

Immunize Kansas Coalition – Meeting Minutes



Friday, August 28th, 10 a.m. - Noon

Virtual Meeting

10:00 Welcome and IntroductionsSusan Wood, Chair
Susan welcomed everyone to the meeting.

10:05 Coalition Updates and Business

- Membership Updates
 - Kansas Children’s Service League was voted in as an organizational member by the Board
 - Cindy Olson-Burgess changed from an organizational member to an individual member
 - Connie Satzler and Emily Bailey (IKC Support Staff) are now non-voting, liaison members
- Election Results – Susan Wood
 - Susan thanked the Nominating Committee
 - Sarah Irsik-Good was elected for a second term as the Improved Systems Performance Chair
 - Robin Simmons was elected as the Funding and Grant Development Chair
 - Cindy Olson-Burgess was elected as the Treasurer
 - Carlie Houchen was elected as the Chair Elect
- Recognition of Outgoing Officers and Installation of New Officers
 - Outgoing IKC Treasurer, Dean Benton, served on IKC Board from 2018-2020
 - Outgoing IKC Past Chair, Dr. Homan, served on IKC Board from 2017-2020
 - Outgoing IKC Chair, Susan Wood, will continue on IKC Board as IKC Past Chair
 - Incoming IKC Chair, Dan Leong
 - Incoming IKC Chair Elect, Carlie Houchen
 - Incoming Treasurer, Cindy Olson-Burgess
 - Incoming Funding & Grant Development Chair, Robin Simmons
 - IKC members continuing on the Board: Carrie Delfs (Education & Awareness Team Chair), Charlie Hunt (Policy Team Chair), Sarah Irsik-Good (Improved Systems Performance Team Chair), Phil Griffin (KDHE Representative), Denise Lantz (Secretary/Fiscal Agent)

10:30 Kansas Immunization Program UpdateAllison Alejos

Allison shared about a survey KIP conducted to better understand how COVID-19 has impacted health departments’ immunization services, supplemental flu activities, and updates on COVID-19 vaccine distribution planning efforts.

- Out of 99 health departments, 53 responded to the survey. Survey results showed that COVID-19 has impacted the vaccination delivery system through health departments. The majority of health department respondents had reduced services for immunizations in some way.

- KIP received money for supplemental flu funding to get the vaccine out to a broader population. Extra doses for adults and VFC have been ordered in anticipation of increased demand. Increased promotional efforts and a strategic campaign using billboard, radio and TV are planned. KIP is working towards increased partnership between public health and Department of Corrections.
- A phased approach for COVID-19 vaccine distribution is being planned. Allison discussed the challenges with the anticipated vaccine products including storage (i.e. ultracold storage) and vial size (i.e. minimum of 100 doses). It is very important to reassure folks that while the vaccine development process is much quicker, the vaccine is still going through rigorous testing for safety and efficacy. Initially vaccine distribution will be targeted for high priority and critical risk groups, including essential healthcare workers (i.e. people that are exposed to folks with COVID-19).

10:45 Immunization Data Highlights Andrea May

- Data Review
 - Andrea shared highlights from the recently released 2019 NIS-Teen data on HPV, MenACWY, and Tdap vaccinations, noting increases and areas for strategic improvement.
 - Ordering data for monthly VFC doses shows a huge dip in April that has not yet been made up in the following months.
 - Multiple COVID-19 dashboards are available on the KDHE coronavirus website. These are updated Monday, Wednesday, Friday and the data changes regularly.
- Discussion
 - Andrea answered questions about data from university and college students being recorded in the appropriate county; how Kansas is tracking excess mortality; and reasons for changes to the COVID-19 data posted.

11:00 Current and Upcoming Initiatives

- National Immunization Awareness Month
 - Social media posts have been shared through IKC channels.
- #KansasFightsFlu
 - Webpage and tools are up on IKC website.
- Discussion: Members Share Efforts
 - Karen Braman from KHA shared that they are happy to help promote tools from the IKC website and will continue to do that for the flu season.

11:15 Kansas School Nurse Updates..... Kimber Kasitz

Kimber had to leave the call, but provided the updates below through Zoom chat.

- Over 500 school nurses across Kansas attended the KSN Conference virtually this summer.
- Kansas School Nurses are continuing to contact families regarding students that are out of compliance on their vaccines.
- Most school districts will exclude out of compliant students per district policy.
- Immunizations are required for all students enrolled, including online, remote, hybrid and in person.

11:30 Kansas COVID Workgroup for Kids (KCWK) Dr. Stephanie Kuhlmann, KCWK

- KCWK Update
 - Established in May with a team of physicians and a psychologist to address the physical, social, and emotional aspects of COVID-19 and kids. Sponsored by KUMC and endorsed by KAAP and KAFP.

- Provide clinical outreach and support and engage in the community. Shared about projects including the development of recommendations for school reopening, partnering and presenting to school districts about gating criteria, development of forms for return to school releases for ill students, webinar about lessons learned in Finney County, a water bottle campaign, and more.
- Contact KCWK by emailing KansasCOVIDWorkgroup4kids@gmail.com
- Discussion on Maintaining and Restoring Immunization Rates

11:55 Announcements and Other Business

Noon Adjournment of Coalition Business Meeting..... Dan Leong

Susan shared her “why” for being part of IKC and passionately supporting vaccines. She told the rest of the story about her grandson - he is now up-to-date on his immunizations and doing well. She urged everyone to make sure their families are up-to-date on immunizations so they don’t have to go through the fear and feelings of helplessness that her family experienced when her grandson had a vaccine-preventable disease.

Cindy reminded the coalition that it is not yet recommended to get the flu vaccine for the 2020-21 flu season, even though places like Walgreens, Walmart, etc. are already promoting the flu vaccine.

Mel shared that Kansas was selected to participate in a virtual learning group spearheaded by AAP to work on increasing vaccination rates in rural areas. This learning collaborative will work with experts on strategies.

Short Break (Zoom line remains open)

12:10 - 12:50 Lunch & Learn **Special Presentation with Dr. Joe Smyser, [The Public Good Projects \(PGP\)](#)**

We’re inviting key partners to join us for this special portion of the meeting. We’re very excited to have Joe Smyser, PhD, MSPH, join us to share highlights on the following topics:

- [Project VCTR](#)
- [Stronger](#)
- *Effective Public Health Communications to Build Vaccine Confidence*

The special presentation with Dr. Joe Smyser was recorded and is available on YouTube through the link posted on the [August 28th meeting webpage](#) on the IKC website.

*Note: Strategic Teams will convene separately at another time, as needed.