



Local asthma coalition semi-annual reports

September 1, 2009 to February 28, 2010

Chippewa County Asthma Coalition

The Chippewa County Asthma Coalition (CCAC) holds monthly coalition meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 8:00am at the Chippewa County Department of Public Health in Chippewa Falls. The previous chair, Linda Lorentz, retired from Chippewa County Public Health. Jennifer Lenbom, R.N. is the new lead for the CCAC. She is a Public Health Nurse with Chippewa County Public Health. She previously coordinated the Chippewa Valley Tobacco-Free Coalition.

Asthma 101: Preliminary activities for the implementation of the ALA/W's *Asthma 101* program have been completed. The program will be implemented on March 17, 2010 for approximately 24 Chippewa Falls Head Start staff.

CCAC membership recruitment: Coalition information was presented to Dr. Ebert, a local pulmonologist, who has now joined the coalition. Information also was shared with the Chippewa Valley Tobacco-Free Coalition with an invitation to join CCAC. Tom Thorsness, Group Health Eau Claire, has also expressed interested in joining CCAC after learning about the coalition at the WAC fall meeting.

Community Asthma Network

The Community Asthma Network (CAN), serving the West Allis-West Milwaukee community, met on February 9th, 2010 for the first meeting this grant year. The goals and timelines were set to meet monthly until June to accomplish these goals.

Two preschool/daycare programs were completed on February 15th, 2010 by presenting the *Asthma 101* program for Kindercare and educating 150 participants in two groups of 75 people. Community education took place at the Women's Expo on February 27th, 2010.

A work group is being formed to update the local work plan. CAN is also collecting Head Start surveillance data.

Dane County Asthma Coalition

The goal for the Dane County Asthma Coalition (DCAC) is that "Members of the DCAC will offer an asthma education program to childcare providers who care for children in Dane County." The Childcare Provider Asthma Education Program will be implemented by using the *Asthma 101* program.

The DCAC Education Committee has been meeting on a regular basis regarding implementation. Thirteen DCAC members have completed the required *Asthma 101* training. One childcare provider education session is scheduled.

The DCAC is planning a special childcare provider evening asthma education session with dinner included for a World Asthma Day event. This will be co-sponsored by American Family Children's Hospital. Childcare providers who work with lower socioeconomic populations will be targeted.

Fond du Lac Asthma Management Coalition

The Fond du Lac Asthma Management Coalition (FdLAMC) once again partnered with Agnesian HealthCare, for the annual Kids' Expo, held on October 24, 2009. This community-wide health promotion event was attended by over 700 people, and approximately 250 stopped by the FdLAMC booth. The focus of the FdLAMC booth was the importance of seasonal/H1N1 influenza vaccinations and how this is especially relevant for those affected by asthma and other lung diseases. Coalition staff spoke with attendees and had several handouts to take home. Two additional schools in the district are completing the EPA Tools for Schools (TfS) program this year. Current TfS schools were sent reminder letters at the start of the school year regarding what being a TfS school means for indoor air quality. The fall issue of the Asthma and Allergy Information Resources (AAIR) newsletter was distributed in early December and a second issue is in process. FdLAMC is current working on plans for an *Asthma 101* training.

FdLAMC has had several meetings with the NEW Air Coalition to discuss the possibility of merging the two coalitions. Several areas of over-lap were identified as well as several areas with different focuses. The most likely scenario includes continuing to meet separately, with an occasional joint meeting. FdLAMC will share printed articles and information when appropriate for targeted audiences. Neither coalition has been successful in increasing active membership participation.

Fox Valley Asthma Coalition

The Fox Valley Asthma Coalition provided training on the *Asthma Care Fax* for 33 clinicians (three pharmacists, 4 RPh, two pharmacy managers, one physician, eight pharmacy technicians and 10 nurse practitioners). Training was provided in a group educational setting as well as one-on-one training. Both pharmacy staff and primary care staff need to learn about the form as it is sent to primary care from the pharmacist. The primary care office uses the information to work with their patient to improve his/her asthma management.

