

Minutes, Asthma Task Force Meeting February 3, 2015

1. Welcome and Introductions, Rebecca Giles

2. Update on Grants, Andrea Jensen and Tiffany Brinton

Two local health departments (LHD), Salt Lake County Health Department and Utah County Health Department, were funded to implement asthma self-management education and build community-clinical linkages.

Utah County Health Department – Asthma Coordinator Andrea Jensen is working with school nurses in Utah County to build connections with schools to provide asthma self-management education. This will include providing Open Airways trainings in two schools in Provo School District. Faculty and staff will also be trained with the “What To Do In Case of an Asthma Attack” training. Andrea is also looking into opportunities to use 504 plans for students with asthma.

Salt Lake County Health Department – Asthma Coordinator Tiffany Brinton is working with Mountain View Elementary and Neighborhood Clinic to provide asthma self-management education and refer students without a healthcare provider to the clinic. Open Airways will be conducted in two schools in Salt Lake City School District. Meetings are being with the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative Salt Lake to establish an asthma in-home education program.

3. Project Group Updates and Future Focus, Asthma Program Staff

The following project groups are currently running or will be started in the coming months. Task Force members were invited to participate in one or more of the project groups.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) – Twelve trainings were held throughout the state from October to December to educate schools and local health departments on the new Utah rule mandating IPM in schools. Over 160 school personnel were trained from many different job descriptions (nursing, custodial, nutrition, kitchen staff, administrators, maintenance, facilities, grounds, etc.) and 58 local health inspectors. A School IPM Web site has been developed and is available at <http://utahpests.usu.edu/schoolIPM/>

Inhaler Group – The inhaler group worked on a number of projects, but has not met during the current school year. This group will reconvene to continue their work in the coming months. Prospective projects include asthma story time at libraries, sending materials home through schools to inform parents about details of the inhaler law, meeting with health plans to discuss possibilities of covering an extra inhaler at school, and developing “stages of independence” care plans for children with asthma.

Evaluation Group – Lori Sugiyama will be starting a project group that focuses on evaluation. She will finish another 5-year strategic evaluation plan within the coming month. This group is designed to engage stakeholders in completing the individual evaluations outlined in the strategic evaluation plan. This group will assist in determining evaluation methods, collecting data, developing instruments, and developing recommendations based on evaluation findings.

Healthy Homes – Kellie Baxter and the LHD Asthma Coordinators will be working together to develop the format, curriculum, and data collection instruments to be used during in-home asthma assessments and education. There are many resources and model programs already out there, this group will be reviewing the resources and determining what is appropriate for implementation in Utah.

Health Systems – Brittany Guerra will be leading a project group that focuses on health systems interventions to improve asthma care and increase access to comprehensive asthma services. This project group will focus on quality improvement initiatives, community-clinical linkages, and team-based care.

4. Community Health Worker Trainings & Certification Update, Tania Charette

The Healthy Living through Environment, Policy, and Improved Clinical Care program at the Utah Department of Health has been working on a Community Health Worker (CHW) Project for a number of years. Tania Charette is heading this project, which has included an assessment that asked community-based organizations about CHWs in their work and what is needed to advance the work of CHWs in Utah. A CHW strategic planning group was formed and three priorities were outlined for the group to work on: standardize training and certification for CHWs, form a CHW association, and promote legislation related to the profession. Essential core competencies for CHWs have been identified and training is currently being developed. A CHW symposium is scheduled for May.

5. Community Health Worker Asthma Training Ideas, Brittany Guerra

The Utah Asthma Program is planning to develop asthma training curriculum for CHWs. Task Force members were invited to share ideas on what should be included in this training. The following ideas were discussed:

- Using the key educational messages and patient skills outlined in the NAEPP guidelines
- Reviewing the ZAP asthma program from Atlanta
- Providing training on how CHWs can assess the indoor home environment to identify health and safety problems
- Medication administration
- Empowerment and advocacy, e.g. encouraging patients to ask their doctor questions

6. Task Force Collaboration, Open Forum

Lorill Solomon: Additional education is needed for schools and school boards regarding proper management of asthma in the school setting. This should include education on 504 laws.

Catherine Sparks: A Summer Institute for school nurses will be held this summer at the University of Utah. Motivational interviewing is one of the topics that will be discussed. Catherine would appreciate any ideas for sponsors for this event.

Gene Cole: Brigham Young University is about to begin a study on how pregnant Hispanic women use medications. This study will be completed by the end of the summer.

Lynette Hansen: Molina is working on a project to get real time alerts from the cHIE when one of their clients is in the Emergency Department due to asthma. This will allow them to better connect with transient, hard to reach clients. A community connector will be dispatched to the ED to meet these clients and assist them with the following: setting a follow up appointment with a primary care provider, ensure they have the medications they need, and provide asthma education. They are currently working through firewall issues to allow the alerts to be received in a timely manner.