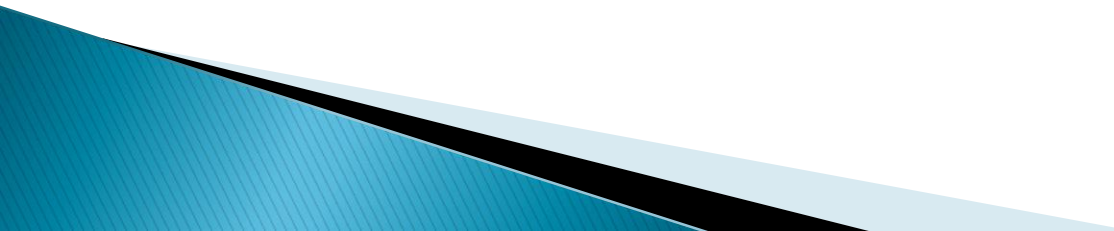


A Project to Protect Teen Mothers from Vaccine-Preventable Diseases

Audrey M. Stevenson



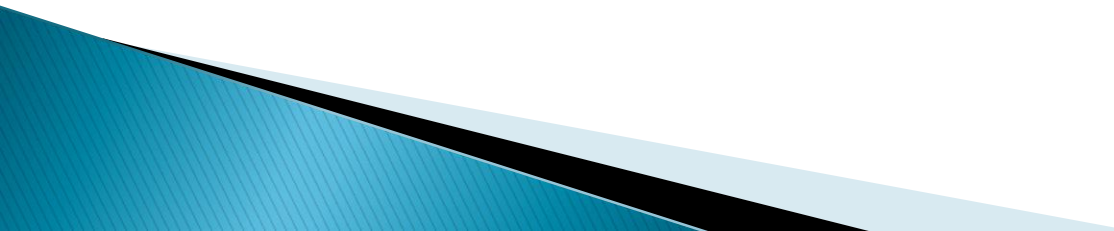
Background of the problem

- ▶ State statutes in Utah define emancipation in minors who are married or are serving in the military.
 - ▶ Teen mothers were required to obtain parental consent to receive vaccines.
 - ▶ Many teens did not have a parent to provide consent.
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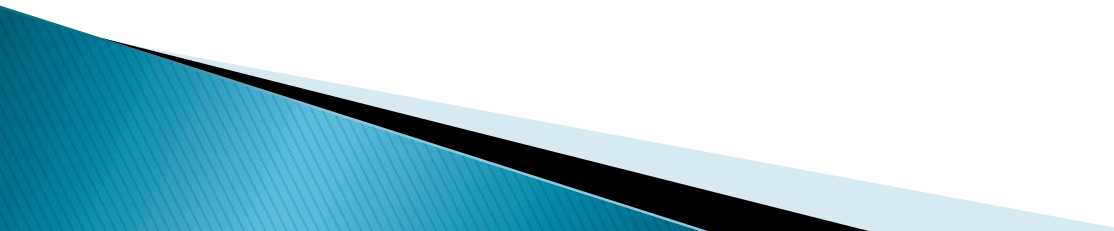
Immunizations for Teen Mothers

- ▶ “The purpose of this bill is to allow teen mothers to lawfully consent for their own vaccination to protect their own health and the health of their infant.
- ▶ Under current Utah law, unmarried teen mothers can consent for their child to be vaccinated, but these same teen mothers require parental consent to receive immunizations for themselves.”
 - “For teens not living with a parent, or where the parent is not available, there is a risk of contracting vaccine preventable diseases.”

Immunizations for Teen Mothers

- ▶ Outbreak of pertussis in California
 - ▶ H1N1 outbreak
 - ▶ Vaccines for Children (VFC) program
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Demographics

- ▶ 64,000 female Utahns aged 15–17 years
 - ▶ Approximately 900 to 1,000 births to females under 18 years of age occur each year
 - ▶ 70% of adolescents receiving prenatal care through the TMCP do not have a parent who can provide consent for the teen to receive vaccines
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PROPOSED DRAFT LEGISLATION 2011
CONSENT BY MINORS TO MEDICAL PROCEDURES ACT
Utah Code Ann., §§26-10-8 *et seq.*

§26-10-8 Consent to Examination and Treatment.