Green Bay Area Asthma Coalition

The Green Bay Area Asthma Coalition (GBAAC) has not met. Several E-mails were sent to bring members together with limited response. Due to demands within his office the coalition coordinator has stepped down from this role. A final E-mail was sent to the coalition members about how to move forward, but only one response was received.

The Alliance has scheduled a meeting with the coalition chair, James Warpinski, MD, to strategize who will coordinate the coalition and how to move forward and regain enthusiasm.

La Crosse Partners

Todd Mahr, MD, Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center, serves as the chair of the La Crosse Partners (LP). Jackie Schroeder, RRT, Gundersen Lutheran is the coalition coordinator. The LP has met three times to discuss current projects and brainstorm potential venues for education. The coalition will work on a recruitment plan this spring.

PUSH program. The goal of the **Post Urgent-care aStHma** program (PUSH) program is to replicate the Dane County emergency department program in the urgent care setting. Patients seen in urgent care clinics will be discharged with an action plan, an appropriate controller medication voucher or sample, and encouraged to follow-up with primary provider. The core team met in October 2009 to design the concept, discuss the background of the Dane County model, review La Crosse's unique situation and agree on the scope of the issue and how to track for improvement. After a December meeting, the team has continued conversations via E-mail to review the PUSH algorithm and plan.

Participating patients will need to sign a consent form to be entered into the program. This form is currently being drafted.

The coalition will provide education to providers about the program at both Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center and Franciscan Skemp Health Care once all the components are in place. The program will go through the expedited Internal Review Board so results may be published in the future.

The anticipated start date for the program is April 2010.

Marathon County Asthma Coalition

The goals for the Marathon County Asthma Coalition (MCAC) include:

1. Create a local asthma action plan based on the Wisconsin Asthma Plan (WAP) by January 2010.
2. Facilitate meetings and activities of the Marathon County Asthma Coalition.
3. Provide asthma education and smoking cessation information to the Family Visitors of the StartRight program.

Update local work plan. MCAC completed the 2009-14 work plan at the December 16, 2009 meeting. The WAP was used as a guide in the writing of the work plan. It was agreed that as a coalition, the work plan would be reviewed on a regular basis as activities are planned. Work plan updates will be made as needed.

Coalition coordination. The MCAC met in October and December 2009. Due to the response of the health department to H1N1, the coalition coordinators were unable to accomplish anything additional for this objective.

Reducing secondhand smoke in the home. The MCAC will train Family Visitors of the StartRight program on *Asthma 101* and the five A's of tobacco treatment on April 12, 2010. Progress on this objective has been delayed due to coalition members' response to H1N1.

Tobacco Free Coalition of Wood County

The Tobacco Free Coalition of Wood County (TFCWC) has been in existence for over eight years. The coalition has created a subcommittee that is focused on asthma. The goals for the TFCWC include:

1. Updating the strategic plan for the TFCWC to include asthma as a priority.
2. Assessing the strengths and needs of area schools and providing them with opportunities to strengthen weaknesses, gaps and barriers related to asthma.

Strategic plan. The TFCWC work plan has been updated to include strategic planning for the asthma sub-committee.

School needs assessment. All the schools in Wood County have been assessed using the How Asthma Friendly is Your School? questionnaire from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute.

School implementation activities. The TFCWC coordinator has received the *Asthma 101* training from ALA/W. The Breathe Well, Live Well program has not been offered. The coalition coordinator met with each of the schools to discuss the needs assessment and potential next steps. Individual work plans are being created for each school.

Trempealeau County Asthma Coalition

The goal for Trempealeau County was to establish a new local coalition and to create a local work plan. A small work group was convened to plan the first meeting and identify potential members. The first meeting of the Trempealeau County Asthma Coalition (TCAC) was on November 25, 2009. The members in attendance at the November 25, 2009 meeting were oriented on the Alliance, WAC and the WAP by Kristen Grimes, MAOM, CHES. Members received a copy of the WAP. Attendees also received a brief overview of the TCAC grant proposal. The ten people who attended agreed to be members of the TCAC. The TCAC will plan to meet monthly. The second meeting of the TCAC was on January 13, 2010.

