



Local asthma coalition mini-grant semi-annual report

March 1, 2010 to August 31, 2010

Local asthma coalition mini-grants are administered by the Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin through a contract from Wisconsin Department of Health Services (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cooperative agreement).

This report summarizes how each of the local coalition recipients met the goals and objectives in their mini-grant. All of the local asthma coalitions complete amazing work above and beyond activities funded the mini-grants.

Chippewa County Asthma Coalition (CCAC)

CCAC hosted two ALA *Asthma 101* trainings. One was held with 21 Head Start staff and the other was held with eight Chippewa County public health and home care staff. Attendants of both trainings were receptive to the information presented. The evaluations showed:

Chippewa Falls Head Start: 100 % were very satisfied with the amount of information received in the program, the quality of information received, the organization of the program. Overall, 83% were very satisfied with the program.

Chippewa County Public Health & Health Care: A total of 75% were very satisfied with the organization of the program, the relevance of the program to their work, and increased knowledge in working with children with asthma. A total of 87.5% were satisfied with the materials provided. Overall, 87.5% were very satisfied with the program.

In addition, the CCAC engaged Dr. Ebert, Marshfield Clinic, by involving the Open Door Clinic with the 2010-11 grant objectives of using the Asthma Control Test (ACT) with patients. Many uninsured Chippewa County residents utilize the Open Door Clinic as a medical home. By utilizing the ACT form clients with asthma may have increased management of their disease.

Tom Thorsness, Group Health, has been engaged by presenting data to the CCAC about their insurance program data and how to utilize this collection of data to show the need for continued asthma education and community awareness of the disease.

Jenny Lenbom, CCAC coordinator, attended a Health Watch meeting on May 11, 2010. Health Watch is a means for families with children with special health care needs to link with service providers to help identify and address issues. Jenny explained the work and goals of the Chippewa County Asthma Coalition and encouraged participation in the coalition.

Community Asthma Network (CAN)

The Community Asthma Network has expanded the local asthma work plan to encompass all residents divided into four definitive age groups:

- Preschool children and asthma (aged 0-5) WIC and Head Start populations.
- School-aged children (aged 5 to 19) WAWM School District and private schools.

- Adult population (aged 19 to 64) work-related asthma issues and teaching and daily living triggers and asthma.
- Older adult population (aged 64+) in the senior population, senior living centers, and senior centers in West Allis and West Milwaukee.

Asthma 101 trainings were held with 150 Kindercare participants, 12 directors from Mary Linsmeier Schools, and 75 participants from the West Allis/West Milwaukee School District. Most scores were 1-2 as being very to somewhat satisfied with the program and comments were positive. No further suggestions were made for change of any materials or change in our presentation. Participants asked lots of questions.

CAN currently has about 325 to 350 members recruited, far surpassing the goal of a 10% membership increase. The board continues to move forward with our newest members to further define the vision, mission, goals and guide the coalition in strategic planning.

CAN has increased its organizational affiliations to include UW-Milwaukee School of Nursing; Milwaukee School of Engineering, School of Nursing; Marquette School of Nursing; West Allis Memorial Hospital; Silver Spring Neighborhood Community Center; 16th Street Clinic Latino Fair; Red Cliff Community Health Center Bayfield, WI Indian Reservation; West Allis Fire Department; senior living apartments; YMCA of Greenfield; Kindercare of Southeastern WI; West Allis/West Milwaukee Recreation Department; Mary Linsmeier Schools; School Aged Parent Program; Breastfeeding Coalition; and Mommy and Me Program.

In addition, CAN has collected asthma data from a variety of sources that further support the work in the community. In 2009 the West Allis Fire Department reported responding to a total of 30 asthma incidents. In 2009 the three zip codes that are found in West Allis (53214, 53219, 53227), but also partially the surrounding communities, had 179 asthma hospitalizations (2.8 per 1,000 population), with the highest numbers for persons under 18 (3.8 per 1,000) and over 65 (4.7 per 1,000). This seems to indicate a need to target asthma efforts on children and seniors 65+.

The number of students with asthma in the West Allis-West Milwaukee School District have increased from 829 students (2007-2008), to 1047 students (2008-2009) to 1123 students for the 2009-2010 school year (12.6% of students, 2009-2010). The number of students has remained the same at an estimated 9000 students per year. This confirms the need to offer *Asthma 101* to the nurses, teachers and coaches throughout the district.

CAN has been successful in growing community affiliations this last year to expand projects and vision. Can is proud of it's new website: www.communityasthmanetwork.org.

Dane County Asthma Coalition (DCAC)

The DCAC implemented a total of three *Asthma 101* programs with 50 child care center staff from six centers. Over the past year, DCAC interested members were trained by ALA/W personnel in the *Asthma 101* program. Members who could not attend the training will set up or have set up individual training sessions.

