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Welcome to *SnapShots*, the American Immunization Registry Association's newsletter about the progress, best practices, and accomplishments of immunization information systems across the country. We invite you to share news about your registry. Email us at info@immregistries.org or call us at 202-552-0208 with information about a successful programmatic or technical innovation, major accomplishment, or milestone that your registry has reached. SnapShots is sent to subscribers three times a year and posted on AIRA's web site: www.immregistries.org.

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SnapShots

IMMUNIZATION REGISTRY NEWS from AMERICAN IMMUNIZATION REGISTRY ASSOCIATION (AIRA)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As 2015 comes to a close, I can't help but reflect on what a busy and exciting year it's been for AIRA and the IIS community. AIRA, as an organization, has continued to grow and change, adding new staff, taking on new challenges and projects as well as hosting an incredibly successful national meeting. The IIS community has been tasked with major projects, like supporting the newest release of the HL7 Implementation Guide and the work to support AFIX assessments within the IIS, in addition to all of the hard work it takes to keep our IIS moving forward and meet the increasing needs of our partners and other stakeholders. This issue of *SnapShots* highlights some of the innovative work being done by those in our community to help support their users as well as the work being started on the AFIX-IIS Integration Project.

With the future retirement of CDC's CoCASA software application, IIS are being tasked with supporting AFIX assessments for their immunization program within the IIS. AIRA staff, CDC and others worked very hard to produce the detailed guidance for this project that was published earlier this year. Additionally, CDC was able to provide funding to many IIS support these efforts. We are excited that the work on AFIX-IIS integration has begun. This project is a great step towards furthering the integration of IIS within their immunization program.

Earlier this month registration for the upcoming AIRA 2016 National Meeting in Seattle officially opened. A preliminary agenda was sent out with the registration information. We have some great keynote speakers and a lot of interesting topics for breakout sessions. There is so much great work being done within the IIS community and I am really excited to hear from many of you in April.

Lastly, I want to thank all of the AIRA Board and Committee members for their support and time committed to helping further our wonderful organization and to those in the IIS community who have contributed to the work AIRA has done this past year. I want to especially thank our fantastic AIRA staff for all of their hard work and dedication to support the IIS community.

Have a safe and happy new year!

Mary Woinarowicz, MA
 Manager, North Dakota Immunization Information System
 AIRA President

■ To support AFIX assessments, the IIS needs to implement standardized AFIX assessment outputs, a user interface that allows authorized users to generate the outputs, and a standardized export capability.

The AFIX-IIS Integration Project

For the last two years, immunization awardees and CDC have made progress to improve the use of IIS to support AFIX assessments. Based on everyone's hard work, we have made ambitious plans for 2016. Highlights include executing:

- core AFIX reporting with 2 Week Sprint Demos
- IWEB and WIR Connections and Patient Management
- CDSi forecaster

Beginning of AFIX-IIS Integration

In 2013, the CDC announced that support for the Comprehensive Clinic Assessment Software Application (CoCASA) would be discontinued and encouraged awardees to leverage their IIS to support AFIX assessments.

The development and implementation of uniform standards for generating AFIX assessment outputs from IIS is critical to the quality improvement of immunization practices. In the absence of standardized outputs, AFIX assessment outcomes will differ across immunization programs, thereby compromising the integrity of results reported from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, and CDC's ability to evaluate the effectiveness of the AFIX program.

Guidance documents for incorporating AFIX assessment functionality in IIS were developed in two phases. The first phase resulted in the development and release of the document "AFIX-IIS Integration: Operational and Technical Guidance for Implementing IIS-Based Coverage Assessment – Phase I." The second phase resulted in additional operational and technical guidance for AFIX assessment and feedback reporting components.

To support AFIX assessments, the IIS needs to implement standardized AFIX assessment outputs, a user interface that allows authorized users to generate the outputs, and a standardized export capability to support uploads of results to the CDC AFIX Online Tool.

