



AMERICAN IMMUNIZATION REGISTRY ASSOCIATION (AIRA)

2001-2002 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

With support from the CDC, All Kids Count National Office, Wyeth Pharmaceuticals and your membership dollars, AIRA has planned and initiated the following activities on behalf of the registry community during the July 2001-June 2002 membership period.

Planning

- Planned and initiated a Programmatic Registry Operations Workgroup (PROW) Project designed to develop recommendations for “standards of excellence” for registry support of immunization programs. The project has included a survey to identify current registry activity in support of immunization programs, a focus group to discuss the survey results with immunization program managers and identify strategies for implementation and the recruitment and formation of a PROW Core Group to develop the recommended standards and a PROW Review Group to provide input into the process and final recommendations. This is a one-year project that was launched in October 2001. A presentation on the project outcomes and recommendations will be presented at the Immunization Registry Conference in October 2002 in Philadelphia, PA.
- Provided a “voice” for registries through active representation and participation on various workgroups, task force groups and ad hoc committees including:
 1. **Technical Workgroup (TWG)**-designed to develop and recommend functional standards for registries and a voluntary certification process.
 2. **Provider Participation Workgroup (PPWG)**-designed to assess current provider participation issues and make recommendations for ways to improve the level of provider participation in registries.
 3. **Privacy & Confidentiality Committee**-designed to discuss and provide current information for the registry community on the privacy and confidentiality issues that impact registries.
 4. **Strategic Planning 2010 Core and Review Groups**-designed to provide input into the resources required for the achievement of the Healthy People 2010 immunization goal and to develop a blueprint that will assist registries and other key stakeholders in the achievement of that goal.

- Regularly convened and/or established AIRA Committees to further the mission of AIRA on behalf of registries including
 1. **Education Committee**-Convened monthly this committee of AIRA volunteers works to produce the SnapShots newsletter produced and distributed to a listserv of approximately 800 subscribers every three months. In addition, the committee focuses on education/training needs and current issues/"hot topics" related to registries and identifies strategies for addressing these issues.
 2. **Technical Committee**-This newly established AIRA committee will provide a peer forum for registry and programmatic staff and will focus on how registries can best support core immunization functions and how to best collect, process, protect and use registry data. This committee will work closely with CIRSET and will establish regular meeting times following its first meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 5, 2002.
 3. **Urban/City Registries Committee**-This newly established committee will convene its first meeting on June 25, 2002. The committee will focus on issues impacting registries in an urban and/or city environment.

- AIRA has collaborated with Every Child By Two (ECBT) to plan a meeting of managed care organization executives to be convened by ECBT in Washington, D.C. on July 11, 2002. The meeting is designed to demonstrate and discuss how immunization registries can improve managed care organization service. Following the meeting ECBT and AIRA will work to identify registries that would like to pursue data exchange with MCOs and ECBT will facilitate activities that will assist that process.

Communications

- The AIRA Education Committee produced four (4) editions of the SnapShots newsletter that was distributed via email to a listserv of 800 and posted on the AIRA website at www.immregistries.org.
- AIRA conducted a variety of email and web surveys dealing with such issues as registry support of immunization program core functions, privacy and confidentiality, registry activity related to bioterrorism preparedness and data sharing capacity/readiness of registries with managed care organizations.
- A "white paper" on potential roles for immunization registries in pandemic outbreaks and bioterrorism events was widely distributed via email and posted on the AIRA website. In addition alerts regarding bioterrorism preparedness funding opportunities and how registries can work with immunization programs to secure these funds was distributed.
- Job opportunities within the public health and private health sectors were circulated via email and a special "Job Opportunities" page was created on the AIRA website for such listings.

- Monthly conference call meetings are held with the AIRA Board of Directors and the CDC and include representatives from ECBT, CIRSET and AIM. These calls are designed to provide current information on issues and activities related to registries and key partner organizations and identify strategies and/or actions needed to address the issues.

Education/Training

- AIRA coordinated and presented three (3) pre-conference workshops at the July 2001 Immunization Registry Conference in Little Rock, AK. They included, **How Immunization Registries Can Make a Difference: *Advocacy Strategies for Building Support***; **Integrating an Immunization Registry with Other Early Childhood Information Systems: *Exploring the Benefits and Challenges***; **Web Enablement: *Considerations and Issues for Immunization Registries***.
- Members of the AIRA Education Committee developed and produced a special SnapShots edition designed to be used by registries in their marketing and outreach efforts to providers within their local communities. This marketing tool will be widely distributed during the summer months.
- A special fundraising toolkit is in the early stages of development. The toolkit, funded by Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, will be designed to assist registries with their efforts to secure diversified funding. It will be widely distributed in the early Fall.