Students from other health care disciplines also were involved in the *Asthma 101* presentations to encourage service to the community.

Val Schend developed her role as coordinator of the childcare asthma education program. She provided outreach to community childcare centers via letters, phone calls and web registry. She coordinated the DCAC's World Asthma Day event for childcare providers. *Asthma 101* was presented at American Family Children's Hospital with Dr. Chris Healy as the featured speaker. Twenty-one childcare providers attended this program all of whom were from "at risk" sites.

Fond du Lac Asthma Management Coalition (FdLAMC)

FdLAMC had several meetings with the NEW Air Coalition to discuss the possibility of merging. The local tobacco coalition also is involved with both the FdLAMC and NEW air coalitions. Several strong areas of over-lap were identified as well as several areas where the focus was quite different. A joint "situation statement" about Fond du Lac County air quality is in the works, the purpose of which is to give the larger group a platform for talking to varied groups and possibly applying for future grant monies. The most likely scenario of "merging" includes continuing to meet separately but also meeting together on an occasional/as needed basis. Print articles and information will also be shared when appropriate. The coalitions collaborated on several of the monthly NEW Air Healthy Air Tips. These tips also were included in the AAIR newsletters.

An *Asthma 101* program was advertised to all 4K/daycare sites in the district. The program was presented in April to nine participants.

Annually a presentation is made to all coaches and physical education staff on exercising and asthma. They also are trained on metered dose inhaler procedures and peak flow measurements if a student that they are working with has asthma.

Four students were referred to the school nurse asthma referral program. Gym teachers referred the students to their school nurse, who then followed up with the student, family and physician.

Two additional schools were chosen for the EPA *Tools for Schools (TfS)* program. Staff at current TfS schools received reminder letters at the start of the school year about what being a TfS school means for indoor air quality. Assessments were completed by staff at the two new schools. The school health and safety coordinator along with the building and grounds coordinator worked with the school nurse and school administrators to follow-up on identified concerns and developed a strategy to address these concerns. One of the schools has completed follow-up. The second school is scheduled to complete follow-up in the 2010-2011 school year.

From the 2010 Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug and Health Practice Survey of 8th, 10th and 11th grade students (1,265 (84%) respondents), 77% report that smoking is NOT permitted in their home at all. This has significantly increased since 2002 (66%). Strategies that are implemented are done in partnership with the Fond du Lac County Health Department. The Life-Skills curriculum delivered to all students 3rd – 8th grade along with the smoke-free campaign has influenced this statistical decrease along with community and state smoke-free policies.

Fox Valley Asthma Coalition (FVAC)

FVAC has presented the *Asthma Care Fax* and *Asthma Control Test (ACT)* to members of all the pharmacy chains in the Fox Valley area. In addition, the coalition also presented to primary care clinicians regarding the guidelines, *Asthma Care Fax* and *ACT*. FVAC presented to 10 Marian College nurse practitioner students and instructors on opportunities in the FVAC, EPR-3 guidelines and *Asthma Care Fax*. Additional presentations to promote use of EPR-3 and the coalition were completed with 14 Thedacare nurses and Appleton school nurses.

FVAC again hosted a booth at three YMCA Healthy Kids days reaching approximately 425 families who stopped by the FVAC table. Spirometry screenings were provided by volunteers for 80 individuals and FVAC members provided asthma education to all families.

Two *Rx for Change* programs were presented by a certified smoking cessation counselor, for a total of 19 participants, including occupational health nurses and pharmacists. Attendees were motivated to assisting patients to quit smoking.

Green Bay Area Asthma Coalition (GBAAC)

GBAAC held its half-day asthma camp on August 13, 2010 with 14 campers and two junior camp counselors. The camp also included a high school cross country team and their coach as two members of the team have asthma. Participants were asthmatics from ages 8-12 years and were encouraged to bring a friend. Friend or family member attendance showed support and encouraged campers to be able to participate. It also educated the family or friend about the camper's asthma. The use of junior counselors were helpful in being able to relate to the participants and provide helpful tips on how to deal with problems and encouragement to participate in sports. The camp was well received.

La Crosse Partners (LP)

The LP have met quarterly, and have also been able to hold numerous educational programs throughout the La Crosse area. LP has completed educational programs at various schools, both elementary, and secondary schools. LP also has provided continued education to the area school nurses. A community education and an asthma screening (supported by outside dollars) were offered at the children's museum.

LP met numerous times to discuss the urgent care project, Post Urgent-care aStHma Program (PUSH), and agreed on the scope of the issues, the desire to track progress and get Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval for potential future publication. Once LP overcame the barriers (see below), LP began education to the various departments impacted. LP started later than planned "in the urgent care" area, but will continue recruitment for the PUSH program through the end of 2010.