The mission statement of the TCAC is: *To improve the quality of asthma education, prevention, management, and services in Trempealeau County.* Education was identified as the priority area consistent with the WAP. The community needs identified included: education for parents, patients and school staff persons; continuity of care; environmental triggers; inhaler use.

TCAC members identified individuals/organizations whose participation would strengthen the coalition: media, employers, environmental health specialists, WIC dieticians, summer park/recreation directors. Other people identified at the second meeting were: school nurses, local clinic doctors and nurses, nursing home directors, and community members.

Identification of priority areas/unmet needs for the local asthma work plan began at the second meeting in January, 2010.

- Who: Parents of children who have asthma
- What: Asthma control and management with some outreach on screening for asthma using the Asthma Control Test (ACT)
- Where: county schools
- When and how often:
 1. The Western Dairyland Head Start has "Child Development Days" scheduled (Pigeon Falls on February 13, 2010 and Blair-Taylor on February 4, 2010). At the Blair-Taylor event, a poster was displayed with asthma information and the ACT available for parents to fill out. There are other yearly Child Development Days not yet scheduled in the following towns/cities: Eleva, Strum, Arcadia and Independence.
 2. School registration days
 3. Parent/teacher conferences

Barriers encountered, resolution:

A number of the coalitions experienced a delay in accomplishing activities due to the H1N1 pandemic occupying excessive amounts of public health time. The coalitions affected by this most include the Community Asthma Network, Marathon County Asthma Coalition, Tobacco Free Coalition of Wood County and Trempealeau County Asthma Coalition. As immunization clinics come to a close, public health staff will be able to resume their work and catch up on proposed activities.

The Green Bay Area Asthma Coalition (GBAAC) has encountered ongoing struggles due to the political climate between the four major hospital systems in Green Bay. The GBAAC has overcome these barriers in the past, but there seems to be new frustration among members in regard to a growing Medicaid population's decreased access to care.

The La Crosse Partners intends to utilize medication vouchers to assist patients in medication costs as a way to increase adherence. The coalition received vouchers from AstraZeneca for Symbicort, but the GlaxoSmithKline vouchers expired 12/31/2009. It did not appear that there would be any vouchers available for 2010. The coalition eventually found the right national contact at GlaxoSmithKline, resulting in a review of the program. The company agreed to provide vouchers, for delivery in mid-March, 2010.

The Tobacco Free Coalition of Wood County experienced barriers in coalition building. The local hospital is unwilling to become involved in any work being done surrounding the topic of asthma. Contact was made with the Health Promotion Coordinator and the Respiratory Therapy Department with no success. The department feels there isn't anyone to assist in any capacity. This has not been resolved. However, the Alliance has provided additional contacts from Wood County that have been involved with WAC and may be interested in assisting with TFCWC activities.

Many challenges have been identified with all schools. Nurses and administration are all supportive of education for students, staff and families, yet all were unsure of the best way to do it. Educational sessions have been offered in the past for staff and parents, with little or no attendance. Newsletters and/or flyers are an acceptable way to send information home, yet each school was unsure if parents would even read the information. Family nights are held in most schools. Some of the schools are interested in having educational information presented, but said give-a-ways would be needed to draw families.

Education for staff is challenging also. Staff is informed on a need-to-know basis. Nursing hours are very limited, so education to other staff is limited. When it has been offered, no one shows up. Comments were that they can't get paid for it, so they don't stick around.

All schools said doing education with the kids would be the most effective. Most kids seem to take their own asthma meds without assistance from anyone, or the assistance comes from an older sibling. Educating the students seemed to be the best option in most schools.

The Alliance has provided contacts and linkages with other local asthma coalitions who have had success within schools. Additional contacts were provided on existing fact sheets and resources that could be replicated.

The Trempealeau County Asthma Coalition grant manager and meeting facilitator resigned to accept a position with another county. A new coordinator has been identified and has continued coordination.