



To: Brock Lamont (via e-mail)

Date: August, 2004

Re: Vaccine Management Business Improvement Project

Immunization program managers have identified several areas of critical importance to the success of the Vaccine Management Business Improvement Project. The Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) requests agreement with the following proposed actions as we move forward with discussions on VMBIP implementation:

- Acknowledgement that the issues below are not resolved; that they are on the table, and that they will be addressed as the process moves forward.
- Assurance that these issues will be evaluated in the pilot, and that there will be a thorough review and discussion of the pilot with immunization program managers before moving forward with widespread implementation. If assurances are not met in the pilot, steps will be taken to address these issues or develop alternative options before moving forward. (A list of key assurance measurements such as those suggested below will be developed in consultation with AIM.)
- Re-evaluation of the proposed timeline, with the addition of checkpoints to assess progress and grantee satisfaction at critical phases.

Relationship with providers

- Assurance that the relationship between public health immunization programs and public and private providers will not be weakened.

Accountability

- Assurance of CDC's ability to manage and run a centralized vaccine ordering and distribution system efficiently and effectively.

Compatibility with other systems

- Assurance that new vaccine ordering and distribution system will be compatible with immunization information systems, strategic national stockpile plans, emergency preparedness, and other systems already in place or under development at the national and grantee level.

State purchase of vaccine

- Assurance that grantees will be able to purchase vaccine separately with their own funds or use their own funds to support provider vaccine ordering above and beyond the federal VFC and 317 contributions.

Reinvestment of savings

- Assurance that savings from the move to a centralized vaccine distribution system will be re-invested in the immunization program.

Suggested assurance measurements:

- Provider participation remains at current levels or increases
- Provider satisfaction
- Grantee retains quality assurance role
- Grantee retains ability to intervene in key vaccine need situations
- Interaction with providers remains open
- Providers accept separation of ordering and quality assurance – embrace new ordering system as well as continued presence of public health in their practice
- Prompt response to grantee/provider concerns
- Delivery to providers within agreed upon time frame
- Ordering patterns and other data gathered and shared with grantees
- Involvement of grantee in order management to extent set by grantee
- No net loss of funds in VFC or 317
- No loss of grant support for current FTEs