

Asthma Task Force Meeting
April 2, 2013
7:30am-9:00am



Welcome, Rebecca Giles

TriCounty Health Department Update, Patty Hardinger

- Poor management of chronic diseases is one of the central issues in TriCounty area
- A steering committee has been established and is completing a needs assessment in order to develop a local asthma plan for the TriCounty area.
- School nurses are serving on the steering committee to ensure students with asthma are directed to the appropriate care.
- The major industry in the area is oilfield-related. Therefore, there is a lot of interest in air quality issues.

National Asthma Control Program Update, Paul Garbe

- Paul Garbe, Director of the CDC National Asthma Control Program, gave an overview of asthma activities at the federal level.
- CDC is working closely with partners including 1) The President's Task Force on Children's Environmental Health Risks. The Task Force took on asthma in children as one of its priorities, 2) Tools for Schools from EPA, 3) The National Asthma Education and Prevention Program, and 4) The Department of Housing and Urban Development, which has been active in asthma control in public housing.
- The CDC Asthma Program is tasked with coming up with a federal action plan to reduce asthma disparities in children. Stakeholder input was collected over a period of two years and a plan was produced and released a year ago.
- The Affordable Care Act (ACA) is an area that the CDC Asthma Program is currently evaluating to determine its impact on federal and state programs.
- The CDC Asthma Program is trying to build a closer working relationship with EPA's air pollution regulation program. Asthma activities are housed within the Indoor Environments Division of the EPA. The CDC is working with EPA to improve air quality health messaging. The most immediate update on that will be revised school flags guidance to take into account physical activity and air pollution factors.

School Policy Survey Results, Philip Harris

- To assist in developing the Utah Asthma School Policy Agenda, a survey was sent to a cluster sample of school administrators in Utah.
- 120 surveys were sent and 70 responses were received. Roughly half of the responses were from Utah County.
 - Due to the high number of responses from Utah County, all surveys from Utah County were pulled out and analyzed separately.
- Policy suggestions included on the survey included: 1) Self-management education for students, 2) Provide asthma education for faculty and staff, 3) Reduce exposure to indoor/outdoor air pollutants, 4) Collect and document asthma action plans, 4) Policy on

self-carry and medication administration, 5) Documentation of school absenteeism, and 6) Address the student-to-nurse ratio

- These policies were said to be the most likely to be adopted:
 - Self-management education for students
 - Asthma Action Plan
 - Self-carry and administer medication
 - Utah County: Provide faculty and staff knowledge
- These policies were said to be the most beneficial:
 - Address Student to nurse ratio
 - Asthma Action Plan
 - Self-carry and administer medication
 - Utah County: Reduce exposure to indoor/outdoor air pollutants
- These policies were said to be the least difficult to implement:
 - Provide faculty and staff knowledge
 - Reduce exposure to indoor/outdoor air pollutants
 - Asthma Action Plan
 - Self-carry and administer medication
 - Utah County: Self-management education for students & Documentation of absenteeism
- Next steps are to review School Policy Agenda progress, conduct a stakeholder power analysis, and conduct an impact analysis.

Task Force Collaboration, Open Forum

Project Groups

- Kellie Baxter worked with the Air Quality project group to revise the Recess Guidance.
- Holly Uphold worked with the Asthma & Tobacco group to increase awareness of the connection between tobacco smoke and asthma.
- Task Force members broke into these two groups for the remainder of the meeting.