG Priorities

Policy and Advocacy

- Align policies with other organizations
- Share information efficiently and effectively
 - Subject matter experts and speakers at monthly meetings
- Identify key contacts; Foster relationships
- Develop clear messages and passionate champions to deliver them

NACCHO IZ WG Priorities

Immunization Information Systems (IISs) and Other Infrastructure

- IISs
 - Better data to spur action on key issues
 - Educate ourselves about how registries function
 - Information sharing between school and LHDs
- Billing for vaccines at LHDs
- Workforce development

NACCHO IZ WG Priorities

- Coverage for flu and HPV
- Workforce immunization status
- Vaccine confidence
- Rapid response to teachable moments
 - Take advantage of policy changes and communicable disease events

Ideal Federal Immunization Program

“[F]ederal government [should] provide sufficient funding through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) and Section 317 Program for vaccination of uninsured and underinsured children, adolescents, and adults.”

NACCHO Policy Statement 15-09 “Comprehensive Immunization Programs”
<http://www.naccho.org/uploads/downloadable-resources/Policy-and-Advocacy/15-09-Comprehensive-Immunization-Programs.pdf>



Comprehensive Immunization Programs

Include “strong coordination and collaboration of immunization programs for persons of all ages to increase vaccination coverage rates to protect individuals and communities from vaccine-preventable diseases.”

NACCHO Policy Statement 15-09
“Comprehensive Immunization Programs”



Strategies:

Ensure Adequate Reimbursement

Reimburse public and private immunizations providers adequately for:

- Vaccine products
- Storage and handling
- Administering vaccines
 - Staff
 - Supplies
- Activities using immunization information systems (IISs)
 - Population and
 - Clinic level

NACCHO Policy Statement 15-09
“Comprehensive Immunization Programs”



Strategies: Timely Education and Training

Implement education, training, and clinical procedures to:

1. Increase demand for immunizations among patients and parents
2. Promote strong vaccine recommendations by clinicians to patient
3. Minimize missed opportunities for vaccinations
4. Ensure series completion
5. Train community vaccination champions
6. Reach underserved populations

NACCHO Policy Statement 15-09
“Comprehensive Immunization Programs”



Strategies: Identify and Address Disparities

- Monitor and respond to gaps and trends in vaccination rates
 - Information technology
 - Registries (IISs)
 - Electronic health records
 - Clinical decision support
- Support local health department epidemiologists and other staff
 - Continually measure impact of policies and interventions on ...
 - Equity of outcomes in immunization rates

NACCHO Policy Statement 15-09
“Comprehensive Immunization Programs”



Coordination of Stakeholders

Local health departments are uniquely positioned to improve the capacity of the healthcare system for delivering immunizations by strengthening the coordination between public, professional, and private sector stakeholders.

“All health is local”

NACCHO Policy Statement 15-09
“Comprehensive Immunization Programs”

How can NVAC help achieve the ideal immunization program?

Foster bidirectional communication with local health departments

- NVAC → NACCHO:

Ask and/or explain how general principles and recommendations apply to local public health

- NACCHO → NVAC :

Listen to and incorporate local public health perspectives on how to implement national recommendation, program, and plans

How can NVAC help ...?

Illuminate deficiencies and unintended consequences of Affordable Care Act

- Little or no funding for immunization program infrastructure in local public health
 - Especially pandemic response
- Patients still come to LHDs for vaccinations
 - High deductibles for clinical visits
 - Outstanding bills for services from when uninsured

How can NVAC help ...?

Explain importance of adequate funding for immunization information systems (IISs)

- Sustain and improve, not just create, registries
- Apply meaning of data to improve local health
Epidemiologists funded by emergency prep.
- Train public health & clinical staff to fully utilize IIS
- Get registry and medical record to exchange data

How can NVAC help ...?

Demand a more effective pertussis vaccine

- Explain endemicity is NOT acceptable
- Link lack of efficacy to vaccine confidence
 - Potentially as harmful as Wakefield report

Contact Information

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