A minor may give consent for the medical services provided in §26-10-9 for ~~himself or herself~~ or for ~~his or her~~ child, if the minor is at the time such care is sought:

- (a) married or has been married; or
- (b) a parent who is a minor; or
- (c) a pregnant woman who is a minor; or
- (d) emancipated as provided for in §78A-6-805(f); ~~or~~
- ~~(e) a member of any of the armed forces.~~

§26-10-9 Eligible Medical Services

The medical services for which a minor described in §26-10-8 may give consent include:

- (a) Immunizations against communicable diseases as provided for in §§26-6-1 *et seq.*
- (b) Examinations and immunizations required to attend school as provided for in §§53A-11-201 *et seq.* and §§53A-11-301 *et seq.*
- ~~(c) Examination and treatment for communicable diseases as provided for in §§26-6-1 *et seq.* and §§26-6b-1 *et seq.*, if the minor is suffering from or has come in contact with a communicable disease determined to be a danger to public health.~~
- ~~(d) Except as restricted by §§76-7-301 *et seq.*, any injury, illness or condition when a delay in treatment, in a physician's judgment, may endanger the life, limb, or health of the patient, or public health.~~

~~any in treatment, in a physician's judgment, may endanger the life, limb, or health of the patient, or public health.~~

§26-10-10 Parental Consent Unnecessary

The consent of the parent or parents or the legal guardian of a minor is not necessary for the health department, licensed physician or hospital to examine or provide medical treatment to any minor described in §26-10-8, *or a minor who is* suffering from or believed to have come in contact with any communicable disease determined to be dangerous to public health. The consent of the minor to examination or medical treatment pursuant to this section is not subject to disaffirmance because of minority.

§26-10-11 Consent Not Voidable Due to Minority

The consent of a minor described in §26-10-8 to the medical services described in §26-10-9 shall not be voidable because of such minority. A parent who is a minor shall be deemed to have the same legal capacity to act and shall have the same powers and obligations as a person of legal age.

§26-10-12 No Liability in the Absence of Negligence

In the absence of negligence, no person providing medical services pursuant to §26-10-9 or §26-10-10 is subject to civil or criminal liability for providing those services, or for not obtaining the consent of the parents, parent or legal guardian prior to rendering medical care.

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§26-10-13 Parents Not Liable for Payment

The parents, parent or legal guardian of a minor described in §26-10-8 who receives medical services pursuant to §26-10-9 or §26-10-10 are not liable for the payment for those services unless the parents, parent or legal guardian has consented to such medical services.

Starting the process

- ▶ Attorney's Office
- ▶ Identification of a legislator to champion our bill



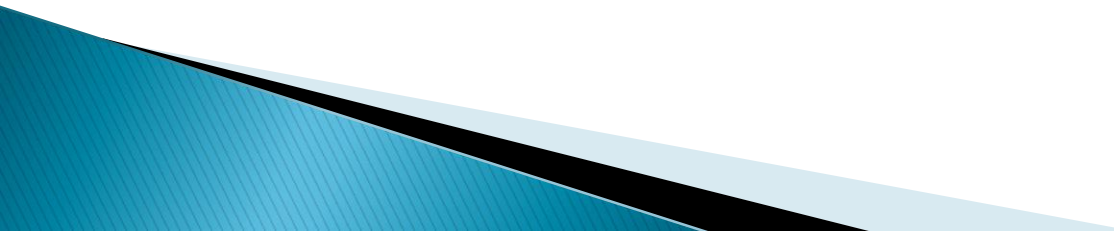
HB 13 Immunizations for Teen Mothers

- ▶ Proposed Legislation
 - 26-10-9 Immunization and health exams-Consent of minor to treatment

Gaining support for a bill

- ▶ Utah is a conservative state
- ▶ The issue of HPV
- ▶ Identification of those likely to have opposition to the bill

Supporters of the Bill

- ▶ All 12 local health departments and UDOH
 - ▶ The Utah Association of Local Boards of Health
 - ▶ Utah Chapter of AAP
 - ▶ UMA
 - ▶ UNP
 - ▶ UNA
 - ▶ Eagle Forum*
 - ▶ Utah Council of Churches
 - ▶ Etc
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Passing of the Bill

- ▶ HB 13 passed both the house and senate unanimously

MCH PHLI and Utah Law

- ▶ This project will have a lasting, beneficial impact on the entire community
 - ▶ Many of the concepts of the MCH PHLI assisted me in the process
 - ▶ Peer coaching and work with my mentor were also beneficial
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