Marathon County Asthma Coalition (MCAC)

Over the course of a few months, MCAC developed the 2009-14 Action Plan based on the *Wisconsin Asthma Plan 2009-2014*. There are three areas of focus; Standardized Quality of Care, Education, and Environment.

The MCAC is scheduled to meet six times per year (even months). During this grant period, the coalition met four times in person (October 2009, February 2010, April 2010, June 2010). In between meetings the coalition worked together via E-mail. A H1N1 and asthma press release was developed with Dr. David Edmondson's assistance. Research on the number of asthma patients was collected for the following: Aspirus Clinics, Aspirus Emergency Dept., Ministry Clinics, and St. Clare's Emergency Dept. The Coalition also developed a presentation on asthma and secondhand smoke.

Members of the MCAC met with 18 Family Visitors on May 17, 2010. Information and resources were provided on the topics of asthma, secondhand smoke, and smoking cessation. Family Visitors (employees of Children's Service Society of Wisconsin) work closely with the Marathon County Health Department public health nurses to provide in-home health teaching, referral and resources to families of infants and young children through the collaborative program known as *StartRight*. As a result of this meeting, Family Visitors are better equipped to help families deal with asthma and smoking cessation.

A new relationship between the MCAC and the Family Visitors has developed. The coalition is being used as a resource among the Family Visitors, and this relationship will continue into the future. Family Visitors reach many families and they are a trusted source of information in the community.

Trempealeau County Asthma Coalition (TCAC)

A total of eight TCAC meetings were conducted throughout the year to get this new coalition established. A new chairperson was identified and has continued with developing and facilitating coalition activities. TCAC members identified individuals/organizations whose participation would strengthen the coalition: county media providers (newspapers, radio stations, and television), employers, environmental health specialists, WIC dieticians, summer

park/recreation directors. Other people identified at the second meeting were county: school nurses, health clinic doctors and nurses, nursing home directors, and residents who support our mission.

County pediatricians and school nurses reported that education in asthma prevention and management for personnel, parents of children with asthma, and adult asthmatics is greatly needed. The priority area identified was education of parents of children who have asthma.

Education on asthma was provided at: five child development days, three other public county events (including the county fair), and athlete and parent meetings at four county school districts. *Asthma 101* was presented to personnel of two child care centers.

The coalition has an excellent capacity to carry out its mission. Members include a pediatrician, respiratory therapist, nurse practitioner, school nurse, WIC program director, Head Start manager, two public health nurses, and community members with asthma experience. The members are able to provide knowledge, education, and consultation, and aid in identifying families' needs. The external resources in the county include five healthcare clinics and three hospitals, whose medical personnel can provide asthma screening, education, and management. An environmental health specialist provides knowledge of health hazards that may be asthma triggers. Other resources include the WAC, ALA/W and EPA.

Members are committed to furthering their education to enhance the coalition's purpose. Two members have become certified to be able to present the American Lung Association's *Asthma 101*, and completed the "Allergist Outreach: Asthma Update on the New Guidelines" Webinar. Members have kept up-to-date on asthma topics by attending the biannual WAC meetings, and by one member attending the EPA National Asthma Forum. The information gathered at the meetings is shared with the other coalition members.

Tobacco Free Coalition of Wood County

The strategic plan for the Tobacco Free Coalition was updated to include asthma as a priority. A workgroup was formed with membership from the school nurses of the targeted schools. Other members who were sought out were from the local hospital.

The strengths and needs in targeted schools were assessed. Nekoosa, Mead, Grove and Howe schools had similar needs with Port Edwards and Marshfield feeling they were fairly satisfied with what was being offered in their schools. The other schools saw gaps in education for students, staff and parents. The workgroup chose to start with the parents and then follow with the students and finally the staff. A newsletter was developed for parents, which was sent to all families with asthmatic children in those schools. A display board was created to be used at all events and/or activities where families/parents will be present. The display board, with a nurse present to talk with the parents, will be used to help educate the families during the school year. The staff will be educated using the *Asthma 101* program. Staff will be working with the nurses to see if those can be set up at the start of the 2010-2011 school year.

Barriers/issues encountered:

The CCAC was unable to attain partnership from any new parents from the Health Watch meeting. None of the parents in attendance had children with asthma, and they need to focus their attention to the other needs of their children. However, the service providers that were in attendance now are aware of CCAC.

The CCAC will continue to try to recruit parents of children with asthma to expand our coalition. Two other very involved new members joined the coalition and are actively engaged.

