

Maine Asthma Council
Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2010
Maine Center for Public Health

Members Present: Dwight Littlefield, John Chandler, RuthAnne Spence, Eric Frohberg, Christy Crocker, Stirling Kendall, Desi-Rae Severson, Roni Boucher, Carry Buterbaugh, Lee Gilman, Gail Boaz

Via Phone: Rhonda Vosmus

Guest: Colleen Ludwig - Intern

Introductions

Stirling welcomed everyone and introductions were made around the table. Rhonda Vosmus thanked the asthma program for donating flipcharts and guidelines to her conference.

Announcements

Christy Crocker announced the Maine Indoor Air Quality Council is presenting the Business Case for Managing Asthma at their annual business meeting on June 25th. She encouraged all council members to register and attend. Lee Gilman had a successful Asthma Educators Institute at the end of May. They are now networking into New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. The COPD Educators Institute will be held in the fall. Rhonda Vosmus said the American Academy of Pediatrics project in 12 sites across the state is half-way through the collaborative. They are now focusing on sustaining the work. She has been in contact with Dr. Walters in Calais. Dr Walters has received a National Institute of Health grant on how they can use to AAP messages in their communities. GlaxoSmithKlein would like to do an evening dinner lecture and Rhonda is looking for contacts in Calais to facilitate this dinner lecture. John Chandler suggested adding Martha Webster to that talk and Martha could speak to the fires in Canada and the fact that Calais may be getting more particulate monitoring from the DEP. Dwight Littlefield noted that Public Health Nursing has nurses scattered around the State and the Electronic Medical Record they are using has been updated to capture more asthma information. Dwight also mentioned there are two nurses who work out of the Calais DHHS office.

Program Manager Update

Stirling Kendall explained that the program is looking for a candidate who was an expert in partnership/collaborative building as well as Federal reporting on the programs Grant. The program has offered the position to a strong candidate and the program was in the process of finalizing the hiring. Stirling indicated that August 12th at Maple Hill Farm the program will be hosting a meet and greet for the new Manager and this time will also be used to express appreciation to council members and to strategize the direction of the program. This is an opportunity for partners to give program input.

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State Plan Review

The Programs project officer Mr. Coil from CDC wanted the economic impact of asthma to be more reflected in the statewide plan. Carry Buterbaugh explained that the asthma cost calculator will be available towards the end of summer. The council reviewed the plan and made certain changes that are reflected clearly in the attached rev. *Statewide Maine Asthma Plan*.

Evaluation

Carry Buterbaugh quickly summarized the results of the Council satisfaction survey. There was discussion surrounding the separation of the council from the program. Dwight Littlefield and Lee Gilman clarified that the Maine Asthma Program is a member of the Maine Asthma Council and the councils role is to guide the programs work.

Workplaces Update

Desi-Rae Severson reported that the workplaces group was in the process of developing an informational brochure regarding occupational asthma for employers using the ARC Business Case as a guideline. The group has also conducted a small survey of the informational brochures that other states have generated. The group has picked a few pieces that they are going to use to create a hybrid informational brochure for employees.

Homes Update

Desi-Rae Severson reported that the Homes group was not able to meet in May due to many scheduling conflicts, but the Healthy Homes Training Collaborative is still scheduled for 2011 locations have been set as well as an agenda for the trainings. The training will vary from region to region to address the needs of those particular areas of the State.

Schools Update

The schools workgroup has not been meeting regularly and much of the groups work was left unfinished. Lee Gilman gave the names of the groups members. The program will be in touch with the workgroup members to ensure their work does not fall off the radar.

Other

John Chandler reported that the Lewiston and Auburn areas have been particularly affected by the smoke from the Montreal forest fires. It might be interesting to see if hospital admission due to asthma increase in those areas. The ozone level standard has changed at the Federal level. It went from 75 PPM to 60-70PPM, though the exact level is still being determined, John feels it will most likely be dropped to 70PPM. Last year particulate matter was around 59PPM John anticipates that tripling from the wood fire smoke. Anything over 60PPM can affect a persons health. Ozone alerts will be increasing, John thinks

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this increase will draw peoples attention to the poor outdoor air quality, especially in Acadia.

Next Meeting

Will be a special meet and greet for the new manager. Thursday August 12th at Maple Hill farm. Time to be determined.