



WV ASTHMA COALITION RETREAT
August 11-12, 2009
Bridgeport Conference Center

In attendance: Raquel Ware, Len Picha, Jeanne MacDonald, Jean Tenney, Paula Fields, Sharon Hill, Cynthia Keely, Michelle Poland, Mary Spangler, Cathy Capps-Amburgey, Nell Stuart, Marie Gravely, Joan Skaggs, Carrie Brainard, Barb McKown, Lynn Williams, Barbara Forbes, Letitia Golden, Leslie Stone, Anne Durham, Stephanie Thorn, Geff Bergh, Justin James, Dixie Showalter, Laura Brotherton, Rebecca Aylsworth, Zona Harris, Debbie Sparks, Barbara Stagg, Judy McGill, Mary Sizemore, Jim Perrine, Rhonda Cantrell, Ron Easterly, Debbi Myers, Dr. Chandra Kumar, Chuck Menders, Karen Larson, Gloria Umoh, Nathan "Tony" Bell, Dr. M. Kumar, Heather Rine, Jessica Wright, Adam Baus, Cecil Pollard, Deloris Wilder, Priscah Mujuru, Dr. Jane Nicholas, Janet Allio, Jeanne Chandler, Georgia Narsarage, Trisha Petite, Teresa Frazer, Dr. Mary Emmett, Jacob Lough, Dr. Robert Cohn, David Bailey, Andrea Tucker, Barbara Stagg, Shanen Wright, Jessica Isner, Bill Bailey, and Dr. Krista Capehart.

Tuesday, August 11

The WV Asthma Retreat began at 1:00 pm with welcome and introductions from President Cecil Pollard.

Cynthia Keely, Asthma Education and Prevention Manager, was introduced by Cecil. Cynthia welcomed retreat participants.

Each subcommittee chair shared with the retreat attendees about their specific committee activities from the past year.

Adam Baus reported on the Clinical Asthma Management's work to provide spirometry testing to federally-qualified health centers (FQHCs) in West Virginia.

Paula Fields, co-chair, reported on the School and Pediatrics Committees' asthma pilot project in Raleigh and Fayette County Schools aimed at reducing asthma-related school absenteeism. The project was completed this June. The committee also worked to establish an **Asthma Friendly School Award** initiative that was launched in May. Meadow Bridge Elementary has received this recognition.

Deloris Wilder presented on the Community Outreach and Education Committee's activities for the year including support for the Asthma Educator Test Prep course held in Charleston in May. The committee also sponsored children to attend Camp Catch Your Breath and printed asthma information booklets and magnets promoting asthma self-management and the resource website, www.wvasthma.org.

Data Sharing Chair, Dr. Mary Emmett, reported on asthma data work, collection and analysis, completed by the WV Health Statistics Center during the past year.

Cynthia Keely and Leslie Stone, owner of Stone Strategies, presented the **2010-2014 Strategic Plan for Addressing Asthma in WV**. Cynthia and Leslie described the process for creating the plan and thanked the coalition for their work the two years. The Plan will be used as a guide to help reduce the burden of asthma in West Virginia and guide initiatives of the coalition.

Sharon Hill, Epidemiologist with the WV Asthma Education and Prevention Program, shared an asthma surveillance update from the past year. She highlighted how the baseline data was obtained for the Strategic Plan and outlined what is projected to be accomplished in the next five years.

WV Asthma Coalition subcommittees met to discuss activities for the 2009-2010 year. Follow up meetings are open and participation from all members is encouraged.

The following dates have been scheduled:

- **Environment Committee- September 8, 2009 at 9:30am**
- **Community Outreach & Education- October 1, 2009 at 11:00am**
- **Clinical Asthma Management** – Date and time discussion in progress – will follow-up with Program Manager

Jessica Isner, WV Asthma Coalition Manager, announced that new membership enrollment forms should be turned in as soon as possible to Cynthia. Also, nominations are open for WVAC executive committee positions including President, Vice President, Environment Committee Chair, Schools and Pediatrics Committee Chair, Data Sharing Chair, Community Outreach and Education Chair and Clinical Asthma Management Chair. Each position is for one term and nominations must be turned in to Cynthia by August 28, 2009. Please request the permission of person prior to nomination and self-nominations are encouraged.

Tuesday, August 19

Cynthia Keely welcomed retreat attendees for day two of the WV Asthma Retreat.

The Keynote Speaker, Dr. Robert Cohn, Executive Director of Women and Children's Care at MetroHealth Center in Cleveland, addressed the group regarding the changes in asthma guidelines and how it affects patient care.

Retreat attendees were invited to select three out of four workshops to participate in including:

- The Media Revolution: Effective Asthma Messaging, presented by Shanen Wright, WV Medical Institute
- Special Considerations in Asthma: Exercise, Panic, Relaxation, presented by Len Picha, Charleston Area Medical Center
- Putting Guidelines into Practice: Best Practices at MetroHealth Medical Center, presented by Dr. Robert Cohn, MetroHealth Center
- Lessons Learned in a Healthy School Environment, presented by David Bailey, WV Department of Education

Dr. Krista Capehart presented on Health Literacy in West Virginia. Dr. Capehart explained that you could have high general literacy ability, but have low health literacy ability. The issues dealing with disadvantaged populations and their ability to understand medical issues as basic as the label on a prescription bottle are paramount in their treatment. The health care provider must be able to bridge the literacy gap to their patients to provide more precise and basic education on medications, treatment, and information given to the patient.

Jessica concluded the retreat by showing appreciation for the work of the attendees and presenters.

The next WVAC Quarterly Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 19, 2009 in Morgantown.