



**WV Asthma Coalition Spring Quarterly Meeting**  
**May 5, 2009, 11am-3:30pm**  
**Embassy Suites, Charleston**

**In attendance:** Len Picha, Heidi Putman-Casdorph, Chantal Fields, Cathy Capps-Amburgey, Adam Baus, Trisha Petite, Jessica Isner, B. Lewis, Cynthia Keely, Angela Nell Stuart, Sharon Hill, Susan Aufdenkampe, Geff Bergh, Cecil Pollard, Marie Gravely, Gloria Umoh, Sandy Swisher, Jean Tenney, Jeni Wolfe, Joan Skaggs, Susie Criss, Colleen Roshau, Paula Fields, Becky King, Joe Barker, Beverly Campbell, Dixie Showalter, Dr. Mary Emmett, Georgia Narsavage, Chuck Menders, Dr. Stephen Sondike, Jessica Wright

**Jessica Isner, WV Asthma Coalition Manager**, opened the meeting with introductions and announcements.

**Announcements:**

- The WV Asthma Education & Prevention Program has finalized and submitted the five year competitive asthma grant application, including the completed WV Strategic Plan for Addressing Asthma 2010-2014, to the Center for Disease Control.
- The WV Asthma Education & Prevention Program will be hosting a free Asthma Educator Certification Test Prep Course in Charleston on May 14-15. For more information, visit [www.wvasthma.org](http://www.wvasthma.org).
- Camp Catch Your Breath (July 26-31) information may be obtained by calling the American Lung Association at (304) 342-6600.
- For information on Swine Flu, visit [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu)
- For more information on how the American Recovery Reinvestment Act of 2009 dollars are affecting health education in West Virginia, visit [www.recovery.wv.gov](http://www.recovery.wv.gov).

Subcommittees met to discuss activities planned for the 2009 year. Please see below for a brief summary of the subcommittees' discussions.

**Community Outreach & Education Committee**

The Community Outreach & Education committee plans to support six children for Camp Catch Your Breathe and five people to attend the Certified Asthma Educator Test Prep Course to be held May 14-15, 2009.

The committee is also designing a bookmark and/or magnet for distribution promoting the WV Asthma Coalition resource website.

**For more information contact Chair Deloris Wilder at [dwilder@wvseniorservices.gov](mailto:dwilder@wvseniorservices.gov) or 304-558-3317.**

### **School & Pediatrics Committee**

The School and Pediatrics committee continued working on 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. The project will end in June with a celebratory event for project participants. Data collected will be analyzed by WVU. In addition, the subcommittee discussed promotion of the Asthma Friendly Awards Program that will recognize West Virginia schools who are dedicated to creating a healthy learning environment for students and staff.

*For more information, please contact Chair Paula Fields at [pfields@yahoo.com](mailto:pfields@yahoo.com) or 304-846-9739.*

### **Clinical Asthma Management Committee**

The Clinical Asthma Management committee continued working on an outreach program to provide spirometry services to West Virginia federally qualified health centers through partnerships with tertiary care centers. Susan Aufdenkampe was available to share with the committee how she handled making the initial contacts and overall deployment of her Asthma Van initiatives at Camden-Clarke Memorial Hospital.

*For more information, please contact committee co-chairs Adam Baus at [abaus@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:abaus@hsc.wvu.edu), 304-293-1083 or Heidi Putman-Casdorph at [hputman@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:hputman@hsc.wvu.edu), 304-293-1775.*

### **Data Sharing Committee**

The Data Committee reported completing all of the goals set for 2009. Looking forward to 2010, the committee anticipates focusing on children, including obtaining WV-CHIP data and working with WVU/WV Department of Education with school absenteeism data.

*For more information, please contact committee chair, Dr. Mary Emmett at [mary.emmett@camc.org](mailto:mary.emmett@camc.org) or 304-388-9914.*

### **Environmental Action Committee**

The Environment committee discussed the possibility of a state air quality reporting system, promotion of radon test kits and further development the EPA's Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools program in WV schools.

*For more information, please contact WV Asthma Coalition manager, Jessica Isner at [jisner@lunginfo.org](mailto:jisner@lunginfo.org) or 304-342-6600.*

### **Lunch Presentation: Exertional Dyspnea in Obese Children—Is it Asthma?**

Dr. Stephen Sondike, Associate Professor at West Virginia University and Director of Adolescent and Cardiovascular Health with Charleston Area Medical Center, presented on the increasing obesity rates among children in West Virginia and the United States. A study led by Dr. Sondike found that many obese children, as well as adults, are told their weight is the cause of health problems without prescribing proper testing and evaluation. Dr. Sondike encourages providers to treat an obese patient who are experiencing asthma symptoms under the same standard of care as they would a lean patient.

### **Asthma Policy Discussion**

Facilitator Leslie Stone led the group in an exercise using the 2010-2014 Strategic Plan for Addressing Asthma in West Virginia. The Coalition was divided into the five goal areas found in the Plan and was asked to review policy initiatives relating to that goal area and brainstorm policy gaps that are not currently found in the plan. Once a policy issue was suggested, the group was asked to identify the audiences that must be addressed to move forward with the policy issue

and estimate a timeline for accomplishing each policy initiative. Each goal area group was given an opportunity to comment on each group's policy suggestions.

**Supporting Asthma Quality of Care: Focusing on New River Health Association's Asthma System of Care**

Adam Baus, along with Nell Stuart, from the West Virginia University Office of Health Services Research, addressed the WV Asthma Coalition on the CDEMS and asthma registry programs providing a basic overview of the benefits of the asthma registry and CDEMS program. Susie Criss with the New River Health Association shared her own clinic's experience with the asthma registry. Criss shared the positive results that the New River Health Association has had in the implementation of the registry and how they have improved outcomes of the patients they serve.

**Please mark your calendars: the next WVAC Quarterly meeting will take place as the Coalition's Annual Retreat on August 11-12, 2009 at the Bridgeport Conference Center in Bridgeport, WV.**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Jessica Isner.*