

## Maine Asthma Council Workplace Work Group

### Notes from Wed. March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting

Present: Leslie Walleigh, Leslie Manning, Linda Huff, Ruth Lawson-Stopps, Desi-Rae Severson, Peter Doran, Carol Eckert

The majority of the meeting was spent taking the work agenda identified at previous meetings and assembling it into a short term/ long term workplan. The short term represents work that we believe can be accomplished between now and 8/31/09. Long term is beyond 9/1/09.

Activity	Short Term – before 8/31/09	Long Term – after 9/1/09
Identify the cost of asthma to the employer	Identify the issues	Know the cost of asthma
Identify the most common workplace triggers	Identify triggers per occupation	?
Identify the most at risk occupations	We will identify employees who fit into 2/3 of the workforce	Identify those employees who are more difficult to identify ie. those that are self employed and file 1099's. This is approximately 1/0 of the worker population.
Develop tools for medical providers	Determine aspects of what medical providers would need to know	Determine how to educate providers and develop the tools to do so ie. mail, toolbox, conference and materials for them to offer to patients regarding home triggers.
Develop a web based library for asthma and the workplace	Begun & ongoing	Ongoing
Identify and work with partners	Identify partners and articulate relationships	Begin to work with partners to educate
Develop mechanisms to educate employers		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify and develop materials.</li> <li>2. Determine venues for education.</li> </ol>

Develop mechanisms to educate employees to better manage their asthma (self care management)		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify and develop materials.</li> <li>2. Determine venues for education.</li> </ol>
Identify and educate disparate workers.	Identify disparate worker populations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Determine means of reaching this population.</li> <li>2. Develop appropriate educational materials.</li> <li>3. Distribute materials via partnerships</li> </ol>

### Discussion for our next meeting

To take this a step further I have begun to develop the Goals, Objectives, some strategies and ways to know if we have accomplished the work we hope to. This is meant to structure our approach and take this work to a next level. Please note that all of this work is very much a DRAFT and is ready for discussion at our next meeting. The dates are arbitrary right now and ready to be better defined.

### Overarching Goal: Reduce workplace absenteeism and presenteeism due to asthma.

#### Objectives:

1. By (2015), \_\_\_% of employers will understand the complexity of asthma including: workplace asthma, work aggravated asthma, workplace triggers of asthma, the cost of asthma, the importance of their employees with asthma to be able to self manage their asthma & the importance of family members of employees to self manage their asthma
  - a. Materials will be developed for distribution via partners.
    - i. When - ???
    - ii. Cost – development, design, printing and distribution.
      1. ? \$, maybe \$10,000
    - iii. Evaluation –
      1. Question - have the materials helped employers to understand workplace triggers
      2. Method - ?Survey
  - b. Presentations will be made at appropriate events such as the MEMIC conference in the fall, the Human Resources conference in the spring, the Safety Conference in the fall.
    - i. When – ???develop schedule
    - ii. Who will do the presentations?
    - iii. What will they need?
      1. Power point presentations
      2. handouts
    - iv. Cost –

1. development of power point - \$200 or in kind
  2. handout materials, will use those developed above
  - v. Evaluation survey at the end of each session.
2. By (2015), \_\_\_% or \_\_\_# of employees with asthma will know the workplace triggers of their asthma.
    - a. Materials will be developed for distribution via employers.
      - i. When - ???
      - ii. Cost – development, design, printing and distribution.
        1. ? \$, maybe \$10,000
      - iii. Evaluation –
        1. Question - have the materials helped employees to understand workplace triggers
        2. Method - ?Survey
    - b. Materials will be provided to medical providers for distribution to their patients.
      - i. When - ???
      - ii. Cost – development, design, printing and distribution.
        1. ? \$, the same as those in (a) above
      - iii. Evaluation –
        1. Question - have the materials helped employees to understand workplace triggers
        2. Method - ?Survey
    - c. Materials will be developed for distribution via partners (such as Maine Labor Group on Health, Unions, ???)
      - i. When - ???
      - ii. Cost – development, design, printing and distribution.
        1. ? \$, maybe the same as those in (a) above
      - iii. Evaluation –
        1. Question - have the materials helped employees to understand workplace triggers
        2. Method - ?Survey
3. By (2015), employees whose family members have asthma will understand asthma and how to help family member control their asthma so that employee misses less work.
    - a. Self Management materials will be developed that are culturally sensitive and made available for distribution for both adult and members of the family as well as children, including the promotion of the use of asthma action plans.
      - i. When - ???
      - ii. Cost – development, design, printing and distribution. Maybe \$20,000
      - iii. Evaluation –

