



West Virginia Asthma Coalition

Helping West Virginians with Asthma Breathe Easier

WV Asthma Coalition Winter Quarterly Meeting

February 12, 2009, 11am-3:30pm

Grande Point Conference Center, Parkersburg

In attendance: Len Picha, Shelly Rouse, Michelle Poland, Heidi Putman-Casdorph, Deloris Wilder, Amy Wenmoth, Cathy Capps-Amburgey, Adam Baus, Trisha Petite, Jessica Isner, Laura Tate, Cynthia Keely, Angela Nell Stuart, Sharon Hill, Priscah Mujuru, Geff Bergh, Cecil Pollard, Marie Gravely, Mike McCawley, Mark Miley, Rebecca Barnhart, Tadd Haynes, Dan Christy, Tom McCormick, Pat Kelly, Jeanne Chandler, Krista Capehart, Cindy Snyder

Cecil Pollard, WV Asthma Coalition President, opened the meeting with a greeting and introductions.

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 also plans to distribute an asthma calendar.

For more information contact Chair Deloris Wilder at 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. They brainstormed ideas to increase the rate of participants in the pilot study, including a partnership with MERCK. In addition, the subcommittee began discussing the criteria for the Asthma Friendly Awards Program that will recognize West Virginia schools who are dedicated to creating healthy learning environment for students and staff.

For more information, please contact Chair Paula Fields at 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 thru partnerships with tertiary care centers. The committee will be starting this pilot project at the health centers near CAMC. Permission has been given to work on site at these health centers once every 4 to 6 weeks. The committee is developing a "coordination package" that the group can use when approaching the health centers for participation. This package includes a description of the project, a list of the benefits of participating, and a check-off list of what to ask each site when assessing their need for the project. Over the course

of the next two weeks, our committee will hold a conference call to work on materials for this package. Concurrently, Adam will talk with Susan Aufdenkampe to learn about how she handled making the initial contacts and overall deployment of her Asthma Van at Camden-Clarke Memorial Hospital.

For more information, 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

The Data Committee reported tThe West Virginia asthma hospitalization rate has decreased for the 4th year in a row from 19.2 asthma hospitalizations per 100,000 people in 2002 to a rate of 14.7 per 100,000 in 2007. Our 2009 target (set by CDC) is a rate of 12.6 per 100,000.

AEPP will be collaborating with Heidi Putman-Casdorph (WVU School of Nursing) to begin analyzing the 2007 BRFSS Asthma Call-back Survey data. We are working on prioritizing analysis projects and welcome any suggestions or ideas. For additional information about the data or to share ideas, contact Sharon Hill (Epidemiologist, Sharon.K.Hill@wv.gov) or Laura Tate (Program Manager, Laura.R.Tate@wv.gov).

For more information, please contact committee chair, Dr. Mary Emmett at mary.emmett@camc.org or 304-388-9914.

Environmental Action Committee

The Environment committee discussed exploring opportunities (possibly through programming and/or advocacy) to assist flood victims to promote a mold-free living environment.

For more information, please contact committee chair, Dr. Mike McCawley at mmccawley@hsc.wvu.edu or 304-282-4470.

Lunch Presentation: Ultra-Fine Particles & Asthma

Dr. Michael McCawley presented on asthma in rural populations and ultra-fine air pollution exposure. McCawley discussed ultra-fine particles and how they affect the lungs, as well as past research on this topic. He is currently proposing a study focusing on asthma and ultra-fine particles in the Parkersburg and Point Pleasant regions. The study will follow 100 asthmatics that will keep a symptoms diary and will be administered pulmonary function testing. UFP monitoring, special size-selective sampling and animal testing of collected air samples are other components of this study.

Understanding Asthma: A Senior Perspective

Len Picha presented on Charleston Area Medical Center's project to educate senior citizens to reduce impairment and risk associated with asthma. The project impacts adult patients of the hospital with a primary or secondary diagnosis of asthma. Patients receive an asthma action plan prior to discharge, as well as asthma education and follow up visits. Information is tracked through a data registry system. The project also includes the development of a pulmonary handbook.

The Health Plan of The Upper Ohio Valley's Children with Asthma Project: Knowledge is Power/Kidz Taking Control

Shelly Rouse and Michelle Poland spoke on current initiatives by The Health Plan of the Upper Ohio Valley for their members with asthma. Michelle attended Camp Catch Your Breathe to learn about asthma education around the state. The Health Plan provided five scholarships for members to attend camp. The Health Plan will be sending letters to

members with asthma with a coupon urging them to visit their primary care provider. The provider will educate the member and return the coupon. Quality Improvement staff with The Health Plan will contact the member and send an asthma tool kit (including peak flow meter, spacer, book, bag) and an incentive. The member will then be enrolled into disease management, where their progress will be monitored and they will receive further education.

Announcements

- The next WVAC Quarterly meeting will take place Tuesday, May 5, 2009 in Charleston.
- Asthma Awareness Day at the Capitol will take place on Thursday, February 19th.
- 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.
- Cindy Snyder announced an opportunity for coalition members to access asthma, as well as other disease information through GlaxoSmithKline's website. For more information, contact Cindy at cindy.c.snyder@gsk.com.
- Jeanne Chandler with the WV Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Air Quality announced that most schools in WV have received anti idling signage; however, some schools have not yet posted the signs in the school bus loading/unloading zones. Jeanne asked if anyone visits a school that does not have the signage up to inquire and encourage school officials to post the signs.

Asthma ED Pilot Project Update presentation was canceled. The remaining time was allotted for subcommittees to continue activity planning.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jessica Isner.