

Maine Asthma Council Workplace Group

Notes from meeting, Jan. 14, 2009

Present: Peter Doran, Carol Eckert, Ruth Lawson-Stopps, Leslie Waleigh, Leslie Manning

1. Identify most common workplace triggers and most at risk occupations where there are the greatest number of exposures.
 - 1.1 Action – Leslie Waleigh will do a literature review at the national and international level. Linda Huff will assess the relevance of this data to Maine.
2. What tools can we create for medical providers to help them make a definitive diagnose of work related asthma?
 - 2.1. Action – no action at this time.
3. Create a web based library for work related asthma resources – *or was it tools?*
 - 3.1. Action – no action at this time.
4. Identify partnerships that would be beneficial.
 - 4.1 Discussion – Dave Wacker (BLS) has talked with OSHA. They will determine if there is a need for an *Emphasis Program*.
 - 4.2 Question. What if OSHA gets a complaint re: asthma? What are they doing? What does DEP do? What does BLS do?
 - 4.3 Action – MORA will invite OSHA, DEP and BLS to a meeting to ask these questions, not only related to asthma but other conditions as well.
 - 4.4 Other potential partners and partnerships:
 - Regulators – OSHA, BLS, EPA, DEP, BGS (anyone who can identify all of the initials should get a gold star).
 - Employer Representatives Groups – Chamber of Commerce, Professional Associations, Trade Associations, Maine School Management, Maine Municipal Association.
 - Employee Associations – AFLCIO, Change to Win(?), Maine Education Association, Maine Nurses Association, Respiratory Therapists, Asthma Educators, Industrial Hygenists, Safety Professional, Occupational Health.
 - Insurers – all big workers comp insurers (MEMIC, Liberty Mutual), all big health insurers (Anthem, Aetna, Harvard Pilgrim).
 - Risk Management – Safety and health compliance officers, human Resources community, Facilities managers
 - Training Organizations – Maine Indoor Air Quality Council, Lung Association, New England Occupational Nurses organization.
5. Explore mechanisms and venues for education of the public as related to this topic.

- 5.1. MEMIC fall conference, SafteyWorks, Sugarloaf fall Workers Comp Conference (Bud Berstien), MIAQC, Primary Care Annual meeting, Women in Construction Conference (April), AFLCIO (Nov.)
- 5.2. Types of products: PSA's, brochures, power point presentations, fact sheet, resource list, speakers list/bureau

In preparation for the next meeting:

1. Try to determine the cost for asthma ER visit? No one took this on. Can anyone pursue this?
2. Work related asthma fact sheet. Desi-Rae is working on this.
3. #1 above, Leslie Walleigh will work on this, and if time permits, she will begin to work with Linda Huff.
4. #2 above. I would like to depend on Leslie and Carol for their input.
5. #4 & 5 above. I would appreciate it if everyone would review for completeness. If you have dates and/or contact pleas bring tha information to the next meeting.

Leslie Walleigh brought some excellent material to the meeting. I will scan and send them when I either figure out how to do that here or breakdown and take them to my husbands office to do so.

I thank you all very much for your work, interest and time.