STATE OF COLORADO

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Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

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**Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment**

TO: COLORADO IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION SYSTEM USERS

SUBJECT: COLORADO IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION SYSTEM APPLICATION REPLACEMENT

DATE: JUNE 18, 2010

CC: NED CALONGE, MD; LISA MILLER, MD; JONI REYNOLDS, RN

In 1996, the University of Colorado – Denver (UCD; formerly known as the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center) received a five-year grant to administer the Colorado Rural Immunization Services Project (CRISP) whose goal was to improve pediatric immunization rates in targeted rural counties. Initially, the project purchased individual immunization tracking software for thirteen sites in four counties that eventually were combined into one regional database in 1999. Because of the difficulty of maintenance involved in the client/server system, UCD developed a custom, web-enabled SQL server database that was implemented in July 2001– the central immunization registry database now known as the Colorado Immunization Information System (CIIS). In January 2002, CDPHE determined that CIIS would become the state's immunization information system, and CDPHE granted UCD a contract to continue the operation of CIIS. In April 2007, legislation was passed that transitioned authority for the operation of CIIS to CDPHE and also made CIIS a life-long immunization registry. In December 2008, CIIS was formally transitioned into the CDPHE Colorado Immunization Program (CIP).

The past year and a half has been a period of stabilization, evaluation and integration of day-to-day operations into the CIP and the Department as a whole. The 2009 H1N1 pandemic sped up this process and led us to operationalize and expand CIIS functions. This has given us time to really delve into the registry, test its functionality and assess where we are now and where we want to be in the future. With this, we were able to identify aspects of the registry that we and our users find useful and want to continue, such as providing consolidated immunization records and the ability to run a report to recall children not up-to-date on their immunizations. Additionally, we have identified some gaps such as the lack of payor source information, optimal school and childcare access and the need to more efficiently report data from mass immunization clinics.

The CIIS application is a legacy system that was developed and has been maintained by an individual external contractor. While there have been no problems with the quality or timeliness of the service provided by this individual, and the system continues to function without incident, there are inherent risks which come from dependence on a single individual to maintain an entire statewide system such as CIIS. Attempts have been made to document the source code and structure that make up the underpinnings of the registry but, unfortunately, have resulted in incomplete and inadequate documentation of the system. Because of the inherent risks with reliance on a single contractor to ensure the continued functioning of CIIS, coupled with our and our user's desire to enhance the functionality available, we have decided to replace the system with a more robust, stable and modern immunization registry application.

When funding from federal H1N1 sources became available earlier this year, $500,000 was set aside to purchase a new commercial, off-the-shelf immunization registry application. CIIS, along with the help of Denver Health and 5280 Pediatrics, evaluated a number of vendors based on established criteria for the new system. The successful bidder we selected is Envision Technology Partners, Inc. (http://www.envisiontechnology.com/). Envision has more than 14 years of experience providing health information solutions to governmental entities. Their immunization registry application, WebIZ, has been in production for the past 10 years with currently 11 installations (Kansas, Nevada, Guam, Micronesia, etc). If you are interested in reviewing the requirements in our Request for Proposal, please contact me for details.

To meet federal H1N1 spending requirements, CIIS will need to purchase and install the software for the new system by July 30, 2010. And then the real work begins. CIIS and the Envision will work together to transition from the current application to the new system. This involves installation and configuration, detailed planning, data migration, testing and quality assurance checks, a pilot of the system, re-training of all of our existing users, going live with the new system and retiring our old system. We will need input and guidance from LPHAs and other community partners to successfully transition the system.

Don't panic! Moving to the new system will not occur immediately as we expect it take anywhere from nine months to a year to fully complete the transition. CIIS will continue to maintain day-to-day operations initially and will slowly phase out all but the most critical functions while phasing in transition activities. During installation and configuration, planning, data migration, testing and the pilot, our users will continue to have access to the current system without interruption. Data migration will occur in a step-wise manner beginning with user profile data, inventory, patient demographic data, and finally immunizations. For providers with existing data imports, some involvement will be necessary to ensure their configuration in the new system is successful. During the pilot phase, we will ask for several LPHA representatives, private providers and school districts statewide to participate in a transition steering group to help us ensure the system is ready for our broader audience. Approximately four months prior to going live with the new system, recruitment of new providers will cease and our efforts will focus on re-training all existing users. CIIS will conduct several webinars as well as face-to-face trainings statewide up to and after implementation of the new system. Prior to going live with the new system, one final data upload will occur to ensure all current user, demographic and immunization data is migrated. Access to the new system should occur seamlessly as all user names and passwords will be transferred. Once users have access to the new system, access to the old system will be unavailable.

Once CIIS is able to get the Envision's contract in place for the new system, transition planning will begin and we will be able to provide you with additional detail about activities and our timeline. Our goal is to provide our users with a better, more stable product that will meet all existing functionality plus some enhancements. We will work to ensure disruption to this service is minimal and that you continue to have the technical support you are used to receiving. As we move forward with this exciting project, I will continue to provide periodic updates on our progress.

Please feel free to contact with me questions.

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