Implementation Funding Support

Funding for implementing AFIX assessment functions occurs through two primary streams. In 2015, 25 awardees received "Public Health and Prevention Funds (PPHF) 2015 – Immunization – Utilization of Immunization Information Systems (IIS) for Assessment, Feedback, Incentives, and eXchange (AFIX) Assessments" funds. In parallel, Scientific Technology Corporation (STC) was awarded a competitive contract to build an AFIX assessment module.

CDC conducted a kick-off call in October for the 25 awardees who received the PPHF 2015 funds. Those awardees will be participating, at a minimum, in quarterly project calls with their assigned POB Project Officer and the AFIX - IIS Subject Matter Experts, Hanan Awwad and Bobbie Strickland.

STC will support awardees identified in the contract using their consortium model. This consortium will include the American Immunization Registry Association (AIRA) and IISSB staff. They will build the AFIX assessment functionality for awardees that use the STC IIS solution and other awardees that agreed to work with STC under the contract, some of which are not receiving PPHF 2015 funds. The awardees working with STC are Alaska, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming. These awardees will participate in an STC AFIX –IIS Virtual Summit. The objectives of the summit include:

- establish relationships across the CDC, STC, and Awardee teams through networking and relationship building activities
- explain the AFIX stage 1 and 2 requirements and recommendations
- commit to the project timelines, requirements and process
- reach general consensus on AFIX product features, user experience and requirements (must have versus nice to have)
- discuss standards that may be outside of the AFIX application that is being built such as patient management

CDC has distributed a communication plan and in the coming weeks will distribute an FAQ to address questions from awardees and vendors. All project resources can be found on the All Awardee SharePoint Portal. Awardee staff that do not have access to this portal should send a request to AFIXIIS@cdc.gov. ■

– Submitted by Bobbie Strickland, CDC/NCIRD/ISD/IISSB

■ MIIC staff are currently exploring new ways to leverage these tools to help improve adult immunization coverage rates in Minnesota.

Minnesota Adult Immunization Improvement Tools

Minnesota's immunization information system, the Minnesota Immunization Information Connection (MIIC), has recently introduced two new features to assist MIIC participants with improving adult immunization rates!

The first feature is a brand-new adult immunization assessment report that can help clinics and counties monitor immunization rates and plan improvement activities. This report allows clinics and counties to identify the percentage of their adult population who are up-to-date on age-appropriate vaccines, such as Tdap, Td/Tdap, pneumococcal conjugate (PCV13), pneumococcal poly-saccharide (PPSV23), HPV, and Zoster. The report also includes statewide coverage rates and current Healthy People 2020 coverage goals for comparison.

The second feature is an enhancement to MIIC's Client Follow-Up tool, which allows participants to identify patients who are due or overdue for vaccinations and to use reminder/recall for follow-up. In order for participants to use Client Follow-Up as a companion tool to the Adult Assessment Report, PPSV23 and Zoster were added as vaccination options in Client Follow-Up.

User guidance and fact sheets that provide more information about these features are available on the Minnesota Department of Health website at [MIIC User Guidance and Training Resources](#). MIIC staff are currently exploring new ways to leverage these tools to help improve adult immunization coverage rates in Minnesota. ■

– Submitted by Sydney Kuramoto, Minnesota Department of Health

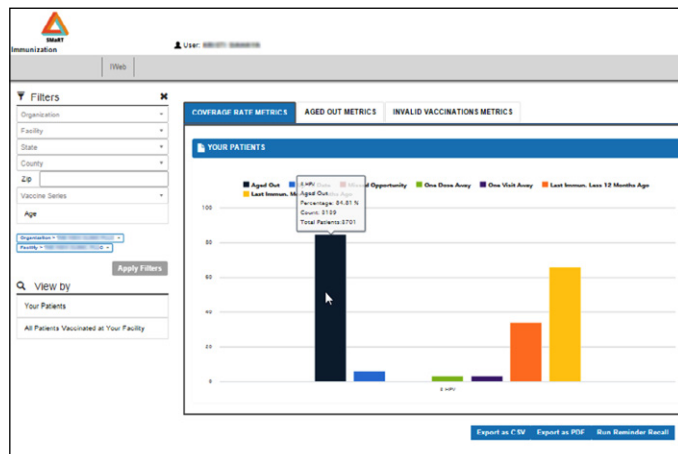
■ The purpose of the Data Dashboard is for the state and provider users to be able to see an easy, quick, and user-friendly way to extract the data necessary for vaccination coverage rates.

