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**BERKS IMMUNIZATION COALITION**

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**March 30, 2021**

**Attendees: Nicole Berger, John Vogel, Kim Moleski, Sarah Kinsey, Tara Smith, Tracy Ravert, Lisa Reiter, Kim Young, Tracy Scheirer, Rose Grill, Cheryl Byrne, Stephanie Mihailescu, Peter Auth, Eric White, Jessica Long, Fadeke Salako, Deana Cortino, Andy Krug, Kathy Bingaman**

1. **OLD BUSINESS**
   1. Approval of Minutes – Tracy Ravert, Rose Grill
   2. Treasury Report -Balance $10,476.69. New Treasurer – Tracy Ravert. Tracy Scheirer secondary signer
   3. DOH Report – No reported VPD’s (other than Covid) in the 1st quarter
   4. Twitter account @BerksCoalition. Please share!
2. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. COVID vaccine rollout - [COVID-19 Vaccine Providers (pa.gov)](https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/programs/immunizations/Pages/COVID-19-Vaccine-Providers.aspx)
      1. Current issues with finding a vaccine – As per Rose Grill the DOH provider network has been narrowed to a more focused network. Those with high throughput in a short amount of time and can comply with the Secretary of Health’s order of administering 80% of vaccine ordered within 5 days
      2. More retail pharmacies being added to the Federal Pharmacy Program
      3. Map on DOH website is continually revised to reflect providers with vaccine and links to contact them
      4. Seekers – John Vogel mentioned this Facebook group that assists seniors and others without access to computers and/or lacking computer literacy to find open local COVID vaccine appointments.
      5. Phases – Please refer to the DOH website [COVID-19 Vaccine (pa.gov)](https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Vaccine/Pages/Vaccine.aspx)
      6. Special initiative to vaccinate more than 100,000 Pre-K to 12 teachers and school staff across Pennsylvania is completed
      7. Fadeke Salako, Oakside Pharmacy reports many Reading citizens, mostly Hispanic, have no computer access, they are manually scheduling. In need of volunteers to assist with clinics. Please contact Fadeke with your interest @ 484-663-5760
      8. John Vogel, Office of Ageing – will assist seniors 60 and older to schedule appointments 610-478-6500
      9. Tower Health hotline for those without computer access 484-659-3000
      10. Students from area Nursing Programs have been volunteering as vaccinators at COVID clinics
   2. Planning Activities 2021
      1. Tracy S. reached out to Eric White, Redner’s Markets for space in their quarterly magazine to promote immunizations. Tracy S. and Tracy R. will pen an article for the July/August issue in celebration on National Immunization Awareness Month. Focus will be on general immunizations as well as back to school
      2. Tracy S. spoke with Tom Dumas, GSK Medical Science Liaison regarding a virtual educational event. BIC education versus provider event
      3. Group discussion regarding two week deferral pre and post COVID vaccine of other vaccinations. John stated this is a difficult concept for seniors. Suggestion was made to do educational program on Berks County TV (BCTV). Tracy S. will reach out the Marlee Watts at BCTV. John has hosted in the past and is willing to assist. Suggested that seniors always discuss with their PCP
      4. Tara Smith mentioned the Dr. Niki Parkinson, Merck, is also available for educational programs that are non-branded
      5. Fightin Phils – Tracy R. will check if any dates are available this summer to sponsor a table
   3. PAIC – PIC cancelled for 2021
   4. Legislative Committee
      1. Contact your legislators with vaccine issues – John stated he has talked to local legislators who state they are receiving 200-400 calls/day
      2. [www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/find.cfm](http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/find.cfm)
   5. Other items of discussion
      1. Lisa Reiter reported that Tower Health at Home (former BVNA) received $10,000 to continue providing immunizations. Clinics are scheduled 2nd Tuesday and last Thursday of each month.
      2. Tracy Ravert reported Reading School District VFC held vaccination clinics 3x/week all year. Show rate was only 30%. Planning to visit all the middle schools this spring for adolescent catch-up
      3. Nicole Berger has graciously accepted the position of BIC Secretary – thank you, Nicole!!
   6. Meeting Dates – June 29 and September 28

Respectfully submitted,

Rose

Rosemary Grill, RN

Berks Immunization Coalition Secretary