



West Virginia Asthma Coalition

Helping West Virginians with Asthma Breathe Easier

WV Asthma Coalition Fall Quarterly Meeting

November 20, 2008, 11am-3:30pm

Lakeview Resort, Morgantown

In attendance: Len Picha, Shelly Rouse, Michelle Poland, Bruce Adkins, Heidi Casdorff, Deloris Wilder, Dixie Showalter, Mary Emmett, Amy Wenmoth, Cathy Capps-Amburgey, Georgia Narsavage, Adam Baus, Robert Kaslovsky, Paula Fields, Trisha Petite, Jessica Isner, Laura Tate, Cynthia Keely, Angela Nell Stuart, Talia Sotomayor, Sharon Hill, Priscah Mujuru, Hari Salana, Hollie Hite, Debbie Sparks, Geff Bergh, Gloria Umoh, Margaret Filios, Becky King, Mary Swim

Laura Tate, AEPP Program Manager, opened the meeting.

Sharon Hill, the new Epidemiologist for the WV Asthma Education and Prevention Program, was introduced and welcomed by the membership.

Laura announced that subcommittees will be able to request funds for 2009 projects. The total amount of funds available for projects is \$8,000. Jessica Isner, WVAC Manager, continued the discussion by challenging the subcommittees to think creatively, use the current strategic plan for guidance, considering partnership with other committees and consider outside resources. must be spent by June 2009. Proposal forms are due to Jessica by December 19, 2008. The Executive Committee will review the funding proposals in January and allocate funding accordingly.

Subcommittees had time to meet as individual groups for continued discussions during the working lunch session. *Please see below the minutes for summary of subcommittee's work and scheduled post-meeting conference calls.*

Margaret Filios, CAPT US Public Health Service, NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) spoke about current tools and resources relating to asthma including diagnosis and health monitoring (spirometry training course approval, support and software, evaluation of environmental and medical monitoring practices and work with professional associations) and resources for exposure assessment and control (Health Hazard Evaluation and Technical Assistance Program/assessing exposure to dampness and mold in schools and office buildings). NIOSH also disseminates information, provides formal recommendations and guidance and supports health departments and other partners. Additional information can be obtained by visiting www.cdc.gov/niosh.

Becky King Co-Coordinator, WV School-Based Health Assembly addressed the group on Effective Policy Change: Defining Our Role in Advocacy. Becky shared the importance of advocacy, how we as individuals and as a coalition can become involved in policy change, about the WV Legislature, as well as additional resources and tools to help members become more effective advocates.

Cynthia Keely, Coordinator, WV-AEPP shared the new AEPP website and WVAC page. The site may be found at www.wvasthma.org. Any suggestions or additions to the website may be forwarded to Cindy at cynthiakeely@wvdhhr.org or (304) 558-0016.

Announcements

- The next WVAC Quarterly meeting will take place Thursday, February 12, in Parkersburg.
- Asthma Awareness Day at the Capitol will take place on Thursday, February 19th. Details to come after the beginning of the year.
- American Lung Association received funds to continue the Breathe Well, Live Well Program, a program designed to teach asthma management skills to adults. If you are interested in becoming a trained facilitator, contact Jessica Isner at jisner@lunginfo.org.
- Pediatric Division of WVU received a grant which will look at obesity and asthma.
- Becky King, WV School-based Health Assembly, announced the annual School Health Policy Round Table will take place on December 2, 2008 at the Bureau of Senior Services conference room (3rd Floor, Charleston Town Center) from 9am-11am.
- Amy Wenmoth announced the status of the 2010-2014 Strategic Plan as being in the developmental phase. The data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Survey had a larger margin of error than anticipated. According to CDC, we should still use the data to determine our baseline for the plan and make changes as needed when further data is collected from future surveys.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jessica Isner.

Post-meeting information: Please find below a summary of what each subcommittee discussed during the break out session. Please note upcoming conference call dates. All are invited and encouraged to participate.

Community Outreach & Education Committee

The Community Outreach & Education committee reviewed strategies previously discussed at the annual retreat and discussed possible 2009 activities to include sponsoring a child for asthma camp, placement of the Asthma Resource Guide, Wheezes, Sneezes and Triggers training information and senior handout on the WVAC website and provide coalition members updates on the Wheezes, Sneezes and Triggers training.

The subcommittee would like to make available the asthma Lifeline episode to asthma coalition members to distribute in their community. The subcommittee would like to follow up with rural health departments to have resident doctors on rotation that are required to provide community service in rural areas to go into the community clinics, primary centers, senior centers, etc. to provide asthma education.

The subcommittee also discussed partnering with Clinical Asthma Management to host a one day asthma-related event, similar to the Respiratory Rally or a Living with Asthma Night, where education is provided to patients and providers.

Next conference call date is scheduled for Friday, December 12, 2008 at 1:30pm. Call in information is 1-800-270-1152, Participant Code 149408#. For more information contact Deloris Wilder at dwilder@wvseniorservices.gov or 558-3317.

School & Pediatrics Committee

In 2009, the School and Pediatrics subcommittee will continue their pilot project with school nurses in Raleigh County and Mt. Hope and Meadow Bridge School-Based Health Centers in an effort to decrease asthma-related absenteeism. In addition, the subcommittee is planning to develop and propose an Asthma Friendly Awards Program that will recognize West Virginia schools who are dedicated to creating healthy learning environment for students and staff.

The School & Pediatrics Subcommittee will continue their discussion on the proposal via email. If you would like to be included in the discussion and are currently not receiving emails, please contact Paula Fields at pfields@yahoo.com, 304-846-9729 or Jessica Isner at jisner@lunginfo.org, 304-342-6600.

Clinical Asthma Management Committee

The Clinical Asthma Management subcommittee is exploring ideas to develop and implement an outreach program to provide spirometry services to West Virginia federally qualified health centers thru partnerships with tertiary care centers. Utilizing these centers will also allow us to measure the effectiveness of the intervention via reporting from electronic patient registries and other electronic medical records. By measuring the effectiveness of the intervention, we hope to foster sustainability of the program; thus helping to improve asthma care in the state over the long-term.

For more information on the committee's priorities or interim meetings, please contact committee co-chairs Adam Baus at abaus@hsc.wvu.edu, 304-293-1083 or Heidi Putman-Casdorph at hputman@hsc.wvu.edu, 304-293-1775.

Data Sharing Committee

At the Fall Quarterly Meeting, the Data Committee discussed action items focusing on WVAC's priority area -- children. Those actions include a partnership with WV Department of Education regarding tracking of children with asthma and asthma action plans in schools. Also, the committee hopes to determine a process for learning about children with asthma whose care is paid for through Medicaid. The committee learned how the Health Plan is addressing asthma and reviewed a "Comparison of Questions in the Adult Asthma History Module and the Adult Asthma Call-Back Module."

For more information on the committee's priorities or interim meetings, please contact committee chair, Dr. Mary Emmett at mary.emmett@camc.org or 304-388-9914.

Environmental Action Committee

The subcommittee discussed the need to increase our partnerships with environmental groups such as Indoor Air, NIOSH, and the EPA. The committee would also like to work with the Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics ([AOEC](#)) which are located at Marshall and West Virginia Universities, who evaluate school and work-related illnesses or injury including work related asthma. We are developing a contact list at this time to facilitate this.

Submitted by: Cynthia Keely

For more information on the committee's priorities or interim meetings, please contact committee chair, Carrie Brainard at carriebrainard@wvdhhr.org, 304-275-3131.