Using Immunization Data for Business Intelligence

The Washington Department of Health Office of Immunization and Child Profile and Scientific Technologies Corporation (STC) worked together to build a business analytics “Immunization Data Dashboard” that is integrated into the Washington Immunization Information System (WAIS). The purpose of the Data Dashboard is for the state and provider users to be able to see an easy, quick, and user-friendly way to extract the data necessary for vaccination coverage in their target populations.

The intended outcome is to have a single dynamic area in the WAIS where state and provider users can extract the data needed for immunization coverage and be able to have it be displayed in a clear and understandable way when they log into the system.

The Immunization Data Dashboard displays a dynamic infographic. The user interface displays the immunization data as the mouse hovers over a particular bar in the graph. Data can be exported as raw numbers or as a PDF which contains an image of the graphic. The Immunization Data Dashboard is a great tool and resource for WAIS users and will provide Washington state staff with versatility to support their business needs. ■



– Submitted by Kristi Siahaya, Scientific Technologies Corporation

Education Steering Committee Webinars

Recording Available: Clinical Decision Support for Immunization (CDSi) 101 Webinar

The Education Steering Committee hosted the Clinical Decision Support for Immunization (CDSi) 101 webinar on Wednesday, November 18th. Presenters Eric Larson, AIRA and Northrup Grumman contractor, and Stuart Myerburg, CDC/NCIRD/ISD/IISB, discussed the following topics:

- What CDSi is and what CDSi isn't
- How does someone use CDSi
- How does someone claim compliance with CDSi

In case you missed it, a recording of the CDSi 101 webinar can be viewed on AIRA's [website](#).

Upcoming: AFIX-IIS Guidelines Webinar

The Education Steering Committee will be hosting a webinar on AFIX-IIS Guidelines on Tuesday, January 12th at 3:30 pm ET/12:30 pm PT. This webinar will feature Bridget Ahrens (Vermont), Sudha Setty (Minnesota), and Kim Salisbury-Keith (Rhode Island). During the webinar, participants will have the opportunity to hear about each state's experience implementing the AFIX guidelines into their programs.

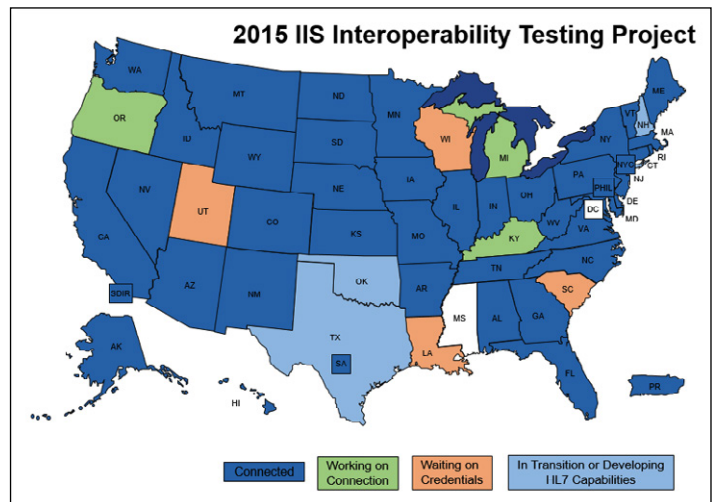
For additional information, please visit AIRA's [website](#).

Save the Date: Introduction to the VTrckS ExIS Usability Best Practices Catalog

Monday, February 29th | 4:00pm-5:00pm ET

AIRA IIS Interoperability Testing Project Update

As of the end of November 2015, the AIRA IIS Interoperability Testing Project team has made great strides in connecting IIS systems for testing. Fifty-four IIS programs have signed up to participate and of those sites, 44 connections have been made (through either direct connection or manual reporting). An additional seven are in either the connection process or waiting for account credentials to be assigned. Three jurisdictions are currently in an IIS transition so do not have an environment setup for testing yet. See map on right for visual representation of testing status.



