

MEMO

TO: Pat McConnor, Executive Director, CSTE

FROM: Kathleen Gensheimer, MD, MPH, State Epidemiologist

SUBJECT: CSTE Consultancy, Influenza

DATE: May 27, 2003

I represented CSTE at the fourth Annual National Influenza Vaccine Summit, co-sponsored by CDC and the AMA, convened in Chicago, May 20 and 21, 2003. Although the Summit was originally convened in 2001 in response to delays in influenza vaccine production and distribution in 2000, the Annual Summit has evolved into a concept, and an informal action oriented organization. The composition of Summit attendees includes over fifty organizations and agencies, including CSTE, who have come together over the past several years, to develop a collaborative partnership that has addressed payment, occupational health, consumer issues, communication, vaccine allocation, physician issues and long term care. Fifty recommendations have been issued by workgroups dedicated to the above issues. It remains a permanent but informal organization at the national level, working year round on the above issues, being flexible in responding to contingencies and emergencies by expanding attention to a broader array of other adult vaccine issues.

The dual challenge remains of increasing the demand for vaccine to approach the current needs, while increasing the vaccine supply to approximate the (growing ??) demand. Education endeavors to enhance vaccine uptake, demand and communication regarding the benefits of this preventive strategy to both the medical community and the public remain the two critical areas that will require continued commitment of Summit members. Continued participation in the work of this group is an appropriate role for a CSTE influenza consultant.