



**West Virginia Asthma Coalition**  
Fall 2010 Quarterly Coalition Meeting  
11:00am – 3:30pm Thursday, November 18, 2010  
Waterfront Place Hotel, Morgantown, WV

**In Attendance**

1. Susie Criss
2. Colleen Roshau
3. Krista Capehart
4. Len Picha
5. Marybeth Timko
6. Jean Tenney
7. Dan Tenney
8. Adam Baus
9. Sharon Hill
10. Paula Fields
11. Tonya Yablonsky
12. Lora Lipscomb
13. Marie Gravely
14. Nell Stuart
15. Zona Harris
16. Cathy Stover
17. Gloria Umoh
18. Cynthia Keely Wilson
19. Cecil Pollard
20. Rebecca Guy
21. Joe Marchant
22. Rebecca Aylsworth
23. Mary Spangler
24. Lindsay Elkins
25. Dr. Lee Petsonk
26. Dr. Giovanni Piedimonte

**Minutes**

***Welcome and Introductions – Cynthia Keely Wilson, Program Manager, West Virginia Asthma Education and Prevention Program; and Len Picha, WVAC President***

Cynthia Keely Wilson announced the resignation of Megan Moore Canavan as the WVAC manager. She also introduced Lindsay Elkins as the new WVAC manager.

Len Picha presented a PowerPoint about the WVAC. He discussed the importance of participating on the subcommittees. He also highlighted a handout that included six priority messages that he felt were important for each subcommittee which include inhaled corticosteroids, asthma control, asthma action plans, follow-up visits, asthma severity, and allergen and irritant exposure control.

For more information, please contact Len Picha at [Len.picha@camc.org](mailto:Len.picha@camc.org)

***Black Lung in West Virginia 2010: The Silent Mine Disaster – Dr. Edward L. Petsonk, Professor of Medicine at West Virginia University***

Susie Criss, Director of the Black Lung Center at New River Health introduced Dr. Petsonk.

Dr. Petsonk presented on the dangers of black lung in West Virginia, labeling it the “silent mine disaster”. He discussed the health problems that we are seeing from the result of coal dust in miners’ lungs, particularly fibrotic diseases, airflow diseases, and infectious diseases. While health standards have been put in place to help reduce these risks, we are now seeing a trend in younger miners developing black lung. While there are many factors that can contribute to this, some speculate that long hours in the mines and inadequate dust plans could be to blame.

***Management of Asthma in Children – Dr. Giovanni Piedimonte, Professor of Medicine at West Virginia University and Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics***

Dr. Piedimonte presented on the central concepts of asthma in children and the basis of treatment. He reported on the components of asthma in children and the delivery of necessary treatments and drugs. Dr. Piedimonte also provided insight on extensive research about the clinical treatments of drugs for children. Dr. Piedimonte offers a comprehensive, full service asthma treatment facility through West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV.

*Subcommittee Breakout Sessions*

***Schools & Pediatrics – Gloria Umoh***

*Asthma-Friendly Schools Initiative*

The subcommittee discussed the possibility of increasing the number of schools for the initiative. Currently the program is focused in Greenbrier County. The committee will work through Rebecca King at the Department of Education to reach out to school-based nurses, particularly for the legislative breakfast. The Asthma-Friendly Schools Initiative Breakfast will be held from 8-9 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 3 at the Culture Center.

*Rainelle Medical Center*

An update from Adam Baus on this program indicated that the goal is to continue to increase asthma action plans. An electronic version of this was put in place, however, this will be revisited as it would be preferred that an electronic version is also in place with the EMR.

***Community Outreach & Education – Lora Lipscomb***

The subcommittee discussed the use of a listserv for those that are interested in asthma education. Along with that, they continued to discuss the use of an email template and will continue to discuss that at the next meeting. Lora will be investigating pricing and printing options for the email template, as well as a hardcopy mailing that will be a postcard with a perforated return option. This will be distributed to schools and asthma clinics initially.

***Clinical Asthma Management – Krista Capehart***

The subcommittee discussed the spirometry increase in Cabin Creek. Along with that they also addressed the need to identify people in the state that can provide training, particularly on spirometry. A “packet” for education was also discussed that would allow educators to select parts of the program that would best benefit their clinics.

For more information on the packets and the spirometry education, please contact Adam Baus at [abaus@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:abaus@hsc.wvu.edu)

***Environmental – Cynthia Keely Wilson***

The subcommittee reviewed the 2005-2009 prevalence map by county. If there are questions regarding data on this, please contact Sharon Hill at [Sharon.k.hill@wv.gov](mailto:Sharon.k.hill@wv.gov). Along with this information, the subcommittee discusses the continued need for education and self management. The subcommittee also continued to address the Asthma Friendly Business Awards and what the criteria for those awards will be. The subcommittee is currently in the process of reviewing other areas where this has been done and the current criteria for those awards. A mass mailing was also recently completed for the “ABC’s of Asthma” and “Why is Coco Orange” books, which were distributed to roughly 177 libraries in West Virginia. Also, there is a need for more members in the Environmental subcommittee and the recruitment needs were discussed.

***Closing Remarks – Cynthia Keely Wilson and Len Picha***

Cynthia discussed the proclamation that was recently received from former Governor Joe Manchin stating November is COPD Awareness Month. In accordance with that, there will be the possibility of implementing COPD elements in the WVAC. Also, Cynthia stated that if there is information or upcoming projects related to asthma that are coming up to let her know so that she can add that information to the website: [cynthia.a.keely@wv.gov](mailto:cynthia.a.keely@wv.gov). Len continued to stress the importance of recruitment for the coalition and briefly discussed the recent World Spirometry Day.