In October 2015, the AIRA team, in partnership with the Standards and Interoperability Steering Committee (SISC) and CDC partners, drafted and released a guidance document that summarized the testing and analysis results of 21 different IIS regarding conformance with HL7 Acknowledgement Messages (ACK). The guidance document was developed in large part because analyzed ACK messages were found to have considerable variation and limited alignment with the National Implementation Guide for Immunization Messaging (IG). The newly released document provides clarification on implementation methods in an effort to point all IIS towards common, standardized ACK messaging. This document is available on [AIRA's website](#).

In November 2015, the AIRA team moved forward analyzing IIS transport layer implementations. Varied analytic techniques were employed as necessary because of variance in transport layer implementation and participation level in the Interoperability Testing Project. In total, 67 IIS HL7 interfaces were reviewed and it was determined that 31 IIS HL7 interfaces are implementing or have implemented the CDC WSDL. However based on the level of participation in the interoperability testing project, only 19 of these sites were available for complete testing and 17 passed conformance to the CDC WSDL implementation. Further

[Continued on the next page >](#)

analysis discovered that an additional 15 IIS HL7 interfaces were candidates to implement the CDC WSDL based on their current transport layer requirements. Individualized transport analysis reports were sent to all participants.

Moving forward, the team will do a comparison of the 2013 Interoperability Status Check project to current standings. This will focus on the implementation of the seven NIST VXU messages. After that the team will begin testing and discovery on QBP handling. The results of this analysis and all analyses completed to date will be presented at the AIRA 2016 National Meeting in April.

The information gathered through this testing and discovery project will help an Advisory Workgroup to begin developing measures for IIS Assessment in 2016.

AIRA is also offering technical assistance for any member that requests it. This can take many forms, from a phone conversation to discuss issues an IIS may be facing, to webinar style trainings and/or in-person training. To request assistance, please send a request to info@immregistries.org or fill out and submit the request form on [AIRA's website](#) and a member of the AIRA team will contact you.

For additional inquiries about this project, please contact Nichole Lambrecht at nlambrecht@immregistries.org. ■

– Submitted by Nichole Lambrecht, AIRA Sr. Project Manager

Regional Meeting Update

The third AIRA Regional Meeting was held in San Diego, CA on October 16, 2015. IIS representatives from the West Coast region joined IIS vendors, CDC staff, and AIRA staff to discuss a variety of topics.

The day started with a lively discussion on conducting IIS-based AFIX. Bobbie Strickland, CDC IISB Project Officer, was happy to answer a barrage of questions from the group. The hot topic of the day was data quality. This topic generated the most discussion ranging from unknown baby names received from hospitals or vital statistics to patient and immunization level deduplication practices.

Other topics included maintaining and updating HL7 interfaces and inter-state data exchange.. Nathan Bunker, AIRA Sr. Technical Project Manager, led the group in an HL7 message group training activity. A session on Open Source and IIS led by Noam Arzt helped the group define the concept and introduced the topic of defining terms amongst the IIS community. More information regarding this topic can be found on the AIRA website in the [Resource section](#).

Overall, 37 people attended this one-day training. Post-meeting evaluations were overwhelmingly positive, and increasing the length of regional meetings was suggested by many. AIRA will consider this recommendation and will continue to offer regional meetings designed to meet the needs of the AIRA membership. ■

– Submitted by Jenne McKibben, Oregon ALERT

Update on April National Meeting

AIRA 2016 National Meeting

Registration is now open for the AIRA 2016 National Meeting to be held April 5-7 at the Westin Seattle in Seattle, Washington. This year, keynote speakers include:

- **Boris D. Lushniak, MD, MPH, Rear Admiral, Retired (RADM Ret), US Public Health Service, Deputy Surgeon General (2010-2015), Acting US Surgeon General (2013-2014)**
- **Anne Schuchat, MD, Principal Deputy Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Rear Admiral, US Public Health Service**

To register or to learn more about the AIRA 2016 National Meeting, please visit <http://www.immregistries.org/events/2016/04/05/2016-aira-iis-national-meeting>. ■



■ Post-meeting evaluations were overwhelmingly positive.