

Iowa Asthma Coalition Meeting Notes  
May 21, 2008

Present:

Christy Leibundguth, ALA, Joann Muldoon, IDPH; Mindy Kralicek, DNR; Kathleen Gradoville, IHS; Don Shepherd, Carol Hinton, IDPH; Andrea Hoffman, IDPH.

Teleconferenced: Dawn Voss, Wellmark; Matt Lazear, Merck Pharmaceuticals.

Guest: Gaela Wilson

1. Introductions - Christy
2. Update on State Asthma Action Plan-
  - a. Education- Dawn Voss and Christy Leibundguth reported on their progress in presenting the new NHLBI guidelines. The Asthma Outreach Program ends on June 30, 2008, to primary care clinics. At their presentation Monday evening, May 19, four physicians and ten nurses attended. They said it went well and that the materials from the NHLBI had been improved over previous years.
  - b. Surveillance - Joann Muldoon shared a draft report showing statistics and trends for hospitalization rates from 1995-2006 of Iowans broken down by age and county. The number in Polk County is higher than expected based on previous years and will be further scrutinized. The adult report is now on the website along with the PowerPoint.
  - c. The 2007 BRFSS data is now in. The results showed a slight increase. Don Shepherd distributed a draft showing this data and data from the 2006 callback survey related to Healthy Iowan goals.
3. Newsletter Update - Gaela Wilson presented an overview of the quarterly newsletter including some suggestions on how to streamline the process and adjust the schedule and content to most effectively support the efforts of the coalition. The group discussed ideas on how to identify critical dates throughout the year so an editorial/promotional and production calendar could be developed as well as identifying target groups such as school nurses, licensed day care providers, and the medical community, that could be reached through a list serve.

The group also discussed upcoming events such as the back to school nurse and pediatric physicians' conferences which would be great opportunities to inform attendees about training programs like the Young and the Breathless or Asthma 101. There are also some chronic disease management programs put on through the department of elder affairs where the NHLBI guidelines could be presented.

The members of the group are going to send Christy a list of contacts and events. The next newsletter will be moved up to July so that it's in sync with getting the message out in time for back-to-school preparations and fall events.

4. Air Quality - Mindy Kralicek updated the group on the results of the air quality report and the plans to reduce particle pollution in Muscatine and Scott Counties. She explained how the grading systems for the EPA and ALA are different from one another and can seem contradictory. She also brought up the concern over schools and licensed child care providers being notified when the air quality is poor for children.
5. Tobacco Update - Andrea reported that a draft is being prepared for the Iowa Administrative Code relating to the implementation of the smoke-free air law that goes into effect July 1, 2008. If you want to comment on it, you can request a copy by e-mail and they will send it to you.

may be requested by contacting: Brent Saron.

6. Asthma Control Program - Andrea shared press releases that were distributed in May reflecting the data on hospitalization rates and the resulting savings of \$9.2 million in hospital costs in Iowa.

7. Athletes and Asthma- Christy reported that the "Athletes and Asthma- The Role of the Coach" Program that was held by the ALA in conjunction with World Asthma Day went very well. There were about 20 attendees. The ALA worked in partnership with the Iowa High School Athletic Association. This prompted discussion on pursuing other similar groups and train-the-trainer opportunities.

8. Progress Report - Christy gave an overview of member involvement, partnerships and sustainability of the coalition. The Open Airways for Schools is wrapping up for the year and she is going to pursue a similar grant next year.

Upcoming quarterly meetings will be held at the ALA office from 1-2:30 on:

- August 20, 2008
- November 19, 2008
- February 18, 2009.