DCAC encountered the following barriers:

- Childcare providers are interested in the asthma education but have limited time to attend presentations.
- No reimbursement (financially) is available from employers for attendance at educational programs.
- Presentations must be given after work time – when childcare providers are tired and anxious to get home where they have their own children awaiting care.
- Marketing of the *Asthma 101* program in the community: many centers are independent.

To overcome these barriers, DCAC members/volunteers provided childcare services for attendees at the *Asthma 101* program presented at American Family Children's Hospital for World Asthma Day where asthma research volunteers provided childcare for 13 children (ages 1-12). A light dinner snack for attendees (and their children) also was donated to encourage childcare staff to attend after work hours. Transportation also was provided for attendees through an outside funding source.

Neither NEW Air nor the FdLAMC has been successful in increasing active membership participation. The coalition is still working to overcome this barrier.

FVAC was unable to reach their goal of six *Asthma 101* programs due to an unusual lack of requests. Two programs were offered and reported on in the first half of the grant year. FVAC also encountered barriers regarding the *Asthma Care Fax* and *ACT* in gaining enthusiasm for adding another task to their busy days. FVAC does not have paid staff to complete the work of the coalition, therefore making it difficult to secure enough volunteers to complete coalition activities. FVAC also encountered a snow storm for the second *Rx for Change* program, resulting in lower attendance.

FVAC has met with the Appleton school nurses to share available programs, but the nurses are spread thinner than in past years. The coalition plans to continue follow-up. FVAC noted that younger pharmacists tend to be more receptive to the *Asthma Care Fax* and *ACT* as there is a desire to engage in more clinical opportunities. The incoming president of the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin (PSW) joined FVAC to present on how pharmacists can make a difference in the health of the community.

GBAAC encountered difficulties in marketing the asthma camp to increase attendance. GBAAC posted an ad in the newspaper to market the asthma camp.

The LP originally planned to have vouchers for Symbicort and Advair to provide to patients enrolled in the PUSH project. Advair vouchers were removed from market soon after PUSH grant started. LP entered into negotiations with GlaxoSmithKline, which took some time to go through the proper channels to get Advair vouchers produced. LP also encountered issues with getting IRB approval from both institutions (GLMC & FSH). This just took extra time and getting all the paperwork submitted to the proper committees.

MCAC has only six active coalition members. All six of these members are either health care professionals or tied to the healthcare field. Member diversity would provide the coalition more flexibility. MCAC also struggled to identify and secure a training date with the Family Resource Center. MCAC was able to incorporate the issue of asthma into the H1N1 activities with success. The coalition has acquired a new member who is a school nurse (also tied to the healthcare field), who will represent a new population. MCAC was persistent in setting up the training with the Family Resource Center, and was able to complete it.

The TCAC meetings were attended by a core group of four to five members. County school nurses, athletic program directors, coaches, and physical education and health teachers were invited to join the coalition via E-mail. No interest was shown from the athletic program directors, coaches, or physical education and health teachers. Late in the grant year some county school nurses expressed an interest in joining the coalition, but stated that during the school year they were unable to attend the meetings because they are held during the noon hour. The TCAC members who are unable to attend meetings were kept informed of the coalition's activities by sending the meeting agendas and minutes via E-mail. Prior to the first meeting in the upcoming school and grant year, members will be asked if they can attend at a later meeting time.

A challenge for the Tobacco Free Coalition of Wood County included coalition building. The local hospital, Riverview Hospital in Wisconsin Rapids, is unwilling to become involved in any work being done on asthma. Contact was made with the health promotion coordinator and the respiratory therapy department with no success. They were unsure if they would have anyone able to assist in any capacity. Staff of the Tobacco Free Coalition of Wood County worked with the nurses in each of the schools. Overall, the nurses were very easy to work with and willing to assist with achieving the goals.

The Tobacco Free Coalition of Wood County encountered many, many barriers that needed to be worked through in the schools. Finding an appropriate time or place to educate parents was a huge challenge for each school. All schools had tried various ways to educate them, with little to no success. Educating the children also was a challenge. No one wants to pull the kids out of class and take time away from core programming, so education needs to happen outside the classroom. The staff also were a challenge. Staff have minimal training related to asthma, yet when programs have been offered in the past, they have not attended because they cannot get paid. Staff continues with administration at each of the schools to see if something can be worked out.

Staff of the Tobacco Free Coalition of Wood County worked with a nurse at each school to determine the best way to educate each group. Compromises were made, but selected avenues will insure each will receive education throughout the school year. Nurses understood the need and urgency and were very willing to help.

Pieces of this grant will continue throughout this school year and in years following beyond this funding. Many educational tools were offered to the nurses who were excited to use them. So, even though there were many roadblocks along the way, a lot of progress was made.