



**House Committee on Health Care**

**March 21, 2012 - 6:00 PM**

**PUBLIC HEARING: WHAT DID CONCERNED VERMONTERS HAVE TO SAY?**

**S. 199 - An act relating to immunization exemptions and the immunization pilot program.** *The Hearing was scheduled from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Witnesses signed up to testify starting at 5:30 PM. The Committee also accepted written testimony.*

*What should have become evident to House HealthCare Committee Members who were present at this hearing was that the medical community lined up and took one firm side in this debate –and informed parents took quite another. Parents who attended were well spoken and well educated. Many folks who spoke shared their open concerns and first-hand experience of having a child vaccinated and then suffering a death or vaccine injury – which has been complicated by dismissal from the medical community. Classifying their concerns as “mistrust of vaccines” stemming "misinformation surrounding vaccine ingredients"- as medical students, members of AAP and AAFP seem conditioned to do - is wrongful dismissal by the medical community which breeds distrust. Vaccine pushers who ignore parental concerns are of grave concern to us all; Parents are the ones who know their child best, and their choices should be respected and upheld by the state. Click links to listen to testimony:*

<input type="radio"/> <a href="#">Rep. Michael Fisher, House Committee on Health Care</a>
<input type="radio"/> <a href="#">Sorsha Anderson, Middlesex</a>
<input type="radio"/> <a href="#">Dr. Louis DiNicola, President, AAP-VT*</a>
<input type="radio"/> <a href="#">Bradley Rauch DC, Stowe</a>
<input type="radio"/> <a href="#">Ken Borie MD, AAFP-VT *</a>
<input type="radio"/> <a href="#">Thomas Pound, South Burlington</a>
<input type="radio"/> <a href="#">Patty Whitney, Rutland City</a>
<input type="radio"/> <a href="#">Rebecca Lee, Burlington</a>
<input type="radio"/> <a href="#">Elizabeth Hunt MD, Charlotte FAAP*</a>
<input type="radio"/> <a href="#">Paula Bona, Waterford</a>
<input type="radio"/> <a href="#">Lola Noyes RN and Paula Crossett RN, Vermont State School Nurses Association</a>
<input type="radio"/> <a href="#">Jean Anderson-Swayze, Charlotte</a>

○ <a href="#">Julia McDaniel DC, Vermont Chiropractic Association</a>
○ <a href="#">Julie Hathaway MD, Burlington</a>
○ <a href="#">Jennifer Stella, Vermont Coalition for Vaccine Choice</a>
○ <a href="#">Roger Clapp, Executive Director, March of Dimes</a>
○ <a href="#">Richard Conte, Stowe</a>
○ <a href="#">Chuck Gregory, Springfield</a>
○ <a href="#">Rene McGuinness, Monkton</a>
○ <a href="#">Andrea Kerin, Monkton</a>
○ <a href="#">Chantelle Hemsley, Burlington</a>
○ <a href="#">Alisa Breau, Cornwall</a>
○ <a href="#">Alison Parrish, Montpelier</a>
○ <a href="#">John Kords, Montpelier</a>
○ <a href="#">Luke Vierthaler, Burlington</a>
○ <a href="#">Nicholas Mortimer, Montpelier</a>
○ <a href="#">Shirl Harrington, Middletown Springs</a>
○ <a href="#">Carla Hancock, Plainfield</a>
○ <a href="#">Thomas Moseley MD, Vermont Public Health Association</a>
○ <a href="#">John Sayles, CEO, Vermont Food Bank</a>
○ <a href="#">Steve Harrington, Middletown Springs</a>
○ <a href="#">Heidi Klein, Vermont Public Health Association</a>
○ <a href="#">Greg Kunkowski, Chittenden</a>
○ <a href="#">Jennifer Mink, Morrisville, VT</a>
○ <a href="#">Jessica Bernier, Sheffield</a>
○ <a href="#">Zail S. Berry, MD, MPH, PLLC</a>
○ <a href="#">Ashley Portman, Montpelier</a>
○ <a href="#">Grady Ward, Student, Essex</a>
○ <a href="#">Sandy Reider MD, Lyndonville</a>
○ <a href="#">Alan Pratt, Fayston</a>
○ <a href="#">Susan Comen, Middlesex</a>