1. Question - have the materials helped employees to understand how to help their family members care for their asthma.
  2. Method - ?Survey
4. By (2015), occupational medicine providers will understand workplace asthma and be able to make a definitive diagnosis of workplace asthma.
- a. Develop materials to distribute to occupational medicine providers to assist them in the making of a definitive diagnosis of work related asthma and work aggravated asthma.
    - i. Materials can be distributed via:
      1. mail
      2. at conferences
      3. by workers comp insurers
    - ii. When - ?
    - iii. Cost - development, design, printing and distribution. Maybe \$20,000
    - iv. Evaluation –
      1. Question – ask the provider, have the materials helped the occupational medicine provider understand work related asthma and make a definitive diagnosis.
      2. Method - ?Survey
    - v. Evaluation –
      1. Question – ask one or two workers comp insurer – is work related/aggravated asthma being better diagnosed
      2. Method – evaluation of workers comp data to be analyzed by carrier.
  - b. Hold a Conference for occupational and primary care providers to increase knowledge of asthma, workplace triggers, the cost of asthma, work related and work aggravated asthma and how to make a definitive diagnosis.
    - i. When - ?
    - ii. Cost - ~\$6,000
    - iii. Evaluation –
      1. Questions – do medical providers have a knowledge of:
        - a. Asthma
        - b. Workplace triggers
        - c. Cost of asthma
        - d. How to make a definitive dx of work related and work aggravated asthma
5. By (2015), medical providers will understand workplace asthma and be able to make a definitive diagnosis of workplace asthma.
- a. Develop materials to distribute to medical providers to assist them in the making of a definitive diagnosis of work related asthma and work aggravated asthma.
    - i. Materials can be distributed via:

1. mail
      2. at conferences
      3. by workers comp insurers
    - ii. When - ?
    - iii. Cost - development, design, printing and distribution. Maybe \$20,000
    - iv. Evaluation –
      1. Question – ask the provider, have the materials helped the medical provider understand work related asthma and make a definitive diagnosis.
      2. Method - ?Survey
  - b. Hold a Conference for occupational and primary care providers to increase knowledge of asthma, workplace triggers, the cost of asthma, work related and work aggravated asthma and how to make a definitive diagnosis.
    - i. When - ?
    - ii. Cost - ~\$6,000
    - iii. Evaluation –
      1. Questions – do medical providers have a knowledge of:
        - a. Asthma
        - b. Workplace triggers
        - c. Cost of asthma
        - d. How to make a definitive dx of work related and work aggravated asthma
6. By (2010) the Maine Asthma Program will have a web based library of materials that has work related asthma that will be beneficial to medical providers for diagnosis, treatment and patient education
  - a. A library of materials and references will be available on the web site of the Maine Asthma Program as a reference for medical providers.
    - i. When – ongoing
    - ii. Cost – included in the work of the Maine Asthma Program
  - b. The web based library will be listed on all materials that are distributed to medical providers
    - i. When – ongoing
    - ii. Cost – included in material costs
    - iii. Evaluation – Survey of providers who have received material with web site listed
      1. Questions –
        - a. are they aware of the web based library
        - b. have they used it
        - c. have they found it beneficial
7. By (2010) the Maine Asthma Program will have a web based library of materials that has work related asthma that will be beneficial to employers.
  - a. A library of materials and references will be available on the web site of the Maine Asthma Program as a reference for employers

- i. When – ongoing
      - ii. Cost – included in the work of the Maine Asthma Program
    - b. The web based library will be listed on all materials that are distributed to employers.
      - i. When – ongoing
      - ii. Cost – included in material costs
      - iii. Evaluation – Survey of employers who have received material with web site listed
        - 1. Questions –
          - a. are they aware of the web based library
          - b. have they used it
          - c. have they found it beneficial
- 
8. By (2010) the Maine Asthma Program will have a web based library of materials that has work related asthma that will be beneficial to employees and their families..
  - a. A library of materials and references will be available on the web site of the Maine Asthma Program as a reference for employees and their families.
    - i. When – ongoing
    - ii. Cost – included in the work of the Maine Asthma Program
  - b. The web based library will be listed on all materials that are distributed to employees.
    - i. When – ongoing
    - ii. Cost – included in material costs
    - iii. Evaluation – Survey of employees who have received material with web site listed
      - 1. Questions –
        - a. are they aware of the web based library
        - b. have they used it
        - c. have they found it beneficial
- 
9. By (2015), disparate populations of workers will be identified, reached and have a better understanding of how to control their asthma.
  - a. Disparate populations will be identified.
  - b. Mechanisms for being in contact with workers will be identified.
  - c. Partners will be identified to assist in the development of materials in and to assist with distribution of materials.
  - d. Appropriate materials will be developed and distributed.
    - i. When - ?
    - ii. Cost of material – development, design, printing and distribution. Maybe \$10,000
    - iii. Evaluation –
      - 1. Conduct Focus Group of disparate population. Were materials helpful
      - 2. Survey