

# **Rhode Island Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics**

## **Board of Directors Meeting**

**October 15, 2008**

*Hasbro Children's Hospital*

*Collis Conference Room*

### Minutes

**Attending:** Beth Lange, MD: Presiding, Members: Jim Hallett, MD., Pat Flanagan, M.D., Pam High, M.D., Sarah Bagley, M.D., Executive Director Frank Donahue,

President Elizabeth Lange convened the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

President's Report:

Medicaid Waiver: Beth updated the Board on the Medicaid Waiver of the Department of Human Services. The Governor is claiming the state can realize nearly \$67 million dollars in savings if approved by federal Medicaid officials and the Rhode Island General Assembly. The plan has not been "explained" to the provider community but in general would allow significant change in nursing home care and change in preventive and acute care services. Dr. Lange and Dr Andy Snyder testified their concern at a public hearing of the House Finance Committee. In general, almost every health organization has concerns and is expressing their concern to member of the General Assembly and our congressional delegation. Although specific revisions of Medicaid have not been announced there are fears that long term programs for children may be at risk, such as, Early Periodic Screening and programs for children with special health care needs. The lack of forthcoming from DHS officials is creating anxiety throughout the health community. Members should contact their legislative representatives and senator as well as the Governor's Office to communicate their concern. Dan Walter of AAP has been helpful in helping RIAAP track the "waiver" process in Washington.

Rite care Reductions: Important changes to health insurance coverage for children and their families will occur this month according to the Department of Human Services. An increase in monthly premiums paid by children and families enrolled in Rite Care between 150% and 250% of poverty was implemented on October 1. This is a change from the previous policy of 150% poverty and was set at 3% of income. There will be a monthly premium of \$ 45. For Rite Care patients on November 1, and families who are delinquent for 2 consecutive months will be penalized for 4 months uninsured starting November 1. These changes are as a result of the financial crisis the state is undergoing. Member should expect that these policies effecting nealy5, 000 patients will have a negative impact on health status and pediatric practice. Also, the transition to a generic

drug formulary has been delayed until December 1, 2008 and children with special health care needs will be enrolled in managed care effective October 1.

RIAAP was a full member organization which lobbied to prevent these cuts last winter and spring.

Cambodia Training: Beth announced that she, and Rodney Rockne, M.D., will be developing policies and guidelines relating to RIAAP support of resident travel to Cambodia Children's Hospital Angkor Wat. There will be guidelines on eligibility, process, expectations for returning residents and funding. The current process is not working especially with the departure of David Pugatch, M.D., who was the key program coordinator.

Web Site Development: The Chapter is expecting to take possession of our new web site soon as Embolden Design has indicated they are almost finished the design and construction of the site. The next step is training for interested and key Board members. Hopefully the site will be operational by April 1, 2009 when the final construction work is complete and the key Board members have been trained.

Obesity Prevention Grant: The Department of Health has received funding for an obesity prevention program from CDC and AAP. The AAP funding is in the form of CATCH grant that the Department will utilize as part of its Healthy Weight initiative. Pat Flanagan and Frank Donahue will meet with Eliza Lawson of DOH to understand how RIAAP can provide support.

Vaccine Advisory Council: Beth announced that the Vaccine Advisory Council was being reorganized to make it more responsive to local concerns. The format has not been finally decided but in general will be a more open process, based on the Massachusetts model which Frank Donahue and Pat Raymond of DOH, attended in September. There will be quarterly meetings at various sites around the state, a designated representative selected from RIAAP, Family Practice, hospitals, school nurses, state nurses association, the health centers and some other related organizations. Pharmacy companies will present new products and answer questions. An update from DOH on related vaccine information will be part of each meeting. Hopefully the first meeting will be in January.

Tobacco Conference: The Julius Richmond Center has announced scholarships for its upcoming meeting in California in January. Seth Asser, M.D. is an applicant for RIAAP. As a scholarship recipient, the individual must develop a plan for AAP of how the knowledge obtained will be used to reduce tobacco usage among young people in their state.

Legislative Conference: The AAP is requesting applications for their annual Legislative Conference in Washington, D.D. on April 19 – 21, 2009. The RIAAP will send 2 representatives, consisting of a member and a resident. The conference educates pediatricians on effective techniques for advocacy for children and their families.

Bill Hollinshead Retirement Party: Their will be a retirement party for Bill Hollinshead, M.D., MPH, Associate Director, Rhode Island Department of Health and an ad hoc member of the RIAAP Board, at the Children's Museum in Providence on Monday, November 3, 2008. Members who would like to attend should contact Beth Lange or Frank Donahue. Bill has served as Director of the Family Health Division at DOH since 1982, and is recognized as a leader in pediatric public health nationally, and in Rhode Island. He has innovated many unique services and programs in the state which have become models for national initiatives. The AAP recognizes Bill as a recognized leader for children.

Golf Tournament 2009: RIAAP is currently planning to sponsor its third annual golf tournament. Greg Lockhart, M.D., has tentatively agreed to chair the event which is in the planning stages at this time. The tournament has been financially successful over the past 2 years. There will be a full discussion of the planning at our December Meeting.

Young Physicians Program: Pam High announced that she and Lisa Keswick are hosting a Young Physicians Conference on "Aspberger's Syndrome on Wednesday, November 12 at 6:00 pm in the Partial Hospitalization Center in the basement of the Potter Building. The program is being sponsored by RIAAP with funds from the Young Physicians Grant of AAP. RIAAP members are welcome to attend.

RIAAP Meeting Schedule for 2009: Beth announced the meeting schedule for 2009. The Chapter will move to an every odd month schedule beginning with the January meeting. The odd month calendar conflicts less with school vacation and holiday schedules. The first meeting will be Wednesday January 21, 2009

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.