○ <a href="#">Paul Parker MD, Richmond</a>
○ <a href="#">Thomas McLeod, Montpelier</a>
○ <a href="#">Marna Ehrech, Shelburne</a>
○ <a href="#">Licia Gamelino-Hamilton, Shrewsbury</a>
○ <a href="#">JD Masterson, Newport</a>
○ <a href="#">Tonya Brett, Middlesex</a>
○ <a href="#">Lori Stratton, Plainfield</a>
○ <a href="#">Deborah Kahn, Waitsfield, VT</a>
○ <a href="#">Teddy Lawson, Barre Town</a>
○ <a href="#">Kathleen Sauer, West Brookfield</a>
○ <a href="#">Talitha Landis-Marinello, Montpelier</a>
○ <a href="#">Cynthia Johnson, Calais</a>
○ <a href="#">Dexter Lefavour, Middlesex</a>
○ <a href="#">Lisa McCrory, Bethel</a>
○ <a href="#">Nathan Heilman DVM, Newhaven</a>
○ <a href="#">Gabriel Archdeacon ND, Middlesex</a>
○ <a href="#">Lila Bennett, Middlesex</a>
○ <a href="#">Spencer Sherman, DC</a>
○ <a href="#">Heather Rice DC, Hinesburg</a>

\*Note that AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics)/FAAP (Fellow of AAP) and AAFP (American Academy of Family Physicians) formally endorse all recommendations of ACIP (American Committee on Immunization Practices) and have strict policies on following these “schedules” without deviation.

It may be of interest to note that documents obtained via Freedom of Information from the Vermont Department of Health show that as early as October 22, 2010, strategy was being set out of the public eye by members of the health department and the AAP.

**Vermont Advisory Committee Meeting  
 October 22, 2010, from 12:00 – 1:00 PM via Conference Call  
 Convened by Christine Finley, VDH Immunization Program**

Member	Present	
Andrea Reagan		<b>Next Meeting</b>
Breana Holmes		
John DiMichele	x	
Joseph Nasca		Date: January 28, 2011
Judy Orton		Time: 12:00-1:00
Kim Aakre		Location: Health Dept, Room 3B
Kristen Gilbert	x	<b>Action Ideas</b>
Lou DiNicola	x	
Mary Masson		
Miriam Sheehy	x	
Patsy Kelso	x	
Paul Parker	x	
Stephanie Winters		
Teresa Voci	x	
Valerie Rooney	x	
Wendy Davis		
William Raszka	x	
Karen Halverson, VDH	x	
Christine Finley, VDH	x	
Wanda Cosman, VDH	x	

<b>Vermont immunization rates</b>	Vermont's up-to-date coverage rates were published in <i>Vaccinate Vermont</i> . Miriam Sheehy summarized findings of the VCHIP focus groups held in August in 5 counties with lower than average immunization rates. The full report was sent to IAC.
<b>VCHIP focus groups</b>	
<b>Outreach efforts to providers and parents: report provided with meeting notice</b>	Discussion centered on the correlation between the VT results and the national findings, the resources these parents use for vaccine information and the parents' perception of provider neutrality toward immunization. The need for provider support in working with vaccine hesitant parents, for community involvement and for the identification of vaccine champions who have no pharma or governmental ties was discussed. Study weaknesses related to the need to avoid perception of bias toward profit motives.

	Discussion of the VT school exemption and how it compares to neighboring states ensued, with expression of concern that public is not aware of risk of declining immunization without deaths as have been evidenced in CA. Concern was expressed that the IZ rates in VT are related to the right to sign a philosophical exemption, and that AAP and AAFP should join with VDH in advocacy for legislation to revise exemption rights. Chris mentioned that a chart with exemption rates and coverage rates is being prepared (see attached), that it is helpful if schools and child care providers do not provide exemption forms along with request for immunization record. VDH has provided vaccine preventable disease information to school nurses to illustrate the impact of VPD's.
<b>Federal Health Care Reform-Affordable Care Act, immunization related initiatives</b>	Affordable Care Act - Medicaid/Medicare Parity: The federal legislation requires that in 2013 and 2014, the Medicaid reimbursement rate for administration of vaccines will increase to match the Medicare regional rate; the difference will be covered by federal funding. Discussion centered on the need to work with them to prevent reversion to the lower rate after two years—legislature must help us- AAP/AAFP must be aware.

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